

# NEWS RELEASE



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Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation ♦ Defenders of Wildlife  
Ducks Unlimited ♦ Izaak Walton League of America  
Marine Conservation Institute ♦ National Audubon Society  
National Rifle Association of America ♦ National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association ♦ Safari Club International  
The Corps Network ♦ The Nature Conservancy ♦ The Wilderness Society  
The Wildlife Society ♦ Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited ♦ U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance  
Wildlife Forever ♦ Wildlife Management Institute

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## **Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island Honored by the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement**

### ***Noted for his Steadfast Support for Refuge Funding***

Middletown, RI (August 14, 2014) – Sen. Jack Reed, D-RI, was presented with the 2014 Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) Award for his outstanding support of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Reed, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, has been a longtime supporter of adequate funding for America's wildlife refuges and has demonstrated his commitment to conservation through his leadership in Congress.

“Sen. Reed is one of the strongest supporters of the National Wildlife Refuge System,” said David Houghton, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, which leads the CARE coalition. “But his efforts this past year stand out. The Refuge System was facing massive budget cuts that would have meant layoffs, refuge closures and major economic impacts for communities that depend on nearby refuges for tourism and recreation. But thanks to Sen. Reed's leadership, the Refuge System received a 4-percent budget increase at a critical time.”

Reed, a native of Cranston, RI, is very familiar with the Refuge System, with five national wildlife refuges in his state. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, which did nearly \$70 million in damage to several Northeast refuges, Reed made a point of ensuring the refuges and surrounding communities impacted by the storm received federal funding to repair the damage and make them more resilient to future storms.

“After the storm, Senator Reed and I toured our Rhode Island Refuges with Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe and saw firsthand the devastation to our natural resources and local communities. The Senator went back to Washington with that experience and was instrumental in securing the funding to allow communities and natural areas up and down the East coast to recover,” said Wendi Weber, Region 5 Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Richard Thieke, President of the Friends of National Wildlife Refuges of Rhode Island, noted Reed's commitment to Rhode Island's conservation needs.

"Senator Reed knows what Rhode Islanders value - healthy ecosystems and places to recreate," Thieke said. "His support over the years has been vital in securing these values."

The award was presented at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge in Middleton, RI. A former Navy rifle range, Sachuest Point was established as a wildlife refuge in 1970. The 242-acre refuge provides an important stopover and wintering area for migratory birds.

The CARE coalition is comprised of 23 wildlife, sporting and conservation organizations that span the political spectrum, representing 16 million Americans who value outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation.

CARE estimates that the Refuge System needs at least \$900 million each year in operations and maintenance (O&M) funding to properly care for its 150 million acres. At its highest funding level in FY 2010, the System received little more than half the needed amount—\$503 million.

Last year, nearly 47.5 million people visited national wildlife refuges, and their spending supported 35,000 private U.S. jobs and generated an estimated \$800 million in employment income and nearly \$343 million in local, state and federal tax revenue.

To learn more about the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, please visit [www.FundRefuges.org](http://www.FundRefuges.org).

*The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) is a national coalition of 22 wildlife, sporting, conservation, and scientific organizations representing a constituency numbering more than 16 million Americans. CARE has been working since 1995 to educate Congress, the Administration, and the public about America's magnificent National Wildlife Refuge.*

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