

House Finance

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SB25-049 Continue Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Brien Webster For Conservation Colorado</p>	<p>Mr. Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB49, an important bill that will ensure the continued success of the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program.</p> <p>As the Public Lands Campaign Manager for Conservation Colorado and the current Chair of the Habitat Stamp Committee, representing sportsmen and women in Northwest Colorado, and as an avid hunter and angler who has proudly purchased the habitat stamp every year for as long as I can remember, I am aware of the impact and importance of this program.</p> <p>Colorado's wildlife are integral to our state's identity. They are not just symbols, but cornerstones of our economy, our culture, and our well-being. Yet, our wildlife populations face unprecedented threats from development, habitat loss, and fragmentation. Habitat is one of the most important limiting factors in sustaining healthy wildlife populations...and relatedly, the loss of access is commonly cited as the number one reason hunters and anglers give up their sporting heritage. For these reasons it is critical that our state continues investing in habitat conservation and access programs like this.</p> <p>The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program is a powerful tool in this toolbox. This program, funded by sportspeople through the purchase of habitat stamps, has proven to be a resounding success. By partnering with willing landowners, we have conserved and expanded hundreds of thousands of acres of conserved habitat. These are not just numbers; they represent a commitment to conserving wildlife and our sporting and agricultural heritages for future generations.</p> <p>With \$189.2 million invested, this program has generated significant returns for our state, supporting local economies, bolstering wildlife populations, and enhancing opportunities for hunting and fishing.</p> <p>I urge this committee to support SB49 and ensure the continued success of this vital program.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

	Brien Webster
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