



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Co-authors Bills Using Tax Incentives to Protect Land, Endangered Species

***Ways and Means Committee Offers Kind New Opportunities to
Advance Conservation Goals***

Washington, DC – Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) has co-authored several bills with Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) that use tax incentives to further his conservation goals of preserving open spaces and protecting wildlife and its habitat.

“We must use all of the tools available to us to protect our outdoor heritage – including the tax code,” Rep. Kind said. “These tax incentives will go a long way to convince people across the country to partner with the federal government in protecting our lands, waters, and wildlife for future generations to enjoy.”

Rep. Kind has dedicated his ten years in Congress to natural wildlife and resource conservation. Among his many accomplishments include securing increased funding for the State Wildlife Grants Program and establishing the successful Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program. As a new member of the powerful tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Kind continues his work to protect our outdoor heritage, now through tax incentives that encourage landowners to preserve their land and help recover endangered species.

H.R. 1576 would make permanent the tax deductions available to landowners who donate a conservation easement, a vital tool in the fight to preserve open spaces and farmland. These incentives make it possible for many farmers to remain in agriculture – rather than opting for what is often much more profitable – selling their land to developers.

“With land prices soaring, and increased pressure to sell the land to development, these tax incentives will encourage people to preserve remaining open spaces for hunting, fishing, and recreation for the next generation,” Rep. Kind said.

In addition, H.R. 1422, the Endangered Species Recovery Act, would provide landowners with tax incentives if they agree to implement species recovery plans. Landowners can qualify under the Endangered Species Recovery Act by agreeing to implement land management practices that coincide with pre-approved species recovery plans. The agreements must include a schedule, deadline and monitoring system.

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“A strong and diverse set of fish and wildlife are key to the enjoyment of America’s outdoors,” Rep. Kind said. “And this bill will help us work alongside landowners to put into action effective recovery plans for our endangered and threatened species.”

The Endangered Species Recovery Act has been endorsed by dozens of wildlife conservation and sporting organizations, including the American Sportfishing Association, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Environmental Defense, National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition. The American Farm Bureau also supports this bill.