



July 14, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

The Conservation Alliance represents over 270 companies from a variety of industries located all over the country, and our member companies have proven that investing in land and water protection today creates jobs, helps local communities, and provides for future generations. We are writing today to express our strong support for the ***Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S.2372)*** introduced by Senators Heinrich (D-NM) and Blunt (R-MO) in the 117th Congress, and to urge the Senate to pass this bipartisan bill as quickly as possible.

One-third of the fish and wildlife species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered. The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* will provide state fish and wildlife agencies and Indian Tribes with dependable, dedicated resources to address more than 12,000 species in need of proactive, voluntary conservation. This legislation would help recover and conserve species at risk by investing \$1.3 billion annually for states and \$97.5 million for tribal nations for on-the-ground conservation projects. The legislation funds the implementation of the congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which outline specific, science-based conservation actions necessary to recover and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations. Similarly, Indian Tribes will be able to expand successful conservation efforts on their lands, which provide vital habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species, including more than 500 species that are listed as threatened or endangered.

Many of The Conservation Alliance member companies are part of the outdoor recreation industry, which the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) found accounted for \$689 billion consumer spending and 1.8 percent of gross domestic product in 2020. The sector generated 4.3 million jobs in 2020. *The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is important to our national economy not only because its investments will support job creation, but also because healthy wildlife populations will continue to be a significant driver of the outdoor recreation economy from the consumer spending of sportsmen and sportswomen, bird watchers, and other wildlife viewing enthusiasts.*

Furthermore, the Senate bill identifies a source of funding for the legislation to come from environmental fines and penalties that would not otherwise be allocated for a specific purpose. This common-sense, fiscally responsible solution has 36 bipartisan Senate cosponsors and nearly 200 cosponsors on the House bill (H.R.2773) introduced by Rep. Dingell (D-MI).

The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* is needed to secure the future of America's wildlife, our nation's outdoor economy, and hunting heritage. The Conservation Alliance urges you to advance this bipartisan legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Shoren Brown
Interim Executive Director