



September 9, 2022

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

As the executive members of Canada's Parliamentary Outdoor Caucus, we are writing today with deep concerns regarding the recent decision made by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to ban the importation of hunter-harvested wild game birds from Canada into the United States.

This decision will have a severe negative economic impact on tourism, guide and outfitter industries across Canada that are just beginning to recover from the devastating impacts of COVID border restrictions. Not only that, but the announcement was made late on a Friday prior to the Labour Day weekend when many American hunters were already hunting waterfowl in Canada. This has led to questions being raised about the rationale behind this policy change decision.

We are also extremely concerned about the lack of advance consultation and transparency with Canada as per the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Migratory Bird Treaty Act which are based on partnership and a collaborative approach between our two countries. We have also heard from stakeholders who have expressed concerns about the lack of opportunity to take part in any discussions surrounding this decision.

The absence of a pragmatic science-based risk assessment to document any actual threat of infection to U.S. domestic fowl and agriculture from hunter-harvested waterfowl imported from Canada versus those same birds harvested by hunters in the United States is also deeply troubling.

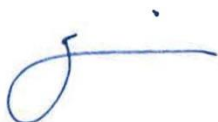
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As I am sure you are aware, the majority of millions of waterfowl currently in Canada will soon be migrating into and across the United States, making the ban essentially ineffective for its stated purpose. It is also difficult to imagine how a frozen vacuum-packed wild goose taken in either country could come into contact with and infect a domestic agricultural operation.

It is for these reasons that we are writing today to respectfully ask that you reconsider this decision and rescind this ban as quickly as possible.

Thank you in advance for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bob Zimmer, MP
Co-Chair, Parliamentary Outdoor Caucus



Ken McDonald, MP
Co-Chair, Parliamentary Outdoor Caucus

- c.c. His Excellency David L. Cohen, U.S. Ambassador to Canada
Her Excellency Kirsten Hillman, Ambassador of Canada to the U.S.
The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources
The Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism
The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development
MP Kyle Seeback, Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change
MP Greg McLean, Shadow Minister for Natural Resources
MP Michelle Ferreri, Shadow Minister for Tourism
MP John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Agri-Food and Food Security
MP Randy Hoback, Shadow Minister for International Trade and Supply Chain Resilience
Kevin Shea, Administrator of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Dr. Ryan Zimmerling, Manager, Migratory Birds and Wildlife Health
Jeff Crane, President, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Ron Regan, Executive Director, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Dr. Scott Petrie, CEO, Delta Waterfowl
Adam Putnam, CEO, Ducks Unlimited
Phil Morlock, Chair, Outdoor Caucus Association of Canada