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## **House Climate Change Bill Addresses Wildlife/Refuge Needs**

**Washington, DC-** The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) commends the House of Representatives for taking an important step toward helping wildlife adapt to challenges presented by climate change. By dedicating funds for wildlife adaptation, the America's Clean Energy and Security Act will help ensure that national wildlife refuges and other federal and state conservation areas are better prepared to address critical conservation needs.

"The changing climate represents an extraordinary challenge for national wildlife refuges and wildlife," said Evan Hirsche, President of the NWRA. "The America's Clean Energy and Security Act includes valuable tools with which to conserve America's unique wildlife heritage."

In particular, the bill creates a "cap and trade" program on greenhouse gases, which in turn will generate trillions of dollars over time. NWRA supports having 5% of the total funding generated through this market set aside for wildlife adaptation. The House bill sets wildlife adaptation funds initially at 1% with possible increases to 4 or 5% by 2040.

Projects such as large-scale ecosystem restoration projects, invasive species control, land acquisition, wildlife corridors, and nationwide land use planning will help species as their habitats change and their historic ranges are altered. Healthy and resilient ecosystems will be better equipped to cope with the challenges posed by climate change.

"The Refuge System must have increased funding to determine the impacts from climate change and to develop strategies and plans to help species adapt," said Hirsche. "We owe nothing less to future generations of Americans that will depend on healthy ecosystems."

*The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries that secure its ecological integrity.*

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