

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

As an avid angler, and on behalf of about 500 anglers across the state of Missouri I am writing in strong support of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 1214) and request that you sign on as a co-sponsor of this important legislation and support its passage into law.

As you know, our state is fortunate to have many important freshwater resources that are vital to our way of life. As members of the Bass Angler Sportsmen Society (BASS), we have worked for many years to restore and improve fisheries habitat in local lakes and rivers. These waters are an important economic engine to our region, providing recreational, commercial and social benefits that enhance our quality of life.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 1214) will for the first time establish a national framework for freshwater and coastal habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. The Act implements the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, a national framework developed jointly by the states, federal agencies, business and the angling and conservation community that lays out a clear set of national goals and objectives for protecting, restoring and enhancing aquatic habitats on a national scale. Modeled after the highly successful North American Wetlands Conservation Act, this legislation will bring a strategic, science-based and action-oriented approach to freshwater and coastal habitat conservation and provide vital resources to support these efforts and leverage other public and private resources.

I urge you to support this bill and to work to see the swift passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act. Our angling heritage, as well as the health of our nation's aquatic ecosystems, depends on it.

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Veninga  
Environmental Director  
Missouri BASS Federation Nation