

**Connecticut**



*Waterfowlers  
Association*

February 18, 2009

Representative Richard Roy  
Environment Committee  
3200 Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Governor's Bill No. 6371

Dear Representative Roy,

I am writing as a representative of Connecticut Waterfowlers Association, Inc. and a member of the Citizen's Advisory Board for the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Program in opposition to proposed changes in Sections 50 and 51 of the above-referenced bill, with respect to the disposition of funds raised from the State Duck Stamp Program. Presently, all funds raised from the sale of state duck stamps must be used for:

**“(1) The development, management, preservation, conservation, acquisition, purchase and maintenance of waterfowl habitat and wetlands and purchase or acquisition of recreational rights or interests relating to migratory birds; and (2) the design, production, promotion and procurement and sale of the prints and related artwork.”**

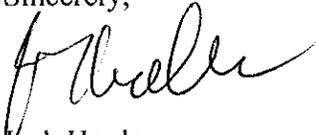
In addition, under current law, the decisions as to how these funds are expended are made by the Citizen's Advisory Committee. Changes proposed by Bill 6371 eliminate these provisions, and the disposition of funds from the State Duck Stamp program appear to be transferred to the General Fund.

**For Conservation and Connecticut  
[www.ctwaterfowlers.org](http://www.ctwaterfowlers.org)**

As a volunteer board of directors member of Connecticut Waterfowlers Association, Inc., a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee and a resident of the State of Connecticut, I strongly object to these changes. The Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Program was patterned after the highly successful Federal Migratory Bird Stamp program, and Migratory Bird Stamp programs in all of the other 49 states, with the express purpose of raising funds to help conserve habitat for migratory waterfowl. Since it was established in 1993, the Connecticut program has raised nearly \$1.2 million, of which nearly \$900,000 has been expended to conserve 2,240 acres on over 50 different wetland restoration projects. More importantly, perhaps is that these funds have been used to leverage over \$2 million in federal funds and funds from other conservation partners, and brought those resources to bear for the state. In addition to benefitting waterfowl, the habitat conservation efforts made possible by these funds have benefitted literally hundreds of species of plants and wildlife that utilize the state's valuable wetland resources.

When the Migratory Bird Stamp Program was first proposed, waterfowl enthusiasts, largely sportsmen and women, embraced the program on the premise that the money would be used to provide habitat for the state's waterfowl resources. Subsequently, when an increase in the cost of the stamp from \$5.00 to \$10.00 was proposed, this too was enthusiastically supported by waterfowl enthusiasts. These sportsmen and women know that the key to healthy wildlife populations is habitat, and they were, and still are, willing to shoulder the burden of providing habitat for the resource they love. To divert these funds after the fact represents a significant breach of trust of the people of Connecticut, and I urge members of the Environment Committee to reconsider these changes. I respectfully request that you allow the Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp program to continue to function as it was intended, and to continue the excellent habitat conservation work that has been the hallmark of this program.

Sincerely;



Jack Harder  
Board of Directors  
128 Bayberry Lane  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 226-3492  
jackh74@gmail.com