

AB 2019-472-3

September 29, 2019

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ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS
WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

Whatcom County Council
Attn: Rud Browne, Council Chair
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Mr. Browne:

I am writing this letter to express my objection to Resolution 2019-35 to create a non-shooting zone in and around Drayton Harbor. There has been hunting on Drayton Harbor and worldwide for centuries, even before man was on earth. In recent times hunting has become legalized and regulated and has an outstanding safety record. Hunting is a management technique for controlling bird populations thus preventing the spread of disease (especially to humans), overpopulation that leads to the destruction of habitat and a natural balance in nature.

Firearm noise from hunting is protected by WAC 173-60-050 (4)(j) and should not be considered an issue in supporting Resolution 2019-35. Firearm noise is more of a personal discomfort for a limited number of people in the vicinity, it is not a threat to their health or wellbeing.

Hunters have a long history of supporting conservation in North America. Many believe, "Hunters are considered waterfowl's best friend". Enclosed are two handouts courtesy of Delta Waterfowl and Washington Waterfowl Association. On the front 'Hunters Support Conservation' depicts the greatest conservation effort in the world and was initiated and supported by hunters. This conservation continues to this day and is over 100 years old. On the flip side are initiatives that could establish additional habitat. Fishers could initiate the National Fish Stamp Program and the Birders could initiated the National Songbird Conservation Program.

In closing I would like to present the following statement:

*There is enough land on earth for man's needs
But there is not enough land on earth for man's greed*

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Albert O'Connor

Albert (Al) O'Connor
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Brush Prairie, WA 98606

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Delta Waterfowl & Washington Waterfowl Association

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Hunters Support Conservation

- ◆ Delta Waterfowl established 1911—contributed to nesting habitat
- ◆ Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918—eliminated market hunting
- ◆ Pittman and Robertson Act (1937) - excise tax on guns and ammunition with funds distributed among states for wildlife habitat development
- ◆ Ducks Unlimited established in 1937
- ◆ Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (1935) establishes Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program to purchase or lease wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge Acquisition Program

All programs and organizations continue to support and be involved in conservation activities to this day

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Courtesy: Washington Waterfowl Association

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Initiatives to Establish Additional Wildlife Habitat

- ◆ National Fish Stamp Program would establish a National Fish Conservation Program patterned after the Migratory Bird Hunting Program (Federal Duck Stamp); should be initiated by fishers
- ◆ National Songbird Stamp Act would establish a National Songbird Conservation Program patterned after the Migratory Bird Hunting Program (Federal Duck Stamp); should be initiated by birders

Courtesy: Delta Waterfowl

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