



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 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) 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

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
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