

October 24, 2008

Governor Janet Napolitano
1700 W. Washington St
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Napolitano:

As two organizations that represent thousands of hunters, anglers, bird watchers, and other wildlife enthusiasts in the State of Arizona, the Arizona Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation thank you for your leadership and the hard work that you and your staff have invested in the Western Climate Initiative.

We understand, as you do, that climate change in Arizona threatens the incredible outdoor heritage that so many Arizonans treasure. It is imperative that we as a society reduce our carbon emissions and take significant action to enable wildlife and our natural areas to survive and thrive in the changing climate. Today, climate change has become the single greatest threat to wildlife and wild lands we will face in our lifetimes.

The Western Climate Initiative is a significant first step for both of these things. In particular, we are pleased with the supportive and strong language that will dedicate a portion of the allowance value to "natural community adaptation to climate change impacts." The funds generated as a result will fund extremely valuable conservation and restoration activities that will benefit wildlife and natural areas in the future and help provide and sustain hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational activities for our children and grandchildren. As you are aware, we had hoped for a higher percentage of allowance auctioning and the transportation portions of the plan starting earlier. Overall, we are pleased with the final plan and think it moves us in the direction that we must take to address this significant issue.

The AWF and NWF hope to be of assistance as we move to this next stage of implementation in a variety of ways. In recent months we have initiated a series of public comment in support of the WCI through letters and articles placed in newspapers, the Arizona Wildlife Federation quarterly publication, and to other conservation/environmental organizations.

We appreciate that you and your office have included us in the process up to this point and hope that will continue. If either of our two organizations can be of assistance during the legislative or rulemaking process, please contact us without hesitation. The National Wildlife Federation has available knowledgeable staff that can work through both the AWF and your office on this effort. We'll do our best to provide the kind of support needed to get the nuts and bolts of the Western Climate Initiative up and running.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Ryna Rock, President
Director
Arizona Wildlife Federation

Steve Torbit, Regional Executive
National Wildlife Federation

cc: Director Steve Owens, ADEQ
Director Larry Voyles, AGFD