

Help Make Wetlands and Waterfowl a Priority on Capitol Hill

As 2016 drew to a close, Ducks Unlimited successfully ensured that several conservation provisions were included in the water infrastructure bill signed by the president in late December. This bill was a great win for some of the nation's most threatened waterfowl habitats, and DU worked for more than two years with members of both congressional parties to help formulate this legislation. DU's policy efforts in 2017 will continue to focus on initiatives that have been crucial to our mission for years.

The first of these is the Farm Bill. DU has long worked with agricultural producers and other private landowners nationwide to enhance and restore millions of acres of waterfowl habitat through the Farm Bill. We will continue to work with our partners to ensure that voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs are once again included in this important bill.

Another high priority is the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). NAWCA is a voluntary, nonregulatory,

incentive-based wildlife conservation program that brings together public and private partners to deliver wetlands conservation across this continent. Ensuring that this program receives ample funding will be of great importance this year.

DU's greatest strength on Capitol Hill lies in our volunteers and members. As DU's policy team works to advance our conservation priorities on the federal, state, and local levels, you may be called upon for your support. You can help further DU's policy goals by making your voice heard. E-mail, call, write a letter, or contact your legislators on social media about the policy issues that matter most to you and DU. We must all do our part to ensure a strong future for wetlands and waterfowl.

For more information on DU's policy priorities, visit ducks.org/publicpolicy.



DU President Paul Bonderson Jr. (left); his wife, Sandi (far right); Advisory Senior Vice President Al Montna (second from right); and his wife, Gail (second from left), visited Washington, D.C., for the presidential inauguration festivities. They were invited to attend an event hosted by Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (center) at the Library of Congress on January 19.