February 13, 2018

Sean Saville  
Campaign Manager  
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
1100 First Street NE, Suite 825  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Saville,

The Connecticut Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) is that body that advises the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on conservation policy, funding and administration affecting the state’s abundant and diverse fish and wildlife, and wildlife centered recreation. It is with pride I write to you on behalf of the CCAC in support of the Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife’s efforts to implement the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources. This recommendation would dedicate $1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding for the conservation and management of all fish and wildlife.

A dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is needed for many wildlife species including those that are not pursued by hunters, trappers, or anglers and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has the primary statutory responsibility for the conservation and management of all fish and wildlife in the state. The Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan addresses the needs of our state’s fish and wildlife with a focus on species of greatest conservation need with defined actions necessary to prevent future endangered species listings. Where comprehensive conservation actions have been implemented, they’ve been proven effective for species such as the New England cottontail and the wood turtle. However, there are insufficient funds to fully implement the Plan.

Proactive conservation is a wise investment; it is good for wildlife, hunters, anglers, taxpayers, businesses, and our local communities. The Recovering America’s Fish and Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647) would provide the resources needed for proactive conservation nationwide. It would lead to future success stories like those we are celebrating for bald eagles, wild turkeys, bobcats and fisher. Our fish and wildlife are among our most valuable resources and are an integral part of our heritage. This funding is essential to future generations and their share of this rich hunting and fishing tradition.

Sincerely,

Keith Cagle,  
Chairman