

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Senator 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 continue to back the program by providing the highest level of funding possible. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is a critical investment that is needed to sustain our nation's most vulnerable fish and wildlife. We ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for FY 2020.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. The program funds monitoring and on-the-ground conservation such as invasive species control, habitat management, species reintroduction, and disease surveillance that directly address threats to fish and wildlife.

The program is the only federal grant program available to the states, territories, District of Columbia, and tribes to conserve more than 12,000 species identified by states as species in greatest conservation need. Without consistent funding, more species will be at risk of becoming endangered. This funding is more important than ever to fulfill the shared federal, state, and tribal responsibility for sustaining our nation's fish and wildlife for future generations.

Also, the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants are the principal source of funding to implement State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans are regularly revised to incorporate the newest science and data. Input from thousands of our nation's leading scientists, conservationists, and concerned citizens contributed to these plans so they can effectively lead voluntary proactive fish and wildlife conservation.

The conservation successes achieved through State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program benefit over 100 million citizens who participate in hunting, fishing, photography, hiking, and other forms of wildlife-related recreation. The Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that outdoor recreation contributed around \$412 billion to the U.S. economy in 2016, the most recent year the analysis is available.

We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to provide the most robust funding possible for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in fiscal year 2020 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts can continue. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo
US Senate



Sheldon Whitehouse
US Senate



Tammy Baldwin
US Senate



Richard Blumenthal
US Senate



Cory Booker
US Senate



Maria Cantwell
US Senate



Benjamin L. Cardin
US Senate



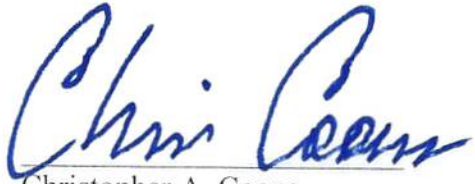
Thomas R. Carper
US Senate



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
US Senate



Susan M. Collins
US Senate



Christopher A. Coons
US Senate



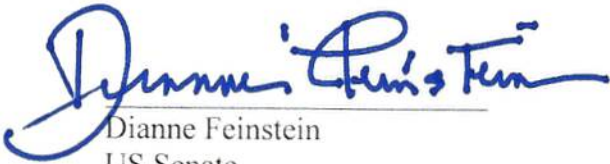
Catherine Cortez Masto
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Tammy Duckworth
US Senate



Richard J. Durbin
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Dianne Feinstein
US Senate



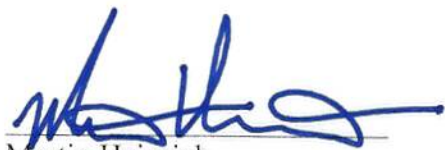
Charles Grassley
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Kamala D. Harris
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Margaret Wood Hassan
US Senate



Martin Heinrich
US Senate



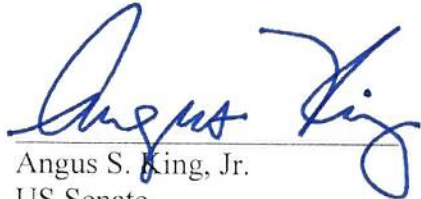
Mazie K. Hirono
US Senate




James M. Inhofe
US Senate

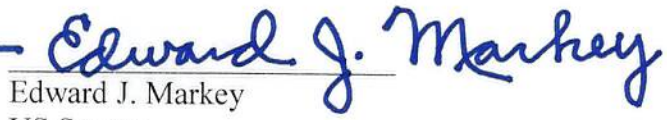


Tim Kaine
US Senate

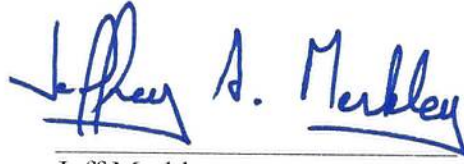

Angus S. King, Jr.
US Senate


Amy Klobuchar
US Senate



Joseph Manchin III
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Edward J. Markey
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Robert Menendez
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Jeff Merkley
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Christopher Murphy
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Gary C. Peters
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Jack Reed
US Senate

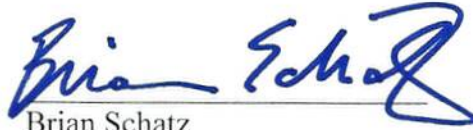

James H. Risch
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Jacky Rosen
US Senate

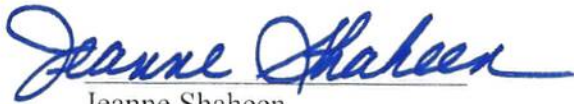

M. Michael Rounds
US Senate



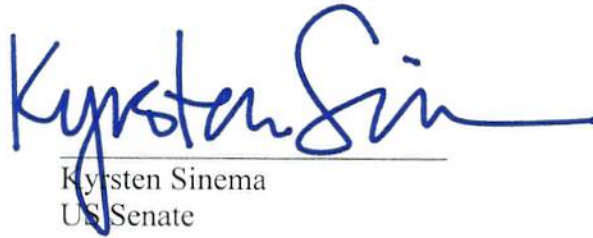
Bernard Sanders
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Brian Schatz
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Jeanne Shaheen
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Tina Smith
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Debbie Stabenow
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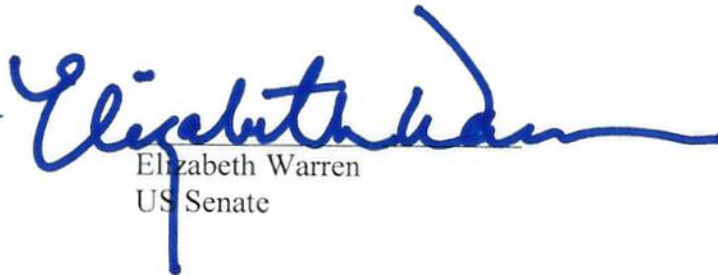
Dan Sullivan
US Senate



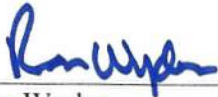
Jon Tester
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Chris Van Hollen
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Elizabeth Warren
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Ron Wyden
US Senate



Martha McSally
US Senate