



International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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May 19, 2003

Mr. Steve McCormick, President
The Nature Conservancy
4245 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22208

Dear Steve:

I write to you as President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. As you know, the International is the association of public fish and wildlife agencies in North America. Our members have broad mandates for conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

I am compelled to write you in light of the attacks you are currently enduring at the hands of the press in Washington, DC. We like many in the conservation community are dismayed and saddened by the recent stories that project such a distorted image of the Conservancy's work.

For many years, the public agencies I represent have depended on the support of a myriad of partners for our success in habitat conservation. Frequently, the Conservancy has been one of these partners - - and always a reliable and ethical one.

Often, as our members face the many public policy issues that have become their daily fare, they are beset with individuals and groups pointing out problems. The Nature Conservancy has brought a breath of fresh air to this dynamic for more often than not they appear with a solution! The Conservancy, like our agencies, is focused on solving problems and achieving on-the-ground conservation of habitat and resources.

We appreciate all those times and places where you have intervened to help advance sound public policy. We look forward to continuing those partnerships.

I know that recently in Albuquerque at least two former State fish and wildlife agency Directors sought you out to offer their personal thanks. Permit me to say thanks on behalf of our entire membership.

Stay the course!

Sincerely,

G. Brent Manning
President