

December 5, 2022

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader 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 117<sup>th</sup> 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 <u>all</u> fish and wildlife species. This Congress can join the legacy of the 75<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> 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

Connecticut Hunter Education Assoc. Connecticut Land Conservation Council Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Connecticut Ornithological Association Connecticut River Conservancy Connecticut River Salmon Association **Connecticut Trappers Association Inc** Conservation Chair Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club Conservation Commission Conservation Federation of Missouri **Conservation Insight Conservation Land Planning** Conservation Northwest Cornell Lab of Ornithology Cosley Zoo Crawford Park District CT Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point ctfisherman.com CuriOdyssey Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Dallas World Aquarium Delaware Audubon Delaware County Bird Club Delaware Highlands Conservancy Delaware Ornithological Society Delmarva Birding Weekends Delta Waterfowl Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, American Samoa Des Moines County Conservation Desert Botanical Garden Design Methodworks Detroit Zoological Society District of Columbia Dept. of Energy & Environment Division of Aquatic Resources, State of Hawaii Ducks Unlimited DW Van Dyke & Co Eastern Connecticut State University Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) ECO Consulting Ecosystem Management Consultants

Elakha Alliance Endangered Wolf Center Enfield New Hampshire Conservation Commission **Environment America** Estuary Magazine **Everyone Outside** Exeter NH Tree Committee F&J Shops Fire Ring Farm LLC Flathead Wildlife. Inc. Foothills Sportsmen's Inc. Forest Landowners Association Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Foundation for PA Watersheds Four Harbors Audubon Franklin County Conservation Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park Freeport Wild Bird Supply Fresno Chaffee Zoo Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen Friends of CT Sportsmen Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Friends of the Rio Bosque Friends of the Shetucket River Valley Gallatin Wildlife Association Garden Club of Virginia Geauga Park District Georgia Audubon Georgia Ornithological Society Ghostwood Farm LLC Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation (PA, DCNR) Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation (PA DCNR) Grahame Jones Fishing, Inc. Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School Grand Valley State University Grand Valley State University, Dept. of Biology Great Bay Stewards Great Bay Stewards NH Great Lakes Sports and Leisure

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 Upoceana 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 395 4 x 4 & Explore