

March 28, 2000

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. As a part of the world's oldest and largest nongovernmental organization devoted to the conservation of fishery resources, our main goal is to promote the wise management, conservation and use of the fishery and aquatic resources of Arkansas. We are writing to urge House action on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA, H.R. 701). We endorse the use of revenues from Outer Continental Shelf extractions for conservation purposes. It makes good sense to utilize proceeds from nonrenewable resources for the conservation of our renewable resources.

The American Fisheries Society has worked with the Teaming with Wildlife Committee for years to find funding for nongame programs. Because funds from hunting and fishing license revenues are devoted primarily to the management of game fish and wildlife, we are especially interested in funding sources for the conservation and preservation of nongame and threatened and endangered (T&E) species. Preventing federal listings of T&E species demonstrates not only cost-effectiveness, but wise stewardship of our natural resources as well.

Our organization greatly appreciates legislative efforts to conserve our nation's fisheries and wildlife resources, and we urge you to schedule a floor vote on H.R. 701 before the April Congressional Recess. This historic bill truly has something in it for everyone!

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Gagen
President