



June 10, 2009

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher Carney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
416 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: FY10 funding request for feral swine eradication

Dear Senator Specter and Congressman Carney,

I am writing on behalf of The Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) to express support for the funding request that *National Audubon Society – Audubon Pennsylvania* submitted to your office in February 2009. We are hoping that this funding will be used to support the aggressive eradication and further prevention of feral swine from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to increase the knowledge of and foster the perpetuation of the natural biological diversity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our membership includes scientists, representatives of state and federal agencies concerned with natural resource management, and representatives of non-profit conservation organizations.

PABS considers feral swine a serious threat to the natural resources of the commonwealth. The World Conservation Union (2007) recognizes feral swine as one of the most serious and damaging invasive species causing direct and indirect damage to plants, soil, and native wildlife. Feral swine can seriously harm both native animals and their habitat through predation and destruction of habitat. We urge the commonwealth to take immediate action to eradicate feral swine from Pennsylvania and prevent future occurrences.

National Audubon Society has requested that the federal government devote \$300,000 in the FY 2010 budget to the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service for the creation of a feral swine eradication program in Pennsylvania. We feel that with an appropriate investment of targeted funds, Pennsylvania still has an opportunity to avoid the devastating environmental impacts of feral swine.

We urge you to give favorable consideration to this request. Thank you for attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carolyn G. Mahan, PhD  
President, Pennsylvania Biological Survey  
209 Hawthorn  
Penn State Altoona  
Altoona, PA 16601  
814-234-1426  
cgm2@psu.edu