Dear Chair Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

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 this year. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, now in its twenty-third year, provides a critical investment that is necessary to sustain our nation’s fish and wildlife. In FY2023, $73.8 million was appropriated to the program, providing funding to every state, territory, the District of Columbia, and many Indian tribes and leveraging tens of millions in state and private funds. We ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for the program in FY2025.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation’s core program to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered and provides funding for priority conservation work aimed at preventing and recovering endangered species. The program is saving taxpayer dollars by supporting interventions before federal Endangered Species Act listing is required, cutting down on costs, reducing conflicts, and improving outcomes for fish and wildlife. Successes in every state, territory, and the District of Columbia are highlighted in a report by the US Fish and Wildlife Service that documents some of the program’s achievements.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program funds on-the-ground conservation such as invasive species control, habitat management, land protection, species reintroduction, disease surveillance and abatement, research, and monitoring needed to conserve over 12,000 Species in Greatest Conservation Need identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans developed by each state, territory, and the District of Columbia using the best available science and with input from conservationists, farmers, ranchers, business-owners, and the public. The plans serve as blueprints for conserving the nation’s fish and wildlife.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program directly benefits over 100 million people who depend on healthy fish and wildlife and their habitats for birding, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, hiking and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation. The program, is important to sustaining the $564 billion outdoor recreation economy and helps states meet their statutory responsibility for conserving fish and wildlife for future generations.
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 for this program a priority in FY2025. Stronger funding for the program will expand conservation work to a greater number of the species that are in decline. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

Tina Smith  
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

James E. Risch
United States Senator
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Laphonza Butler
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator