



October 26, 2021

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate,

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 (S.2372)* introduced by Sens. Heinrich (D-NM) and Blunt (R-MO) 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. The Senate bill identifies a source of funding for the legislation to come from environmental fines and penalties that would not otherwise be allocated for a specific purpose. This common-sense, fiscally responsible solution has **28 bipartisan Senate cosponsors and more than 130 cosponsors on the House bill (H.R.2773) introduced by Reps. Dingell (D-MI) and Fortenberry (R-NE).**

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 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 elected officials 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 Casey Suchors-Field (Casey_Suchors-Field@heinrich.senate.gov) in Senator Heinrich's office or Andrew Vlasaty (Andrew_Vlasaty@blunt.senate.gov) in Senator Blunt'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,

Applegate Wildlife Pond

Allamakee County Protectors - Education Campaign

American Fisheries Society

American Sportfishing Association

American Woodcock Society

Anding Environmental

Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council

Archery Trade Association

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 Mid-Atlantic

Audubon Minnesota

Audubon Mississippi

Audubon Nebraska
Audubon New York
Audubon Rockies
Audubon Society Mahoning Valley
Audubon Society of Ohio
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
Biotope Forestry
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Bird Watcher's Digest
Black River Audubon Society
Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter
Boone County Conservation Board
Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon Society
Brokner Nature Center
Bucks County Audubon Society
Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance
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
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
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
Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
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 America
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	Idaho Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge	Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Friends of the Rio Bosque	Illinois Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Geauga Park District	Illinois Division, Izaak Walton League of America
Genesee Valley Audubon Society	Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Georgia Audubon	Indiana Wildlife Federation
Georgia Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Innovative Wildlife Management Services, LLC
Georgia Ornithological Society	International Hunter Education Association - USA
Governor's Island	International Raptor and Falconry Center
Grand Valley State University	Iowa Audubon
Great South Bay Audubon Society	Iowa Wildlife Foundation
Greater Akron Audubon Society	Iowa Wildlife Center
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance	Iowa Wildlife Federation
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory	Izaak Walton League of America
Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources	JMS Natural Resource Strategies, LLC
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Kempton, PA	Kansas Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) at the City of Cannon Beach	Katy Prairie Conservancy
Hill Country Alliance	Kemp Design Services
Hill Country Conservancy	Kemp Outside
Horse & Dragon Brewing Company	Kennebunkport Climate Initiative
Houston Safari Club	Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Houston Wilderness	Kentucky Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society	

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
Midwest Biodiversity Institute
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
Mule Deer Foundation
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
NatureServe
Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Nebraska Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Nebraska Invasive Species Program

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 American Invasive Species Management 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

Northwest Connecticut Sportsman's Council

Ohio Bird Sanctuary

Ohio Biological Survey

Ohio Conservation Federation

Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

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
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
Red River Brewing Company & Distillery
Redband Resources, LLC
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
San Marcos River Foundation
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 Wildlife 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

Texas Wildlife Association

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

Weed Science Society of America

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

Wild in Vermont

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

White River Marine Group

World Wildlife Fund

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation