



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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10/19/2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories, and commonwealths, recently held its 2017 Legislative Summit. After significant discussion and debate, the full conference adopted a policy position concerning the Black Vulture depredation pilot permit program. Included below is a summary of the policy with a copy attached.

Black Vulture

Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Black Vulture has proliferated over the last 30 years and has broadened its geographical range. Although as a scavenger the vulture feeds primarily on deceased animals, it has begun to feed on living animals, often attacking birthing animals, disrupting and causing harm to livestock production. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is authorized, under specific circumstances, to issue a depredation permit for the vultures to mitigate harm, and has developed pilot programs in two states in which a single permit has been granted for each entity, encompassing all persons seeking relief from damage caused by the vulture. Considering the harm these vultures cause, NCSL urges FWS to make the transition in the statewide depredation permit process from a pilot program to standard operational procedure in the management of the species.

We welcome the opportunity to work with DOI on areas of shared-concern for both the states and the federal government. Further details on NCSL's DOI-related positions can be found in the attached policy document.

Please contact NCSL staff, Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) and Kristen Hildreth (kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org) with any additional questions.

Oct. 19, 2017

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Sincerely,



Representative Curt McCormack
NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure
Committee Co-Chair
Vermont House of Representatives



Representative Ed Orcutt
NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure
Committee Co-Chair
Washington House of Representatives

Enclosures (1)

[Black Vulture Policy Resolution](#)