

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

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.

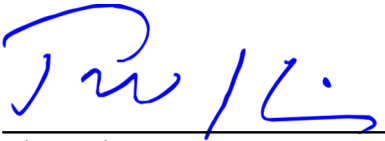
Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



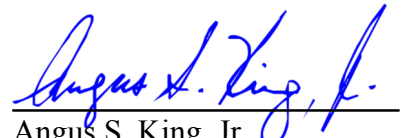
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

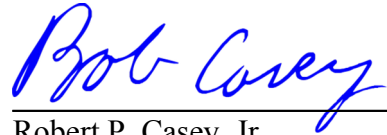


Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



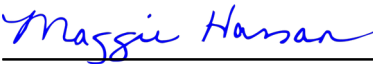
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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



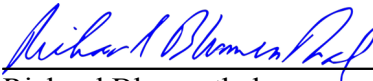
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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



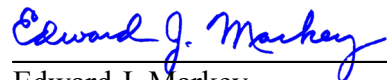
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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
Chair, Subcommittee on  
Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



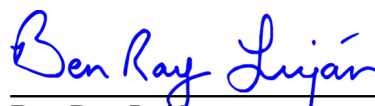
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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



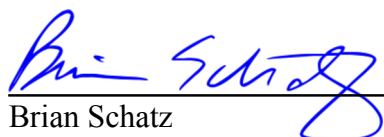
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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



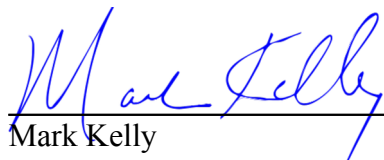
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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



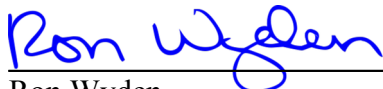
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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



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James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



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Raphaela Butler  
United States Senator



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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Jon Tester  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator