

September 5, 2008

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support H.R. 3036, the No Child Left Inside Act**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of sportsmen's organizations, we urge you to vote YES on H.R. 3036, the No Child Left Inside Act, which will provide significant new support and funding for environmental education in the nation's public K-12 schools. As life-long hunters, anglers and conservation advocates, we are greatly concerned about the growing disconnect between children and nature. Today's children spend half as much time outside as kids did just 20 years ago and, on average, spend six and a half hours every day plugged into electronic media. Fewer children know the joys of hunting, fishing, and even simply playing outside. As a result, hunting and fishing licenses across the country have plummeted, creating a crisis for state natural resources budgets. We need to engage this generation with nature and educate them about the natural world.

Environmental education is one of the best ways to help children connect with the environment. It also provides complex problem-solving skills for our future high-tech workforce and heightens student interest in science and math. Research shows that academic test scores in language arts, reading, math, social studies, and science improve across the board when environmental issues are used as an integrated concept in the classroom. Environmental field education as part of the regular school curriculum also contributes to healthy lifestyles by getting kids outside to exercise and play in nature.

For these reasons, we strongly support H.R. 3036, the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008. The bill creates new funding for: 1) training teachers in environmental education; 2) for expanding environmental education programs; and 3) for states to create environmental literacy plans, which will ensure that U.S. graduates are environmentally literate. The bill enjoys widespread bipartisan support and overwhelmingly passed the House Education and Labor Committee by a 37-8 vote, and was supported by Chairman George Miller (D-CA) and Ranking Member Buck McKeon (R-CA).

We want the next generation to enjoy hunting, fishing, and spending down time in the great outdoors. Environmental education is a great way to foster that connection with nature and to spark interest in conservation and outdoor recreation. Therefore, we urge you to vote YES on H.R. 3036, the No Child Left Inside Act.

Sincerely,

Alabama Wildlife Federation  
American Deer and Wildlife Alliance  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Association of Northwest Steelheaders  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
Conservation Force  
Conservation Minnesota  
Federation of Fly Fishers  
Fifth District Federation of Kentucky Sportsmen  
Florida Billfish, Inc.  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Georgia Wildlife Federation  
Huntinglife.com  
Indiana Wildlife Federation  
Iowa Wildlife Federation  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Kansas Wildlife Federation  
League of Kentucky Sportsmen  
League of Ohio Sportsmen  
Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Minnesota Conservation Federation  
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Wildlife Federation  
Nevada Wildlife Federation  
North Carolina Wildlife Federation  
Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers  
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association  
Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever  
Renewable Resources Coalition, Inc.  
Sierra Club  
South Carolina Wildlife Federation  
Tennessee Wildlife Federation  
The Sailfish Tournament LLC  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
Washington Wildlife Federation  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation  
Wyoming Wildlife Federation

