



Pennsylvania Sportsmen Take Aim at Congress: Global Warming Threatens Hunting, Fishing Traditions

60 Pennsylvania Groups Call for Cap-and-Trade Climate Legislation to Protect Keystone State's Outdoors Legacy

HARRISBURG, PA (February 20) – Delivering a strong message on the desire for climate action across party lines, the National Wildlife Federation today unveiled the Pennsylvania signers of its sportsmen's letter to Congress on climate change. In all, 60 Pennsylvania sportsmen's groups, fly fishing guides and fly shops have signed the letter, second-most of any state in the nation, asking their elected leaders in Congress to confront global warming so future generations have the same opportunities to enjoy the outdoors that we do now.

“Pennsylvania sportsmen want America to lead on global warming solutions,” said Ed Perry, Pennsylvania outreach consultant for the National Wildlife Federation. “We’ve used cap-and-trade systems – and American ingenuity – successfully in the past to cut pollution. Measures like the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, coming before the Senate this spring, will not only protect our heritage, but also bring new jobs to our cities and rural communities while bolstering a stronger economy.”

Specifically, the letter calls for members of Congress to support:

- Federal cap-and-trade legislation
- Cuts in carbon emissions of 2% annually, putting America on a path for a cut of 80% by 2050, the amount scientists say is necessary to avoid the worst effects of global warming
- Dedicated funding to conserve and restore America's natural resources already impacted by global warming

“Trout need clean, cold water in order to survive. Now global warming promises to reduce even further the number of streams left in Pennsylvania that can support wild trout populations,” said Ken Undercoffer, President of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. “Sportsmen and women and others who spend time outdoors can already see the effects of climate change. This is not a conservative or a liberal issue. We are all responsible for finding solutions and the time to act is now.”

An Environmental Protection Agency report shows that if the temperature increases as scientists predict, Pennsylvania will lose over 50% of its trout fisheries.

Some of Pennsylvania's world-class smallmouth bass fisheries are also feeling the impacts of climate change. Mini-droughts coupled with high summer water temperature have lowered dissolved oxygen levels in the past few years in the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers, stressing smallmouth bass and making them vulnerable to bacterial infection. In 2005 and 2007, these

conditions caused major kills in the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers where Columnaris infected nearly 50 percent of the Juniata River's juvenile smallmouth bass.

According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service's 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife, in Pennsylvania 982,000 participants spent over \$1.2 billion on fishing and more than 1 million participants spent over \$1.4 billion on hunting.

Across America, more than 670 sportsmen's groups, representing millions of Americans who hunt and fish, have added their name to the sportsmen's letter to Congress. To read the letter and see the full list of signers, visit TargetGlobalWarming.org.

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