

June 11th, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol, H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol, H-204  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

As this Congress continues to address the enormous economic and public health crisis facing our country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our coalition of diverse organizations, businesses, professional societies, state fish and wildlife agencies, and tribal nations request that the bipartisan *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* (H.R. 3742) be included in a future infrastructure or economic recovery package, because it represents a smart, future focused investment that will create immediate and significant numbers of direct jobs, will help restart the outdoor economy, and will support key sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, and ranching.

The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* will put Americans back to work expanding our recreational infrastructure, restoring our natural resources, and investing in on-the-ground projects in every state, territory, and tribal lands. This common-sense, fiscally responsible solution has brought 181 Members of Congress together as cosponsors and received strong bipartisan support when it was reported out of the House Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 26-6.

Our nation's \$778 billion outdoor economy—an economy that provides 5.2 million jobs, and represents 2.2 percent of the national gross domestic product—depends upon the restoration and conservation of our nation's wildlife, lands, and waters. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, this industry boasts an annual growth of 3.9 percent, which outpaces the 2.4 percent annual growth of the national economy. The outdoor recreation economy historically shows higher increases in real gross output, compensation, and employment than the national economy. Every million dollars invested in species and habitat restoration creates 17 to 24 jobs (some estimates as high as 33 per million). Passage of the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* has the potential to create between 23,800 and 33,600 jobs every year, while adding 3.36 billion of national economic output. All of this would lead to a net positive gain of \$1.96 billion annually to the Gross Domestic Product.

Importantly, this legislation will also provide \$97.5 million annually to Tribal nations for on-the-ground conservation projects that create jobs. Tribal nations are exceptional stewards of conservation, and many Tribes' cultures, traditions, communities, foods, and economies depend upon diverse and healthy natural resources and wildlife populations. The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* would be the only federal conservation program that guarantees sustained funding to Tribal governments to continue this work. Currently, these projects are primarily being carried out one project at a time, which does not allow for continued growth and job creation. Investment in Tribal communities and expertise is essential and crucial, especially as these nations feel the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Finally, this legislation will save taxpayers money in the long run because it is based on the simple premise that 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 collaboration and constructive partnerships in every state, territory, and tribal lands. If we invest proactively now, we can prevent more and more of the 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need from requiring listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Doing so will save American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars compared to if all those species had to be listed (estimated at a minimum of \$6.7 billion annually).

Creating jobs immediately and reducing long-term costs by enacting the Recovering America's Wildlife Act will bring together Americans from East to West and the Members of Congress that represent these diverse constituencies— at a time when we really need it. More and more Americans have turned to the outdoors for a respite during this pandemic. We now have an opportunity to accelerate our national economic recovery by creating jobs restoring the natural infrastructure of these important places, and building upon the incredible legacy our country has of uniting during difficult times of economic uncertainty. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Acadia Wildlife Services	Audubon Louisiana
Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society	Audubon Nebraska
American Bird Conservancy	Audubon Society of Lincoln City
American Fisheries Society	Audubon Texas
American Sportfishing Association	Austin Science Advocates
American Woodcock Society	Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Applied Conservation Lab	Barry Conservation District
Archery Trade Association	Bass Anglers Sportsman Society
Arizona Wildlife Federation	Bass Pro Shops
Arkansas Audubon Society	Bat Conservation International
Arkansas Environmental Education Association	Bay Mills Indian Community
Arkansas Forestry Association	Bayou Land Conservancy
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce / Associated Industries of Arkansas	Bexar Audubon Society
Arkansas Wildlife Federation	Big Thicket Association
Ashley Sportsman's Club	Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	Bob Rees' Fishing Guide Service
Association of Northwest Steelheaders	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Bowfishing Association of MI  
Bucks County Audubon Society  
Cabela's  
Cadillac Sportsman's Club  
California Central Coast Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
California Invasive Plant Council  
California Waterfowl  
Camp Fire Club of America  
Catch-A-Dream Foundation  
Center for Diversity & the Environment  
Center for Wildlife Studies  
Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management  
Colorado Wildlife Federation  
Comal County Conservation Alliance  
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Connecticut Audubon Society  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
Connecticut Land Conservation Council  
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters  
Connecticut Ornithological Association  
Connecticut Waterfowl Association  
Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma  
Conservation Council For Hawaii  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
Conservation Force  
Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech  
Conservation Northwest  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Dallas Safari Club  
Delaware Nature Society  
Delta Waterfowl  
Desert Botanical Garden (Phoenix, AZ)  
Downeast Salmon Federation  
Ducks Unlimited  
Elakha Alliance  
Environmental Education Council of Ohio  
Environmental Collaborative of Ohio  
Fishing League Worldwide  
Forest Society of Maine  
Fort Worth Audubon Society  
Fort Worth chapter of Native Prairies Association of Texas  
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center  
Freeport Wild Bird Supply  
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society  
Georgia Wildlife Federation  
Grand Valley State University  
Gratz & Associates, Ltd.  
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance  
Greening Greenfield  
GrowSmart Maine  
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory  
Hill Country Conservancy  
Hopi Tribe  
Houston Safari Club  
Houston Wilderness  
Huron Pines

Huron Valley Conservation Association  
Idaho Wildlife Federation  
Indiana Wildlife Federation  
Innovate Wildlife Management Services LLC  
Institute for Natural Resources, Portland State University  
International Eagle Austringers Association  
International Game Fish Association  
Iowa Audubon  
Iowa Wildlife Federation  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District  
Kansas Wildlife Federation  
Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Klamath Watershed Partnership  
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Lake Erie Islands Conservancy  
Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center  
Land-O-Lakes Bowmen (Fenton Michigan)  
Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Local Ocean Seafoods  
Long island hawking club  
Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
Maine Audubon  
Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Maine Entomological Society  
Maine Professional Guides Association  
Masters of Foxhounds Association  
Maverick Ranch-Fromme Farm  
McKenzie River Trust  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
Menunkatuck Audubon Society  
Michigan Bow Hunters Association  
Michigan Resource Stewards  
Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
Middletown March for Science  
Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Minnesota Conservation Federation  
Mississippi Wildlife Federation  
Mojave Desert Land Trust  
Montana Audubon  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
Montmorency County Conservation Club  
National Aquarium  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees  
National Audubon Society  
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative  
National Professional Anglers Association  
National ShootingSports Foundation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society  
Native Plant Conservation Campaign  
Natural Resources Conservation Academy  
National Aquarium

Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife	Orion: the Hunter's Institute
Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society	Orono Land Trust
Nebraska Wildlife Federation	Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Association
Nevada Wildlife Federation	PDXWildlife
New Hampshire Audubon	Pheasants Forever
New Hartford Conservation Commission	Pines and Prairies Land Trust
New Jersey Audubon	Pope and Young Club
New Mexico Wildlife Federation	Prairie Rivers Network
North America Falconry Association	Protect Animal Migration
North America Grouse Partnership	Pueblo of Santa Ana
North American Falconers Association	Pueblo of Zuni
North Carolina Wildlife Federation	Pyramid Lake Fisheries, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust	Quail Forever
Northwest Avian Resources LLC	Quality Deer Management Association
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission	Quileute Tribe
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association	Red Lake Nation
NW Guides and Anglers Association	REI Co-op
NW Guides and Anglers Fisheries Restoration Initiative	Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation
Ohio Conservation Federation	Rogue Basin Partnership
Oneida Nation	Ruffed Grouse Society
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts	Salem (OR) Audubon Society
Oregon chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña, Inc.
Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society	South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society	South Dakota Wildlife Federation
Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee	Sports Angler
Oregon Wildlife Foundation	Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Oregon Zoo Foundation	SUNY ESF Roosevelt Wild Life Station
	Sustainable Northwest
	Tennessee Wildlife Federation

Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife  
Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
Texas Conservation Alliance  
Texas Land Trust Council  
Texas Wildlife Association  
The Conservation Angler  
The Conservation Fund  
The Guide's Forecast  
The Jonah Center for Earth and Art  
The Lands Council  
The National Association of State Foresters  
The North Central Section of the Wildlife Society  
The North Texas Conservancy  
The Wilderness Center  
The Wildlife Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Tomahawk Archers  
Trout Unlimited  
Trout Unlimited, Maine Brook Trout Project  
Trout Unlimited, Maine Council  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County Inc.  
University of Maine  
Upper Black River Council  
Virginia Conservation Network  
Virginia State Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Walker River Paiute Tribe  
Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Waste-Away LLC  
WaterWatch of Oregon  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
White Earth Nation  
White River Marine Group  
Wild Oceans  
Wildlife Ecology Institute  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Forever Fund  
Wildlife Habitat Council  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Wisconsin's Green Fire - Voices for Conservation  
Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation