

# Counties & Commissioners Acting Together Attachment Q

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May 4, 2017

Dear Honorable Senator Tim Neville and members of Senate Finance Committee,

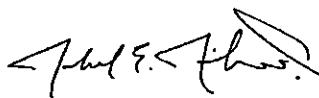
On behalf of Counties and Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT), we are proud to offer support for **HB 17-1321 regarding Parks and Wildlife Financial Sustainability**. CCAT is a group of counties and individual commissioners across Colorado working to provide a unified, nonpartisan and independent voice at the statehouse. Collectively CCAT represents all regions of the state and the diversity of issues facing every corner of Colorado.

Colorado's wildlife is a significant component to our quality of life as residents and visitors have long-enjoyed a strong diversity of wildlife and wildlife-recreation opportunities. HB 17-1321 authorizes the Parks and Wildlife Commission to increase license, stamp and permit fees to provide the resources necessary to implement science-based decisions for managing wildlife and wildlife habitat.

License fees have not been increased since 2005, which ignores inflation, and today are not in line with other peer states such as Montana, Utah and Wyoming. Colorado's human population growth has increased the pressures on our parks and wildlife population, which makes it more difficult and resource intensive for CPW to accomplish their mission. This bill uses a responsible long term approach because it allows CPW to adjust its fees as necessary over time, starting at the low end of a modest increase, but with the flexibility to modify fees into the future, something we feel makes good business sense.

CCAT recognizes and sincerely appreciates the hunters, anglers and outdoors people that afford the bulk of wildlife funding in the State of Colorado and continue to support the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. Because of their contributions Colorado's wildlife remains strong, and supports a robust wildlife-recreation economy that generates over \$5 billion annually to our State – an economic benefit that is particularly significant to many of the counties within CCAT.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and we urge a yes vote on HB 17-1321.



Rachel Richards  
Pitkin County Commissioner  
Co-Chair, CCAT Steering &  
Legislative Committee



Tim Mauck  
Clear Creek County Commissioner  
Co-Chair, CCAT Steering &  
Legislative Committee