



**Attn:** Committee on Forestry, Parks, and Outdoor Recreation  
**Re:** AB 315 - Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Reauthorization  
**Date:** June 11, 2025  
**Position:** Support

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Members of the Committee on Forestry, Parks, and Outdoor Recreation,

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation to respectfully request that you support the passage of Assembly Bill 315, which reauthorizes and modernizes the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Fund to ensure that Wisconsin sportsmen and women may continue to access public lands and waters, enjoy properly-managed habitats, and pursue sporting opportunities across the Badger State.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund is strongly supported by Wisconsinites and has supported public sporting opportunities for millions of Wisconsin sportsmen and women and their children since 1989. Reauthorizing and modernizing the mechanisms by which public land may be acquired and maintained under the Fund serves to provide those same opportunities to future generations and protect the strong sporting identity that characterizes the State. This reauthorization addresses concerns by maintaining habitat and accessibility for lands that have already been acquired under the program while still allowing for the acquisition of new land and creating legislative guardrails to ensure that the Wisconsin State Assembly is still involved in the acquisition funding process.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund is a unique model that has successfully provided sporting opportunities to Wisconsin's sportsmen and women for nearly four decades and will be crucial to the provision of sporting opportunities in the decades to come. I respectfully request that this Committee supports the passage of Assembly Bill 315 and welcome any questions.

Sincerely,

**Robert Matthews**

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