



September 12, 2022

The Honorable Kerry Benninghoff  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Majority Leader  
147 Main Capitol  
PO Box 202171  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2171

RE: HR 74 Wildlife Corridors Study

Dear Leader Benninghoff:

We, the undersigned organizations, who represent the interests of thousands of sportsmen and women across Pennsylvania, are writing in support of state officials and agencies creating and implementing a plan to identify, protect and expand wildlife corridors in Pennsylvania.

Wildlife corridors, an area of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures, have proven to address a variety of imperative conservation concerns such as habitat fragmentation, vehicle-wildlife collisions, aquatic corridors, and keeping our wildlife populations healthy – including favorite Pennsylvania game species like deer, turkey, trout, and grouse.

There are more than 1 million wildlife vehicle collisions in the U.S. each year, with Pennsylvania ranking in the top 5 states. Over 166,000 animal collision claims were filed in Pennsylvania last year alone. Considering all of this, crossings that enable safe passage of animals over or under roadways are more important than ever.

Congress agrees. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides an infusion of much-needed capital in our nation's infrastructure to bring our aging roads and bridges into a state of good repair and invest in the future. Beyond "traditional"

transportation infrastructure that moves people and goods, the IIA also prioritizes the safe movement of wildlife and fish through funding for wildlife crossings and improved fish passage. By taking this first step of creating a plan, it can pave the way for the state's ability to access this crucial federal infrastructure funding to help protect our native, at-risk species and increase driver safety.

We urge you to take the first step in protecting and restoring wildlife corridors in Pennsylvania, ensuring habitat connectivity, and decreasing vehicle-wildlife collisions. We thank you for your consideration and the continued support of the sporting community.

Signed,

Back Country Hunters and Anglers  
National Deer Association  
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited

CC:

Representative Brian Cutler  
Representative Tim Hennessey  
Representative Joanna McClinton  
Representative Mike Carroll