



Toi Hutchinson
State Senator
Illinois
President, NCSL

Jon Heining
General Counsel
Legislative Council
Texas
Staff Chair, NCSL

William Pound
Executive Director

Sept. 19, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories, and commonwealths, recently held its 2018 Legislative Summit. After significant discussion and debate, the full conference readopted a specific policy position concerning black vultures and the relationship between states and the Department of Interior (DOI). As you will recall, NCSL wrote to you in October 2017 on this same issue. Below is a summary of that position.

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.

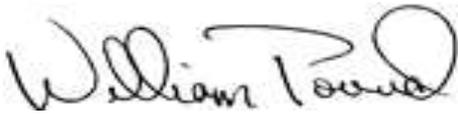
In addition to the issue referenced above, NCSL has many other existing policy positions that fall under the purview of DOI, including:

Land Management—NCSL urges all federal agencies involved in the management of public lands to incorporate within their policies and regulations provisions for a continuous and cooperative involvement of state governments in public lands policy and public lands management.

[National Energy](#)–NCSL urges the federal government to continue working cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments to develop, implement and maintain an expansive, integrated, environmentally-sensitive and cost-effective national energy policy.

For more information or if you have any follow up questions, please contact NCSL staff Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) and Kristen Hildreth (kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org). We welcome the opportunity to work with DOI on areas of shared interest for both the states and the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Pound". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures

Enclosures (1)
[Black Vulture Policy Resolution](#)