



April 17, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

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 express our thanks for your leadership on this bill and respectfully request **that you support and advance the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S.1149)* toward passage in the Senate.** This bill was reintroduced by Senators Heinrich (D-NM) and Tillis (R-NC) on March 30<sup>th</sup> and is currently gathering bipartisan cosponsors.

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

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 and territorial fish and wildlife agencies and tribal fish and wildlife managers 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.

This legislation represents a smart, future focused investment that will also strengthen the economy and create a significant number of jobs that help grow the \$862 billion outdoor economy and bring support to key sectors such as agriculture and forestry – all while supporting the conservation of America's fish,

wildlife, and the habitats they depend on. Public polling demonstrates that more than 70 percent of Americans support this bill and less than 5 percent oppose.

Taking measures to conserve species before they are on the brink of extinction and ensuring healthy populations is fiscally responsible and 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, good for business and good for America. Further, this bill builds on the successful restoration track records of state fish and wildlife agencies which for more than eight decades have successfully managed game species.

Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937 and the Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950 to restore iconic game species such as deer, elk, striped bass, and wild turkey. Passage of the *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* would complete the safety net so state fish and wildlife agencies and tribes have resources to conserve all fish and wildlife species. This Congress can join the legacy of the 75<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> Congress’s to ensure our nation’s rich fish and wildlife legacy is sustained for future generations.

Over 100 million Americans participate in some form of wildlife recreation. Increasingly, Americans from all walks of life have turned to the outdoors and nature to improve physical and mental well-being. 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 unify Americans and elected officials that represent diverse constituencies.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to support a Senate floor vote and passage of the *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act*. 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,

Accent Signs LLC	Audubon California
American Bird Conservancy	Audubon Delta (AR, LA, MS)
American Clean Power Association	Audubon Great Lakes
American Fisheries Society	Audubon Great Plains
American Fisheries Society, Colorado/Wyoming Chapter	Audubon Mid-Atlantic
American Society of Landscape Architects	Audubon Minnesota/Iowa/Missouri
American Sportfishing Association	Audubon New York
Archery Trade Association	Audubon Rockies
Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society	Audubon South Carolina
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	Audubon Texas
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Audubon Vermont
	Audubon Washington

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Barry Conservation District  
Bass Pro Shops  
Bat Conservation International  
Bayou Land Conservancy  
Belltown Sportsmen' Club, Inc.  
Bexar Audubon Society  
Bristol Fish & Game Association  
Bucks County Audubon Society  
Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance  
Cabela's  
Caddo Lake Institute  
California Invasive Plant Council  
Central Mountains and Plains Section of The  
Wildlife Society  
Cibolo Center for Conservation  
Clark Fork Coalition  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Connecticut Audubon Society  
Connecticut Conservation Officers Association  
Connecticut Falconers Association  
Connecticut Hunter Education Association  
Connecticut River Conservancy  
Connecticut Trappers Association Inc  
Conococheague Audubon Society  
Conservation InSight  
Dallas Zoo  
Delmarva Birding Weekends  
DLF Consulting, Inc.  
Ducks Unlimited  
East Glastonbury Fish and Game Assoc. Inc  
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine  
Reclamation (EPCAMR)  
Ecological Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
Environment America  
Fin and Fur Films  
Firstlight Printing & Graphics, LLC  
Fisheries Advisory Council - State of CT  
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society  
Friends of CE/FS  
Friends Of Connecticut Sportsmen  
Friends of Scarborough Marsh

Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge  
Georgia Audubon  
Georgia Chapter AFS  
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance  
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory  
Heart of the Rockies Initiative  
Hill Country Alliance  
Hill Country Conservancy  
Houston Wilderness  
HuntStand  
Innovative Wildlife Management Services, LLC  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Juniata Valley Audubon Society  
Kansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Lake Erie Islands Conservancy  
Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center  
Lehigh Valley Audubon Society  
Maine Audubon  
Maine Conservation Voters  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Maine Rivers  
Maryland/Delaware Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
Midcoast Conservancy  
MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Montana Audubon  
Montana Trout Unlimited  
Mule Deer Foundation  
National Aquarium  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Audubon Society  
National Deer Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin  
NC Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
New London Windham County League of Sportsmen  
North American Falconers Association

North Carolina Wildlife Federation  
North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust  
Oregon Chapter of American Fisheries Society  
Oregon Wild  
Oregon Zoo  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Pennsylvania Biological Survey  
Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists  
Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology  
Pennsylvania State Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever  
Pines and Prairies Land Trust  
Southern New England Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
Presque Isle Audubon  
Put-in-Bay Township Park District  
Quittapahilla Audubon Society  
REI Co-op  
Sageland Collaborative  
San Marcos River Foundation  
Save Our Allegheny Ridges  
Seneca Rocks Audubon Society  
Seven Mountains Audubon, Lewisburg, PA  
South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy  
Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative  
Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters

Strategic Stewardship Initiative  
Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife  
Texas Conservation Alliance  
Texas Land Trust Council  
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry  
The California North Coast Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
The Conservation Angler  
The Conservation Fund  
The Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy, Texas Chapter  
The Wildlife Society  
The Wildlife Society, California North Coast Chapter  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Tracy Aviary  
Travis Audubon Society, Inc.  
Utah Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Valley Forge Audubon Society  
Wallingford Rod and Gun Club  
West Virginia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
WHC (Wildlife Habitat Council)  
White River Marine Group  
Wildlands Network  
Wildlife Ecology Institute  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Woodland Park Zoo  
World Wildlife Fund  
Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society