Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) program. We appreciate your past support and are hopeful that your support will continue. We believe that the STWG program is an important investment needed to sustain our nation's fish and wildlife. In Fiscal Year 2021, $72.4 million was appropriated for the program to conserve fish and wildlife in the 56 states, territories, and District of Columbia, and on tribal lands. We ask that you allocate robust funding for this important, time-tested program for Fiscal Year 2022.

The STWG program provides states, territories, the District of Columbia, and Indian tribes with the resources they need to implement proactive and effective wildlife conservation actions aimed at keeping wildlife from becoming endangered. It is a mission-critical element of Department of the Interior’s budget, as no other program is focused on this goal. As you know, states bear the primary responsibility for wildlife management, and since the 1930’s the federal government has worked in partnership with the states to fund successful conservation programs that ensure sustainability of the fish and wildlife species enjoyed by all Americans.

The STWG program is the only program that funds proactive conservation work aimed at eliminating the need to list species as federally threatened or endangered, saving taxpayer dollars and reducing regulatory uncertainty to business. The program is also critical to state efforts to recover species that are already federally threatened or endangered. Robust and consistent funding for the STWG program is key to meeting the shared state-federal responsibility for keeping our nation’s fish and wildlife healthy and sustainable. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this kind of smart and effective investment in conservation.

The STWG program supports implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans that were developed collaboratively by leading scientists, sportsmen and sportswomen, wildlife viewers, conservationists, tribes, and private landowners to conserve more than 12,000 species in need of proactive conservation. Congress can demonstrate its commitment to these plans in every state and territory by providing the federal share of support which will leverage millions in state and private matching funds. This investment helps support jobs and the $460 billion outdoor recreation economy.
We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to provide the highest appropriation possible for the STWG program in Fiscal Year 2022 so that these important conservation efforts can expand to prevent more fish and wildlife from becoming endangered.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

DON YOUNG
Member of Congress

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES

/s/ A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/ Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

/s/ Adam Smith
Member of Congress

/s/ Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

/s/ Al Green
Member of Congress

/s/ Al Lawson
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/ Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/ Angie Craig
Member of Congress

/s/ Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

/s/ Annie Kuster
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/ Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress
/s/ Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

/s/ Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

/s/ Kaiali‘i Kahele  
Member of Congress

/s/ Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress

/s/ Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/ Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

/s/ Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

/s/ Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress

/s/ Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

/s/ Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

/s/ Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

/s/ Marie Newman  
Member of Congress

/s/ Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

/s/ Michael F.Q. San Nicolas  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

/s/ Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

/s/ Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

/s/ Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

/s/ Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

/s/ Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/ Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

/s/ Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress