April 22, 2021

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

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 cosponsorship of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act introduced today by Rep. Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Fortenberry (R-NE) in the 117th Congress.

The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would help recover and conserve species at risk by investing $1.3 billion annually for states and $97.5 million for tribal nations for on-the-ground conservation projects. The legislation funds the implementation of the congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which outline specific, science-based conservation actions necessary to recover and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations. Similarly, Indian Tribes 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 guarantees sustained funding to Indian Tribes and state agencies for the proactive conservation of at-risk species.

This legislation represents a smart, future focused investment that will play a key role in addressing the economic crisis facing the country. The bill will create a significant number of jobs, help continue to grow the outdoor economy, and bring support to key sectors such as agriculture and forestry – all while supporting the conservation of America’s fish, wildlife, and habitats. This common-sense, fiscally responsible solution brought 185 bipartisan 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 during the 116th Congress (H.R. 3742).

One-third of the fish and wildlife species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered. The crisis facing our nation’s fish and wildlife is daunting, but this legislation provides a solution. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will provide state fish and wildlife agencies and Indian Tribes 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.

Taking measures to restore 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, and good for business.

Further, this bill builds on the successful restoration track records of the state fish and wildlife agencies which for more than eight decades have actively managed many game species from the brink of extinction and restored them to sustainable populations across vast landscapes though the dependable,
dedicated resources of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program and the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Fund.

Increasingly, Americans from all walks of life have turned to the outdoors for physical and mental well-being during this pandemic. 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 serve to unify Americans and Members of Congress that represent these diverse constituencies.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to join this effort by becoming a cosponsor of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. To sign on as a cosponsor or for any questions on the legislation, please contact Timothy Huebner (timothy.huebner@mail.house.gov) in Representative Dingell’s office or Alan Feyerherm (alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov) in Representative Fortenberry’s office.

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,

Allamakee County Protectors - Education Campaign  
American Fisheries Society  
American Sportfishing Association  
American Woodcock Society  
Anding Environmental  
Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council  
Applegate Wildlife Pond  
Arizona Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Arizona Wilderness Brewing Company  
Arkansas Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Association of Northwest Steelheaders  
Athens Fish and Game Club  
Audubon California  
Audubon Connecticut  
Audubon Great Lakes  
Audubon Louisiana  
Audubon Maryland-DC  
Audubon Minnesota  
Audubon Mississippi  
Audubon Nebraska  
Audubon New York  
Audubon Pennsylvania  
Audubon Rockies  
Audubon Society Mahoning Valley  
Audubon Society of Omaha  
Audubon Society of Rhode Island  
Audubon Southwest  
Audubon Texas  
Audubon Vermont  
Audubon Washington  
Austin Chapter 10, Izaak Walton League of America  
Austin Science Advocates
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Ballard Kayak
Barry Conservation District
Bass Pro Shops
Bat Conservation International
Bay Mills Indian Community
Bayou Land Conservancy
Bedford Audubon Society
Bexar Audubon Society
Big Bay Sportsmen Club
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Bird Watcher's Digest
Biotope Forestry
Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter
Boone County Conservation Board
Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon Society
Brukner Nature Center
Bucks County Audubon Society
Button Brew House
Cabela's
California Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
California Invasive Plant Council
Camp Fire Central Oregon
Canton Audubon Society
Capital Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Captina Conservancy
Castleton University Collegiate Club, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Central Oregon LandWatch
Central Westchester Audubon Society
Chemung Valley Audubon Society
Chesapeake Conservancy
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Environmental Protection Office
Cibolo Center for Conservation
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts
Colorado Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Connecticut Audubon Society
Connecticut Land Conservation Council
Connecticut Ornithology Association
Conservation Community Consulting, LLC
Conservation Council for Hawaii
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Conservation NW
Coquille Watershed Association
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters
Creekside at Beth Page Homeowner Association Garden Club
Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Dallas Safari Club
Darke County Parks
Delaware Audubon
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc. (NY)
Delta Waterfowl
Desert Botanical Garden
Downeast Salmon Federation
Ducks Unlimited
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Eastern Shore of Virginia Birding and Wildlife Programs, Inc.
El Paso Cactus and Rock Club
Elakha Alliance
Environment Council of Rhode Island
Environmental Collaborative
Erie MetroParks
Fin and Fur Films
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Green Sanctuary Committee
Flathead Audubon Society
Florida Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Florida Division, Izaak Walton League of America
Fort Worth Audubon Society
Fort Worth Zoo
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
Foundation for PA Watersheds
Four Harbors Audubon Society
Freeport Wild Bird Supply
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society
Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
Friends of the Rio Bosque
Geauga Park District
Genesee Valley Audubon Society
Georgia Audubon
Georgia Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Governor's Island
Grand Valley State University
Great South Bay Audubon Society
Greater Akron Audubon Society
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Kempton, PA
Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) at the City of Cannon Beach
Hill Country Alliance
Horse & Dragon Brewing Company
Houston Safari Club
Houston Wilderness
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
Idaho Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Illinois Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Illinois Division, Izaak Walton League of America
Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Indiana Wildlife Federation
Innovative Wildlife Management Services, LLC
International Hunter Education Association - USA
International Raptor and Falconry Center
Iowa Audubon
Iowa Wildlife Foundation
Iowa Wildlife Center
Iowa Wildlife Federation
New Hope Audubon Society
New Jersey Audubon
New Jersey Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
New Leaf
New Mexico Audubon Council
New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society
New Mexico Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
New York Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
New York City Audubon
North American Falconers Association
North Carolina Bat Working Group
North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society
North Carolina Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council
North Carolina State University Collegiate Club, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
North Central Section of The Wildlife Society
North Dakota Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
North Shore Audubon Society
Northeast Section, The Wildlife Society
Northern Arizona Audubon Society
Northern Catskills Audubon Society
Northern New York Audubon Society
Ohio Biological Survey
Ohio Conservation Federation
Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
Ohio Wildlife Management Association
Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
Onondaga Audubon
Orange County Audubon Society
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
Oregon Biodiversity Information Center
Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Oregon Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Oregon Division, Izaak Walton League
Oregon State University
Oregon Timber Trail Alliance
Oregon Wildlife Foundation
Oregon Zoo
Orono Land Trust
Otterbein University
Outdoor Industry Association
PDXWildlife
Pease Environmental Consulting
Pennsylvania Biological Survey
Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Pennsylvania Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists
People of Color Outdoors
Pheasants Forever
Pines and Prairies Land Trust
Point Blue Conservation Science
Protect Geauga Parks
Put-in-Bay Township Park District
Quail Forever
Rainier Audubon Society
Redband Resources, LLC
Red River Brewing Company & Distillery
REI Co-op
RI Forest Conservator's Organization, Inc. (RIFCO)
Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Salem Audubon Society
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society
Shaker Lakes Regional Nature Center
Sierra Club Moshannon Group
Simple Machine Brewing Company
Sinagua Malt, Inc.
Sister of Mercy
Skagit Audubon Society
Sonoran Audubon Society
South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
South Dakota Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
South Santiam Watershed Council
South Shore Audubon Society
Southeast Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Southeastern Bat Diversity Network
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Southwest Section of the Wildlife Society
Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters
Stag Hollow Wines LLC
Standing Rock Game and Fish Department
Stocking Savvy
SUNY ESF Roosevelt Wild Life Station
Susquehannock Wildlife Society, Inc.
Sustainable Northwest
Tecumseh Land Trust
Tennessee Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Tennessee Wildlife Federation
Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Lab, Ohio State University
Terwilliger Consulting Inc.
Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife
Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Texas Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Texas Conservation Alliance
Texas Foundation for Conservation
Texas Land Trust Council
The Conservation Angler
The Conservation Fund
The Delaware County Bird Club
The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center
The Lands Council
The Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation
The Nature Conservancy
The Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
The Ohio State University
The Strategic Stewardship Initiative
The Trust for Public Land
The Wildlife Society
The Wildlife Society - College and University Education Working Group
The Wilds
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Think Wild Central Oregon
Three Oaks Engineering
Toledo Zoo & Aquarium
Travis Audubon Society, Inc.
Trout Unlimited
Tucson Audubon Society
U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County Inc.
UConn Natural Resources Conservation Academy
University of Massachusetts Collegiate Club, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Collegiate Club, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
US Shorebird Conservation Council
Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Council
Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia Division, Izaak Walton League of America
Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust
Virginia Society of Ornithology
Wachiska Audubon Society
Wake Audubon Society
Washington Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Washington State University Collegiate Club, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
WaterWatch
West Virginia Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
West Virginia Division, Izaak Walton League of America
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
White River Marine Group
Wild Oceans
Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Foundation
Wildlife Ecology Institute
Wildlife Habitat Council
Wildlife Management Institute
Willistown Conservation Trust
Wisconsin Division, Izaak Walton League of America
World Wildlife Fund
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation