

February 18, 2004

«Name»  
«Title»  
«M\_1st\_Address»  
«M\_2nd\_Address»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Salutation»:

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is writing to urge your active support for incorporation of the provisions contained in S.1804, a bill to reauthorize the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (Wallop-Breaux) during the reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation programs.

Attached is a resolution passed by the Arkansas Chapter of AFS in support of the Aquatic Trust Fund reauthorization effort. The Arkansas Chapter promotes the wise management, conservation and use of aquatic resources in the State of Arkansas. Our membership strongly supports this essential investment in our natural resources, angling and boating facilities, which contribute and provide significant economic, tourism and social benefits nationwide. Outdoor recreational opportunities such as sport fishing provided an estimated 845 million dollars in economic output in Arkansas in 2001. These opportunities also provide numerous jobs and important tax revenues at the federal and state level.

Since 1950, and especially since key amendments in 1984, the nation's 40 million anglers and 17 million boat owners have paid special federal taxes and fees to conserve and enhance the nation's aquatic resources and opportunities for safe and fun boating and fishing. Reauthorization of the federal fuel tax paid by recreational boaters, and refinements to the programs, which utilize these and other special receipts, is essential to quality fishing and boating in America. The provisions contained in S. 1804 are the heart and soul of fishing and boating in America. It is the crown jewel of funding for programs that in many cases receive little or no other funding. It is user pay and is strongly supported by the entire organized angling and boating community, represented through the American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB).

Funding for the management of our natural resources is an important part of our State's future. The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society appreciates and would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your future support of this important reauthorization effort.

Respectfully,

Chris Davidson  
Arkansas Chapter - AFS President

cc: ALAB President  
Congressional Committee Chairs