

This is a comment in favor of the renewal of the renamed Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council, hereinafter advisory council.

Conservation Force is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) public foundation devoted to conservation of wild places and wildlife, particularly to big game species and all aspects of their conservation and management to forever positively produce abundant game and habitat for recreation and enjoyment. We are true experts and leaders in all forms of hunting and conservation of both habitat and wildlife and as a public foundation we are non-partisan.

Conservation Force is a founding member of the American Wildlife Conservation Partnership and participant in all of the state Governors Hunting Heritage Conferences that preceded the development of the AWCP.

Licensed, regulated hunting in North America is one of the foremost tools for conservation and has been for more than one-hundred twenty-five years. The popularly called North American Model has provided the lions' share of the operating budgets of state wildlife authorities and incentivized an average of one-million acres of wildlife management areas in each state and countless pieces of state and national legislation. This "used pay" system in America is widely recognized for its conservation benefits. Moreover, recreational big game hunting and hunters are the largest segment of licensed hunters today. The advisory participation of those hunters and their organizations is crucial to America's continuing conservation interests.

American hunters are natural and necessary participants in the successful implementation of Executive Order 13443, Executive Order 14008 and Secretarial Order 3362. Their participation in development of policies and programs that conserve and restore wetlands, grasslands, forests and other important wildlife habitats and improve management of rangelands and agricultural lands to benefit wildlife is essential.

It is important public interest to promote fair chase hunting and safe recreational shooting sports and wild-life associated recreation on both public and private lands, to encourage related safety, to recruit and retain hunters and to increase public awareness of the essential role that hunters and recreational shooters play in the continuing conservation success of America.

Likewise, it is important to coordinate the different segments of sportsman's conservation interests and governmental wildlife and habitat bodies in America for the good of all and our natural resources.

Conservation Force and its allied organizations fully support the renewal of the Council.

Thank you for this worthwhile proposal and opportunity to comment.

Most sincerely,

John J Jackson III, President