



Flathead Audubon Society

PO Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904

Office of Senator Jon Tester
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

December 3, 2014

Dear Senator Tester,

The Flathead Audubon Society is a local, active group of people interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources and we strongly urge you to support action on Senate bill S. 2621 which would amend the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act to increase the price of Duck Stamps from \$15 to \$25. Adequate revenue produced by the sale of these stamps is needed to ensure the protection of waterfowl habitat, related jobs, and continued positive economic impacts of wildlife-associated activities.

Duck Stamps are one of the most successful and popular wetlands conservation tools, generating revenue for the protection of over 6 million acres of waterfowl habitat since its inception in 1934. Many National Wildlife Refuges have been funded in part or in full by the money produced from the sale of these stamps. The protected lands not only produce more waterfowl, but contribute to flood mitigation, water quality, and provide habitat for a range of important wildlife species.

Over the years, Congress has acted to increase the price of Duck Stamps numerous times to account for inflation and land value changes. Unfortunately, the price has remained at \$15 since 1991 while land values have tripled.

The House passed an identical version of S. 2621 (H.R. 5069) in November with the support of the Administration and conservation organizations representing millions of wildlife enthusiasts. By increasing the price of the Duck Stamp, you will help ensure that a major tool of conservation will continue to protect our nation's wildlife resources and wetland habitats.

I urge you to vote in favor of this important bill.

Lewis Young
Conservation Chair
Flathead Audubon Society