

**Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies * Ducks Unlimited *
Izaak Walton League of America * Pheasants Forever
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

June 28, 2012

Dear Senator McCaskill:

Our organizations, which represent millions of hunters, anglers and wildlife enthusiasts, write to express our sincere appreciation for your affirmative vote last week for passage of the Farm Bill, S 3240. We understand the economic circumstances in which our country finds itself, and the need to make prudent and informed decisions regarding spending. The bipartisan bill from Chairwoman Stabenow and Senator Roberts which you endorsed is good for working farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, good for fish, wildlife, and other natural resources conservation, and good for rural economies, while reducing spending appropriately.

We particularly applaud the provisions of the Conservation Title. While spending by necessity was reduced, this title retains the value and merits of so many of the conservation programs such as CRP, and WRP, and new initiatives that target priority landscapes and watersheds, that allow our private agricultural producers to continue to deliver affordable food and fiber in environmentally sustainable ways to our citizens. Hunting, fishing and other wildlife dependent recreational uses that accrue from these programs bring added economic benefits both to the landowners and rural communities. Particularly important are the Sodsaver and conservation compliance provisions which address vital conservation needs of two of our most significant but threatened habitats for waterfowl, pheasants and many other wildlife species.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ultimate enactment of a Farm Bill this year.