



September 9, 2022

Mr. Kevin Shea, Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737

**RE: Prohibition on the Transportation of Harvested Waterfowl From Canada Into U.S.**

Dear Mr. Shea:

Our organizations, which represent the more than 70,000 licensed waterfowl hunters from California, respectfully request that you immediately reconsider the recent decision by APHIS to prohibit the transportation of legally harvested waterfowl from Canada into the United States in light of outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

This decision will have a significant, negative effect on California and other U.S. hunters' trips (many of which have already commenced) to various Canadian provinces to pursue waterfowl. The ability to bring harvested birds back into the U.S. for consumption purposes is a primary motivation of waterfowl hunters. Without this ability, most will either scale back their trips or cancel them altogether. Others will be forced to abandon their harvested waterfowl at the border, which will create unnecessary wasting of game meat.

As many U.S. hunters traveling to Canada utilize the services of guides and outfitters, this decision will also adversely impact those businesses.

As you are aware, HPAI has been recently detected in California and many other U.S. states. Most waterfowl migrating through Canada will furthermore reach the U.S. at some point this fall and winter. So, a near total prohibition on importing legally harvested waterfowl from Canada will likely not reduce the spread of HPAI in a significant way, including to domestic poultry producers.

We believe your original targeted approach to only prohibit the importation of waterfowl from specific primary control zones identified by the Canadian government where HPAI has been detected is a more reasonable and workable alternative.

Waterfowl hunting season has already started in Canada, so we urge you to reconsider your decision and provide more flexibility for U.S. hunters as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Advocacy  
California Waterfowl Association

Steve Miller, President  
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Corey Thompson, President  
Cal-Ore Wetlands and Waterfowl Council

Fred Harpster, President  
Black Brant Group

Steve Chappell, Executive Director  
Suisun Resource Conservation District