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Thursday, February 21, 2019

Margaret Everson
Acting Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Acting Director Everson,

I write to ask you to look into the practice of “hot-cropping” and its impact on traditional waterfowl migration patterns along the Mississippi flyway. I have heard from many of my constituents who are concerned that the practice in the upper Midwest of hot-cropping, or intentionally leaving unharvested crop standing in a field which is then flooded, may have had an increasingly negative impact on the number of migratory waterfowl completing the traditional fall migration south.

There is good reason why Louisiana is called the “Sportsmen’s Paradise.” Louisiana is renowned in the world for our waterfowl hunting and draws hunters from all walks of life and all corners of the globe. Waterfowl hunting generates thousands of jobs and millions of dollars for Louisiana, and is an important part of our culture and our economy. Accordingly, please examine and report back to me whether the practice of hot-cropping in the northern portion of the Mississippi Flyway has had a long term and substantially negative impact on the Flyways’ historic migration patterns, particularly in the number of waterfowl migrating south.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Abraham".

Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress