

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 17, 2010

Mr. Sam Hamilton
Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Hamilton:

We are writing to support the Friends of Hack-ma-tack request for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to perform a feasibility study for establishing a National Wildlife Refuge in the bi-state area of southeastern Wisconsin and Northeastern Illinois.

The proposed Hack-ma-tack National Wildlife Refuge is uniquely situated within a short commute for residents of the large metropolitan areas of Chicago and Rockford, Illinois and Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin. The refuge can potentially link 11,000 acres of rare natural communities, unusual glacial landforms, high quality waters and abundant native plants and animals of the bi-state region. It would protect habitat for 26 species that are listed as endangered or threatened by the Illinois DNR. Local residents would benefit from the vast recreational opportunities provided by the refuge as well as stable economic revenues from refuge visitors.

Friends of Hack-ma-tack have support from twelve organizational partners, including Sierra Club, Openlands, Trust for Public Lands and The Nature Conservancy. Overall, the Hack-ma-tack National Wildlife Refuge would protect valuable land, provide access to nature for our urban dwellers and diversify the economy of the area. We encourage you to give full consideration to this study.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Russ Feingold
United States Senator



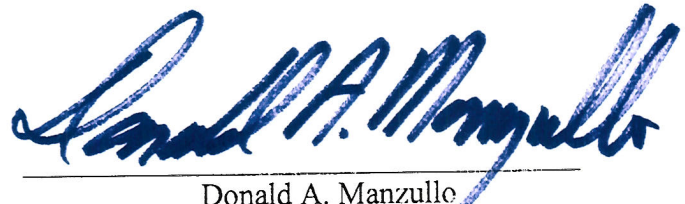
Herb H. Kohl
United States Senator



Melissa L. Bean
United States Representative



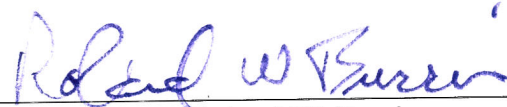
Daniel Lipinski
United States Representative



Donald A. Manzullo
United States Representative



Michael Quigley
United States Representative



Roland W. Burris
United States Senator