

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski and Ranking Member Merkley,

We write to respectfully request your continued leadership and robust support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in the Fiscal Year 2027 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Now in its 26th year, the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program remains the nation's premier tool for preventing fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. We are grateful for the Subcommittee's longstanding bipartisan commitment to this program, including the \$73.8 million appropriated in FY2026. This federal investment enabled every state, territory, the District of Columbia, and numerous Tribal Nations to undertake science-based conservation projects that leveraged tens of millions in additional non-federal funding.

We urge you to provide the **highest possible funding level for the program in FY2027**. By enabling proactive conservation actions, the program saves taxpayer dollars by reducing the need for Endangered Species Act protections, while also minimizing regulatory conflict and achieving better ecological outcomes. It represents a smart, forward-looking investment in our nation's fish and wildlife.

The program supports work identified in State Wildlife Action Plans—comprehensive strategies developed by each state, territory, and the District of Columbia in collaboration with stakeholders, including conservation professionals, private landowners, Tribal governments, and the public. The third generation of these plans will be released this year to guide the conservation of over 12,000 *Species of Greatest Conservation Need* over the next decade through habitat restoration, invasive species management, disease control, species reintroduction, and critical monitoring and research.

The program also strengthens local economies. More than 100 million Americans participate in wildlife-related recreation such as hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, and photography. The outdoor recreation economy generates \$1.3 trillion in economic output, contributes 2.4% to GDP, and supports 5.2 million American jobs. Healthy fish and wildlife populations are the foundation of this economic engine.

Given its proven success, fiscal responsibility, and widespread public benefit, we urge you to make robust funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program a priority in FY2027.

Your leadership is essential to ensuring that current and future generations continue to enjoy the rich fish and wildlife heritage of the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment
and Public Works



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



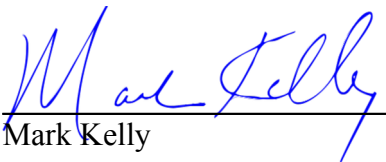
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



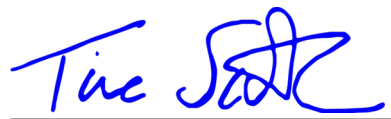
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



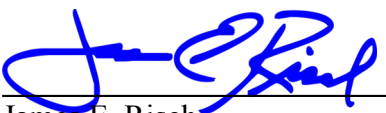
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



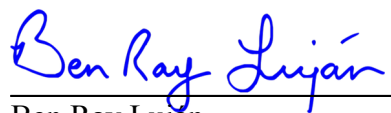
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



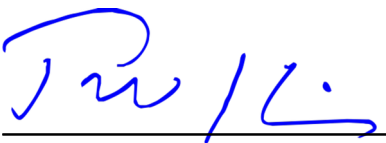
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



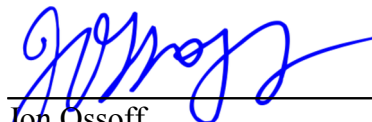
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



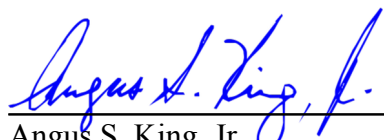
Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



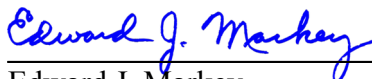
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



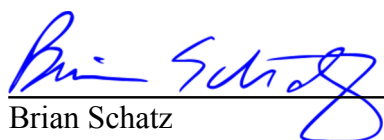
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



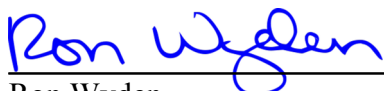
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
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