December 5, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer            The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader                           Minority Leader  
United States Senate                       United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi               The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House                      Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives   United States House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

Our coalition of diverse organizations, businesses, professional societies, state fish and wildlife agencies, and tribal nations collectively represent millions of Americans. We are writing to respectfully request your support for passage of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (H.R.2773/S.2372) this year, including as part of a funding package. This bill was introduced by Sens. Heinrich (D-NM) and Blunt (R-MO) and Congresswoman Dingell (D-MI) respectively in the 117th Congress. Recent public polling demonstrates that more than 70 percent of Americans support this bill and less than 5 percent oppose.

The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would immediately address the biodiversity crisis by helping to recover and conserve species at risk by investing $1.3 billion annually for states and territories and $97.5 million for tribal nations for on-the-ground conservation projects. The legislation funds the implementation of congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which outline specific, science-based conservation actions necessary to recover and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations. Similarly, tribal nations 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. It also will support much needed investments in continued economic growth and job creation in tribal communities. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would be the only federal conservation program that provides sustained funding to tribal nations and state fish and wildlife agencies for the proactive conservation of at-risk species.

One-third of the fish and wildlife species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered. The challenges facing our nation’s fish and wildlife are daunting, but this legislation provides a solution. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will provide state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies and tribal fish and wildlife managers with dependable, dedicated resources to address more than 12,000 species in need of proactive, voluntary conservation before a listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act is warranted.
This legislation represents a smart, future focused investment that will also strengthen the economy and create a significant number of jobs that help grow the $862 billion outdoor economy and bring support to key sectors such as agriculture and forestry – all while supporting the conservation of America’s fish, wildlife, and the habitats they depend on. This common-sense, fiscally responsible solution passed the House of Representatives with a bipartisan vote in June and has 42 bipartisan Senate cosponsors and was passed out of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works with a bipartisan vote in April. Now is the time to pass this widely supported transformational legislation.

Taking measures to conserve species before they are on the brink of extinction and ensuring healthy populations will help save taxpayer dollars and prevent these species from needing costly “emergency room” measures under the Endangered Species Act – truly an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Rather than defaulting to regulation and litigation, this bill saves America’s imperiled wildlife through collaborative and constructive voluntary partnerships. This collaborative approach to conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers, good for landowners, good for business and good for America. Further, this bill builds on the successful restoration track records of state fish and wildlife agencies which for more than eight decades have successfully managed game species.

Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937 and the Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950 to restore iconic game species such as deer, elk, striped bass, and wild turkey. Passage of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would complete the safety net so state fish and wildlife agencies and tribes have resources to conserve all fish and wildlife species. This Congress can join the legacy of the 75th and 81st Congress’s to ensure our nation’s rich fish and wildlife legacy is sustained for future generations.

Over 100 million Americans participate in some form of wildlife recreation. Increasingly, Americans from all walks of life have turned to the outdoors and nature to improve physical and mental well-being. Creating thousands of jobs immediately, restoring natural resources infrastructure, increasing access to the outdoors, and reducing long-term costs through enactment of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will unify Americans and elected officials that represent diverse constituencies.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to support passage of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act this year. We thank you for your support of America’s fish and wildlife and look forward to working with you to enact this groundbreaking legislation.

Sincerely,

ABQ BioPark
Acorn Studio, Inc.
Alabama Ornithological Society
Allamakee County Protectors ~ Education Campaign
American Eagle Foundation
American Fisheries Society
American Fisheries Society - Fisheries Administration Section
American Fisheries Society Sacramento-Davis Student Subunit
American Fisheries Society, Ball State University Student Subunit
American Fly-Fishing Trade Association
American Forests
American Hunting Dog Club, Inc.
American Sportfishing Association
American Woodcock Society
Appalachian Mountain Club
Aquarium of Niagara
Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Aqua-Terra Environmental Ltd.  
Archery Trade Association  
Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation  
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum  
Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society  
Arkansas Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Aspetuck Land Trust  
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Audubon Mid-Atlantic  
Audubon Society Mahoning Valley  
Audubon Society of Portland  
Audubon Texas  
Audubon Vermont  
Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust  
Austin Science Advocates  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers - California Chapter  
Barry Conservation District  
Bartlett Tree Experts  
Bass Pro Shops  
Bassdozer Worldwide Bass Fishing LLC  
Bat Conservation International  
Baton Rouge Zoo Foundation  
Bayou Land Conservancy  
Bear-Paw Regional Greenways  
Belltown Sportsmen’s Club, Inc.  
Bergen County Zoo  
BGSU American Fisheries Society Student Subunit  
Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust  
Bi-Land Construction, Inc  
Binder Park Zoo  
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies  
Birmingham Zoo, Inc.  
Black River Audubon Society  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter  
Bond Moroch  
Brevard Zoo  
Bristol Fish & Game Association  
Brookside environmental service LLC  
Brukner Nature Center  
Bucks County Audubon Society  
Butterfly Pavilion  
Cabela's  
Caddo Lake Institute  
Caledonia winter guard  
California Invasive Plant Council  
Camp Fernwood  
Caparkergroup  
Captina Conservancy  
Carantouan Greenway  
Carlow University  
Carmichael Wildlife Consulting, LLC  
Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens  
Central Iowa Beekeeping Association  
Central PA Conservancy  
CFO Capital management  
Chemung Valley Audubon Association  
Chesapeake Conservancy  
Chester Conservation Commission  
Chicago Zoological Society - Brookfield Zoo  
Chugach Regional Resources Commission  
CLCC  
Clearwater Communications  
ClearWater Conservancy  
Clearway Consulting, LLC  
Clemson University  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
Coastal Prairie Conservancy  
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks  
Columbus Zoo  
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut  
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Conlon, McGlynn & McCann, LLC  
Connecticut Audubon Affiliate Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center  
Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy  
Connecticut Council, Trout Unlimited  
Connecticut Falconers Association  
Connecticut Fly Fishing Association
Great Old Broads Nor'easters
Great Plains Zoo
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
Green Sanctuary Committee, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio
Green State Solutions
Greensboro Science Center
GRLA
Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Harris Center for Conservation Education
Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative
Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources-Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Hawk Migration Association of North America
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
HawkWatch International, Inc.
Haystack Rock Awareness Program, City of Cannon Beach
Heart of the Lakes
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Heritage Conservancy
Herpetological Associates, Inc.
Hess Corporation
Hill Country Alliance
Hill Country Conservancy
Hill Country Land Trust
Home Selling Team
Honey of a Home For You, LLC
Horse & Dragon Brewing Company
Houston Safari Club
Houston Wilderness
HuntStand
Huron Pines
Hylant
I Do America
Ida County Conservation Board
Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society
Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Integrated Health Partners
International Hunter Education Association-USA
International Raptor and Falconry Center
Iowa Audubon
Iowa Rivers Revival
Izaak Walton League of America
Jacklin Rod and Gun Club, Inc.
Jenkinson's Aquarium
JMS Natural Resource Strategies, LLC
John Ball Zoo
John Ball Zoological Society
Jones County Conservation Board
JP Franzen Assoc.
Kalamazoo County Drain Office
Kalamazoo Nature Center
Kansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Karl Kleiner/ York College of Pennsylvania
Kate Spain, LLC
KDWP
Kemp Outside
Kent County, Michigan
Kent Land Trust
Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
La Luna Recording & Sound
Lake Erie Islands Conservancy
Lehigh Valley Zoo
Lincoln Park Zoo
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society
Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative
Louisville Zoo
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Wildlife, Fish and Recreation Dept
Maine Audubon
Maine Outdoors
Maine Professional Guides Association
Maine State Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Mammal Technical Committee/Pennsylvania Biological Survey
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Maryland-Delaware Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Mary’s Attic Treasures
Mass Audubon
Mast MLC, LLC
Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation
Mentoring Corps for Community Development
Menunkatuck Audubon Society
Michigan Audubon
Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Midwest Biodiversity Institute
Milton NH Conservation Commission
Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council
Missouri Breaks Audubon
Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Montana Audubon
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montgomery Bird Club
MotoSonora Brewing Co
Muchmore Design LLC
Mule Deer Foundation
Mystic Aquarium
Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Aquarium
National Association of State Foresters
National Audubon Society
National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative
National Deer Association
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Military Fish and Wildlife Association
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
National Resources Conservation Academy
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
Native Prairies Association of Texas
Natural Areas Association
NatureServe
Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Nebraska Invasive Species Program
Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

New England Aquarium
New England Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
New Hampshire Rivers Council
New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society
New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
NH Audubon
NH LAKES
Nichols Garden Club
NJ Audubon
North American Falconry Association
North American Invasive Species Management Association

North Carolina American Fisheries Society
North Carolina Aquarium Society, Inc.
North Carolina Bat Working Group
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
North Central Division, American Fisheries Society
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
North Shore Audubon Society
Northeast Conservation Services LLC
Northeastern Wisconsin Zoo & Adventure Park
Northern Arizona Audubon Society
Northern New York Audubon
Northwestern Connecticut Sportsmen's Association Inc.
Oakley Farm
Ocean EduKate
Oglebay Good Zoo
Ohio Biological Survey
Ohio Bird Sanctuary
Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Ohio Conservation Federation
Ohio State University
Ohio Wetlands
Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden
Oliver Nurseries
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
Oregon Wildlife Foundation
Oregon Zoo
Orono Land Trust
Osprey Ecological Services, LLC
OSRC
Outdoor Industry Association
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Oxford housing
PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Paine Hill Farm
Pease Environmental Consulting
Penn State DuBois
Penn State University
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Biological Survey
Pennsylvania Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Pennsylvania Master Naturalist
Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology
Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation
Pheasants Forever
Photography by Donna Rae Henault Caporas
Pines and Prairies Land Trust
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
Planet Earth
Primal Outdoors, LLC Tuffhead Broadheads
Pulling Together
Purdue University AFS
Pure Fishing
Put-In-Bay Township Park District
Quail Creek Resources
Quail Forever
QuietKat, Inc.
Racine Zoological Society, Inc (Racine Zoo)
Ravenswood Outdoors
Red River Brewing Company
Redding Conservation Commission
REI Co-op
RES
Rhode Island Land Trust Council
RHS Associates
Richard Childress Racing
Ridgelea Institute
Rip & Tear Technologies
Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation
Robyn Lynn studios
Roger Williams Park Zoo
Romaniello Rentals
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Rotary / Operation Pollination
Ruffed Grouse Society
Saint Anselm College
Saint Louis Zoo
Salem Audubon Society
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
San Marcos River Foundation
Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo
Save The Bay: Narragansett Bay
Save the Sound, Inc.
Schorr Biologics Consulting
Seattle Aquarium
Shedd Aquarium
Shell
SLCT
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Sol Music & Media, LLC DBA Top Secret Songwriter
South East Montgomery County Trout Unlimited #468
South Santiam Watershed Council
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
Southeast Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire
Southern Connecticut state university
Southern Conservation Partners, Inc.
Spiritus Mundi Antiques
SRWA
Stag Hollow Wines
Stamford Fish and Game Club
Starfish Collaborative
Steep Rock Association
Stevens Advertising
Strategic Stewardship Initiative
Stratford High School
Stratford VNA
Sun Life
Sylvia Laudette LCSW LLC
Tennessee Wildlife Federation
Texas Agricultural Land Trust
Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife
Texas Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Texas Conservation Alliance
Texas Land Trust Council
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept
The Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Fairfield
The Connecticut Surfcasters Association
The Connecticut Audubon Society
The Conservation Angler
The Conservation Fund
The Florida Aquarium
The Frontera Land Alliance
The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
The Marvelwood School
The Nature Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy, Texas Chapter
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Sound School Marine Resources Directed Laboratory
The Sportsman's Financial Advisors
The Valley Land Fund
The Virginia Aquarium Foundation
The Watershed Association
The Wildlife Society
The Zen Dog LLC
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Think Wild Central Oregon
Thomaston Fish and Game club inc
Three Oaks Engineering
Tolland Garden Paths
Toyota
Tracy Aviary
Trevor Zoo
Trust for Public Land
U.P. Bear Houndsmen Association
Uintah Consulting LLC
United Bowhunters of Connecticut
University of Nebraska
University of North Texas Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society
University of Pennsylvania--Wildlife Futures Program
University of Toledo
Upocean Associates
Village of Middleville, MI
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia Society of Ornithology
Virginia Zoo
Vitti Property Management
Wachiska Audubon Society
Walker River Paiute Tribe
Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
Wapsi River EE Center, Scott County Conservation
Washington Wildlife Federation
Watertown Land Trust Inc.
WaterWatch of Oregon
WeConservePA
Weed Science Society of America
West Virginia Division, Izaak Walton League of America
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Western CT Bird Club
Western Division of the American Fisheries Society
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Whelan Accounting Services
White River Marine Group
Wild Bird Feeding Institute
Wildlands Network
Wildlife Conservation and Game Mgt. LLC
Wildlife Ecology Institute
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Habitat Council
Wildlife Leadership Academy
Wildlife Management Institute
Willington Conservation Commission (Connecticut)
Willistown Conservation Trust
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association
Winnebago County Conservation Board
Wisconsin American Fisheries Society
Wisconsin Coalition for RAWA
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
WOOD TV8
Woodbury County Conservation Board
Woodbury Southbury Rod & Gun Club
Woodland Park Zoo
World Wildlife Fund
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
Yale University
Yale University School Public Health
Yellowstone River Parks Association
Zoo Atlanta
Zoo Miami
Zoo New England: Franklin Park Zoo & Stone Zoo
ZooTampa
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