

**American Sportfishing Association \* Archery Trade Association \* Bass Pro Shops \* Bear Trust International \* Boone and Crockett Club \* Bowhunting Preservation Alliance \* California Deer Association \* California Outdoor Heritage Alliance \* California Trout \* California Waterfowl Association \* Campfire Club of America \* Catch-A-Dream Foundation \* Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation \* Ducks Unlimited \* Mule Deer Foundation \* National Wild Turkey Federation \* North American Bear Foundation \* North American Gamebird Association \* North American Grouse Partnership \* Pheasants Forever \* Pope and Young Club \* Quail Forever \* Quality Deer Management Association \* Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation \* Safari Club International \* Shimano American Corporation \* Texas Wildlife Association \* Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership \* Tracker Marine \* US Sportsmen's Alliance\* Whitetails Unlimited \* Wildlife Forever**

November 19, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama,  
President-Elect  
Presidential Transition Team  
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-Elect Obama:

As executives representing America's leading hunting and fishing organizations, we are very excited about the opportunity to have a sportsman as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, and are very appreciative of your statements regarding the importance of having a sportsman lead the Department of Interior. As you deliberate over various candidates for the position of Secretary of the Interior, we would like to bring your attention to a Member of Congress, Mike Thompson, who we believe would make an excellent Secretary.

Congressman Mike Thompson is a life-long conservationist and sportsman, with a proven record in crafting thoughtful conservation policy. His record in Washington, D.C. and California has earned extremely high marks from both the sportsmen's community and the environmental community. Congressman Thompson has a lifetime League of Conservation Voters score of 89%. In fact, we are aware of no elected official, past or present, who has won both the Edgar Wayburn Award for environmental protection from the Sierra Club, while also being awarded Legislator of the Year by Safari Club International.

As a lifetime hunter and angler from rural Northern California, Congressman Thompson has the respect and admiration of sportsmen across the country. On Capitol Hill, Congressman Thompson has been one of our community's greatest allies. He served as the Vice-Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus longer than any Member of Congress. He has been a leader and advocate on many of the most difficult conservation issues before our nation. These issues include improving critical conservation programs in the Farm Bill, wetlands protection, developing tax incentives for private landowners to improve the habitat

on their land, expanding access to private and public lands for sportsmen, and the recruitment and retention of hunters and anglers.

You have been forthright in your commitment to sportsmen and making their priorities a centerpiece of your land and water conservation agenda. As you review candidates for Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior we hope that you will strongly consider Congressman Thompson for this important post. He is a friend of sportsmen with a proven record on conservation – two important qualities for the next Secretary of the Interior. We are confident that Congressman Thompson will approach the many conservation and resource management issues before the Department of the Interior with a thoughtful and inclusive approach that will benefit all Americans including our nation’s 38 million hunters and anglers.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Congressman Mike Thompson as the next Secretary of the Interior.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association  
Archery Trade Association  
Bass Pro Shops  
Bear Trust International  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance  
California Deer Association  
California Outdoor Heritage Alliance  
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Campfire Club of America  
Catch-A-Dream Foundation  
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation  
Ducks Unlimited  
Mule Deer Foundation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
North American Bear Foundation

North American Gamebird Association  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope and Young Club  
Quail Forever  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Safari Club International  
Shimano American Corporation  
Texas Wildlife Association  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Tracker Marine  
US Sportsmen’s Alliance  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Forever

cc: John Podesta  
Valerie Jarrett  
Pete Rouse  
Carol Browner  
Tom Daschle