

9-30-2004

Resolution 2004-02-06 Support for "Open Field" Legislation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa_reso



Part of the [Environmental Law Commons](#), and the [Natural Resources Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, *Resolution 2004-02-06 Support for "Open Field" Legislation* (2004),
Available at: http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa_reso/122

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The (International) Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Conservation Collection at Digital Commons at Michigan State University College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Resolutions by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Michigan State University College of Law. For more information, please contact domannbr@law.msu.edu.



Resolution 2004-02-06

SUPPORT FOR "OPEN FIELDS" LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, recreational hunting and fishing are important historical, social, and cultural activities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the total number of recreational hunters and anglers in the United States has declined 2.7 million over the past 20 years while the general U.S. population has significantly increased; and

WHEREAS, the difficulty in finding a place to hunt and fish is the response most frequently given by potential hunters and anglers who have curtailed their activities when asked why they don't hunt or fish as much as they used to; and

WHEREAS, residential and industrial development, liability concerns and demand-driven costs for hunting privileges have made finding a place to hunt and fish increasingly difficult; and

WHEREAS, some states have begun programs to secure public hunting and fishing access rights from willing landowners by providing financial incentives, but are limited in providing more such opportunities by insufficient funding and staffing; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation entitled "Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program of 2003," also known as "Open Fields," would provide funding to state agencies to offer private landowners financial incentives to offer public access for hunting and fishing; and

WHEREAS, having a safe, convenient and inexpensive place to hunt and fish is essential to the recruitment and retention of hunters and anglers, especially young hunters and anglers; and

WHEREAS, "Open Fields" has the potential to provide voluntary access to over 20 million acres of land for public hunting and fishing nationwide; and

WHEREAS, hunting and fishing contribute to the U.S. economy and "Open Fields" will provide a boost to rural economies that depend on hunting and fishing related expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports establishment of wildlife management areas and other opportunities to conserve habitat and provide public hunting and fishing recreation, and "Open Fields" is consistent with that long-held position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the President to support and members of the U.S. Congress to support and co-sponsor the "Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program" otherwise known as "Open Fields."