



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 117<sup>th</sup> 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 116<sup>th</sup> 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 through 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](mailto:timothy.huebner@mail.house.gov)) in Representative Dingell's office or Alan Feyerherm ([alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov](mailto: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

Izaak Walton League of America  
Kansas Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Katy Prairie Conservancy  
Kemp Design Services  
Kemp Outside  
Kennebunkport Climate Initiative  
Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Kentucky Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Klamath Watershed Partnership  
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Lake Erie Islands Conservancy  
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society  
Local Ocean Seafoods  
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
Lucas County Conservation Board  
Maine Audubon  
Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
Maine Outdoors  
Maine Professional Guides Association  
Maryland Biodiversity Project  
Marys River Watershed Council  
Maverick Ranch-Fromme Farm  
McKenzie River Trust  
Mecklenburg Audubon Society  
Medina County Park District  
MEEC  
Menunkatuck Audubon Society  
Mesilla Valley Audubon Society  
Miami County OH Pheasants Forever (676)  
Michigan Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
Middle River Group, LLC  
Minnesota Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Minnesota Division, Izaak Walton League of America  
Mississippi Wildlife Federation  
Missouri Breaks Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
Missouri Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Montana Audubon  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
Montmorency County Conservation Club (Michigan)  
MotoSonora Brewing Company  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Audubon Society  
National Deer Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society  
Native Plant Conservation Campaign  
Natural Areas Association  
Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Nebraska Division, Izaak Walton League of America  
Neilkelly  
New England Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
New Hampshire Audubon

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	WaterWatch
The Wildlife Society	West Virginia Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
The Wildlife Society - College and University Education Working Group	West Virginia Division, Izaak Walton League of America
The Wilds	West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Think Wild Central Oregon	Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Three Oaks Engineering	White River Marine Group
Toledo Zoo & Aquarium	Wild Oceans
Travis Audubon Society, Inc.	Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Foundation
Trout Unlimited	Wildlife Ecology Institute
Tucson Audubon Society	Wildlife Habitat Council
U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County Inc.	Wildlife Management Institute
UConn Natural Resources Conservation Academy	Willistown Conservation Trust
University of Massachusetts Collegiate Club, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Wisconsin Division, Izaak Walton League of America
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Collegiate Club, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	World Wildlife Fund
US Shorebird Conservation Council	Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
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	