Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 30, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell
Director
U.S. Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Burwell:

We write to you about the funding sequestered from the Wildlife Restoration and the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Safety Trust Funds (hereafter Sportsmen Trust Funds) in FY2013.

Earlier this year, the Office of Management of Budget determined that funding released from the Sportsmen Trust Funds are subject to sequestration under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25). This resulted in the sequester of $50 million from these trust funds in FY2013. According to OMB's May 2013 *Report to the Congress and Joint Committee Reductions for FY2014*, that amount will increase to $82 million in FY2014.

We believe that sufficient authority exists to obligate in FY2014 the funding sequestered from the Sportsmen Trust Funds in FY2013. Section 256(k)(6) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act makes clear that funding sequestered from special and trust funds can be obligated in subsequent years. In addition, the Budget Control Act of 2011 specified that funding reductions "shall be implemented in accordance with Section 256(k). The DOI's recent decision to release mineral royalties sequestered in FY2013 in the coming Fiscal Year demonstrates that sufficient authority exists to do the same with the revenue sequestered from Sportsmen Trust Funds in FY2013.

Funding for the Sportsmen Trust Funds -- which derive from federal excise taxes, not from federal income taxes -- are critically important to states across the country. State agencies use their Trust Fund apportionments to restore and manage fisheries and wildlife habitats, open and maintain recreational access; and deliver hunter and boating safety education.

We urge you to release the funding sequestered in FY2013 from the Sportsmen Trust Funds. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator Kay Hagan

U.S. Senator John Thune

U.S. Senator Mark Pryor

U.S. Senator James Risch