



# WISCONSIN WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

RESTORATION

EDUCATION

LEGISLATION

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

September 4th, 2018

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Executive Director

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Administrative Services

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To: Wisconsin Legislators

Cc: Larry Bonde, WCC

From: Bruce Urben  
Board President – WWA

Don Kirby  
Executive Director – WWA

Re: Statement of support for the fee increase proposal via budget amendment to increase the price of the Wisconsin duck stamp, and other specific targeted fees...

It is our great pleasure to give voice to the support of the volunteer board of directors, the vast majority of our membership, and the staff of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, for the fee proposal to increase the price of the Wisconsin duck stamp, and other targeted fees, as developed and supported by a broad coalition of sporting & conservation groups.

Each of these selections in the proposal, was first proposed to our coalition members by those who know their own issues best. Each group explained to their peers why a change is warranted, and the benefits that will come from the additional funding, applied to important habitat, research, and “R3 – Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation” efforts. We have all agreed to support each other, in this critically important effort for the natural resources, and traditions we all cherish.

In the case of the waterfowl stamp: we’ve communicated with our members on this topic since 2009! The sportspeople who will pay this increased fee know what these segregated monies are used for, and as waterfowlers they are ready to continue to show our leadership in conservation funding, as we have since the onset of the Federal Migratory Bird Stamp, back in the 1930’s. We are confident that the same could be said of any of the other pursuits affected by these modest proposed increases. Our stamp has lost a tremendous amount of its “purchasing power”, since it’s last increase in 1997. The increase proposed only allows it to return to the value it had when it began, in 1978, when adjusted for inflation. These increases will benefit a wide swath of outdoors pursuits, and help improve our shared experiences while enjoying Wisconsin’s great outdoors.

It is our urgent hope that you will support this proposal as a budget amendment, so we can make this happen. Thank you for your service to the people of Wisconsin, and for your attention to this important opportunity.

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