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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Federal Grant to Improve International Wildlife Refuge Outreach**

WASHINGTON - June 29, 2004 - U.S. Congressman John Dingell (MI-15) announced today the award of \$5,000 in federal funds to the Detroit Audubon Society. The federal funds will be used to support the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge Outreach project in the Royal Oak and Downriver Communities in Michigan.

The federal funds are being awarded, with the support of Congressman Dingell, through the Friends of National Wildlife Refuges Initiative, a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and the National Audubon Society. Under this program, grants are awarded to assist starting refuge support groups, help existing organizations in building capacity, and support projects involving conservation, education, community outreach, and habitat restoration on refuges.

With the funding provided through this federal grant, the Detroit Audubon Society will be able to enhance its outreach efforts in promoting the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Activities funded by this grant will include website improvements, membership outreach, and promotion of the programs offered at the International Wildlife Refuge.

Congressman Dingell contracted the Foundation earlier this year on behalf of the Detroit Audubon Society to express his strong support for the project. "I am pleased that the Audubon Society will receive this money and use it to further educate and increase the public's understanding of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge," Dingell said. "Ultimately, it's the care and involvement of people that will make the Refuge a special place."

The Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984 and dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants, and the habitat on which they depend. The Foundation creates partnerships between the public and private sectors to strategically invest in conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Foundation distributed 687 grants in 2003 and has leveraged \$261 million in federal funds since its establishment, for a total of more than \$786 million in on-the-ground conservation. For more information on the Foundation, visit [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org) <<http://www.nfwf.org/>>.

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