



## **New Hampshire's Outdoor Businesses, Sporting Clubs and Guides Urge Congress to Protect Clean Air**

**Congress should prevent rollbacks of key wildlife protections**

Concord, NH (June 7, 2011) – 50 members of New Hampshire's Outdoor Businesses, Sporting Clubs, and Guides have joined together to oppose efforts to weaken one of our nation's most critical health and environmental protections. Nationally, more than 300 groups from across the U.S. are calling on Congress to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to hold polluters accountable and back off House and Senate attacks on the Clean Air Act.

Jack Belanger, President of Pointer Fish and Game Club, one of the largest outdoors club in New Hampshire, said his club fully supports the letter. "The Clean Air act has done the job in the past of reducing pollution such as acid rain and smog that threatens fish and wildlife and their habitats. Now we need the Clean Air Act to tackle our mercury problem"

The airborne toxics that EPA wants to reduce spew out of smokestacks ,and much of it lands here in New Hampshire and contaminates our waters," said Eric Orff, a New Hampshire Wildlife Biologist. "25% of the fresh water fish tested in New Hampshire in 2010 exceeded safe mercury levels. We know the source of mercury, we have the technology to fix the problem - what we need is the will in Congress to protect our air and water.

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to issue air quality standards for pollutants that harm human health and the environment, by limiting pollutants from industrial facilities, power plants and vehicle tailpipes. Recently, several U.S. senators and representative have introduced bills to handcuff, block, or delay EPA's efforts to reduce carbon, mercury, and toxic air pollution.

Curbing EPA's authority to cut greenhouse gas emissions has been a major focus of some in Congress. Last month the Senate blocked four amendments aimed at disabling EPA's initiatives to curb climate change. Earlier this year, the National Wildlife Federation issued a "[game changers](#)" study, reporting that America's remarkable storehouse of wildlife is threatened by the "double whammy" of climate change and toxic air pollutants.

The unique partnership of America's sportsmen and women, ranging from guides to hunters, fly shop owners to foresters, and resort managers to birdwatchers in New Hampshire are calling on Congress to protect the landmark Clean Air Act and ensure "our outdoor legacy for future generations."

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