



For Immediate Release
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NWRA & Nearly 110 Refuge Friends Join in Call for Action to Safeguard Wildlife from Effects of Climate Change

Washington, DC - The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) and nearly 110 refuge Friends volunteer organizations across the country today urged the Senate to pass comprehensive climate change legislation that would reduce greenhouse gasses and dedicate a portion of the future revenue collected to aid wildlife in adapting to climate change.

“Climate change represents the greatest threat to America’s wildlife heritage in our generation,” said Evan Hirsche, President of the NWRA. “Congress must act to ensure dedicated funding that will promote resilient and healthy habitats for wildlife in the face of extraordinary changes to the landscape.”

The NWRA and refuge Friends groups joined a broad coalition of more than 600 national, regional, and local conservation, sporting and other organizations representing millions of individuals, in calling on Senators to dedicate at least 5 percent of total “Cap and Trade” allowances from a climate change bill to fund wildlife adaptation conservation efforts.

“As wildlife enthusiasts, refuge Friends and volunteers recognize the crucial role that our National Wildlife Refuge System will play in countering the effects of climate change,” said Hirsche.

America’s 550 national wildlife refuges are critically important to protecting wildlife from threats likely to be exacerbated by climate change, such as loss of habitat, sea level rise, invasive species, pathogens, and severe weather events. With expected annual funding through 2030 estimated at \$1.9 Billion, wildlife adaptation dollars would provide for large-scale ecosystem restoration projects, invasive species control, land acquisition, wildlife corridors, and nationwide land use planning.

In late June, the U.S. House of Representatives passed historic climate change legislation that included dedicated funding for wildlife adaptation, and NWRA urges the Senate to do the same. To view the group letter, please visit- http://refugeassociation.org/new-pdf-files/Senate_Climate_Signon.pdf

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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