

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will make funding for this program a priority. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program provides a critical investment that is necessary to sustain our nation's most vulnerable fish and wildlife. In FY2020, \$67.7 million was appropriated through apportionments and competitive grants to all 56 states, territories and the District of Columbia and Indian tribes. These funds leveraged tens of millions in state and private funds. We ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for the program in FY 2021.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. The program has funded conservation work that prevented endangered species listings for species like the New England cottontail and arctic grayling and has helped recover numerous fish and wildlife such as the Louisiana Black Bear and Lake Erie water snake. The program is saving taxpayer dollars and reducing the burden on business and private landowners by cutting down on endangered species controversies.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program funds on-the-ground conservation such as invasive species control, habitat management, species reintroduction, disease abatement and research and monitoring that helps fish and wildlife biologists understand and assess declining populations of at-risk species before it's too late. It is the only federal grant program for states, territories, the District of Columbia and tribes to conserve over 12,000 animals identified as *Species in Greatest Conservation Need* in State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans were developed by each state, territory and the District of Columbia using the best available science and with input from farmers, ranchers, business-owners and other publics.

Additionally, the program directly benefits over 100 million citizens who depend on healthy fish and wildlife and habitat for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, hiking and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation. The program aids the \$427 billion outdoor recreation economy and helps states meet their statutory responsibility for sustaining fish and wildlife for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies past support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program and encourage you to make

funding a priority in FY 2021. Stronger funding for the program will allow fish and wildlife conservation work to expand to a greater number of the 12,000+ *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

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Mike Crapo  
U.S. Senator

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Sheldon Whitehouse  
U.S. Senator

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James E. Risch  
U.S. Senator

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Joe Manchin III  
U.S. Senator

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Jacky Rosen  
U.S. Senator

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Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senator

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Martin Heinrich  
U.S. Senator

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Angus S. King, Jr.  
U.S. Senator

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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
U.S. Senator

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Kamala D. Harris  
U.S. Senator

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Jack Reed  
U.S. Senator

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Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator

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Cory A. Booker  
U.S. Senator

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Tina Smith  
U.S. Senator

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Catherine Cortez Masto  
U.S. Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
U.S. Senator

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Tim Kaine  
U.S. Senator

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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
U.S. Senator

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Martha McSally  
U.S. Senator

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Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senator

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Brian Schatz  
U.S. Senator

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Margaret Wood Hassan  
U.S. Senator

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James M. Inhofe  
U.S. Senator

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Christopher S. Murphy  
U.S. Senator

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Susan M. Collins  
U.S. Senator

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Dan Sullivan  
U.S. Senator

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Jeanne Shaheen  
U.S. Senator

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Charles E. Grassley  
U.S. Senator

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Jon Tester  
U.S. Senator

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Elizabeth Warren  
U.S. Senator

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Kyrsten Sinema  
U.S. Senator

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Mazie Hirono  
U.S. Senator

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Chris Van Hollen  
U.S. Senator

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Christopher A. Coons  
U.S. Senator

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Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senator

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Gary Peters  
U.S. Senator

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Amy Klobuchar  
U.S. Senator

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Maria Cantwell  
U.S. Senator

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Debbie Stabenow  
U.S. Senator

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Tammy Duckworth  
U.S. Senator

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Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

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Christopher A. Murphy  
U.S. Senator

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Benjamin Cardin  
U.S. Senator

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Robert Menendez  
U.S. Senator

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Ed Markey  
U.S. Senator

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Mike Rounds  
U.S. Senator