

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Westerman, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for bringing the bipartisan *Recovering America's Wildlife Act*, H.R. 2773, before the House Natural Resources Committee for a hearing and now a vote. On behalf of the millions of hunters, anglers, recreational target shooters, professional scientists, and outdoor enthusiasts our organizations represent, the American Wildlife Conservation Partners write to encourage your support, and that of all Committee Members, for passing H.R. 2773 out of the Committee. *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* received a very successful, bipartisan vote in this Committee last Congress, and we look forward to another strong show of support from the Committee this Congress.

We also thank Representatives Dingell and Fortenberry for introducing and promoting this important bill. They have worked hard with the leadership of this Committee and of this Chamber to address the interests and concerns of a wide range of Members and stakeholders and we support the bill with the changes they have made to it. A Senate companion bill introduced recently by Senators Heinrich and Blunt, S. 2372, already has over 30 very bipartisan cosponsors, and includes a source of funds which we also support.

Wildlife conservation efforts are at a critical point, with more than one-third of American species at-risk and in need of proactive recovery. State Wildlife Action Plans, developed with the best available science in collaboration with federal, local and tribal agencies, collectively identify more than 12,000 "Species of Greatest Conservation Need." The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* would provide necessary funding to implement these congressionally mandated plans, as well as critical Tribal and Territorial wildlife conservation programs, conserving wildlife populations before they become threatened or endangered, while helping to recover those that already are.

For over 80 years, state, territorial, and tribal conservation efforts have proven to be incredibly effective at restoring species, some of which were once on the brink of extinction -- from national symbols such as the American bald eagle to vital game animals like white-tailed deer, waterfowl, and striped-bass. Today, we face a new wildlife crisis; one in which the magnitude of the solution must match the magnitude of the challenge. By prioritizing passage of the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act*, this Congress will ensure that our fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation traditions and their associated national economic benefits will endure for the benefit of future generations. The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* represents an historic opportunity to simultaneously benefit wildlife, conservation, sportsmen and women, the economy and taxpayers.

The collaborative, non-regulatory approach of this bill will empower conservation for the full diversity of American's wildlife as well as critical natural resources. Failure to fund these conservation efforts will not only endanger many more at-risk species, but threaten the local, state, and federal economies bolstered by the \$788 billion outdoor industry, which employs 5.2 million Americans. Without healthy habitats and thriving species, more than 140 million outdoor enthusiasts, including nearly 55 million sportsmen and

women, would not be able to fuel this important sector.

*Recovering America's Wildlife Act* is needed to secure the future of America's wildlife and our nation's outdoor and hunting heritage. We urge you to support this high priority legislation for wildlife, sportsmen and sportswomen, the economy, and the American taxpayer by advancing the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* through the legislative process and supporting its passage.

Thank you for your support for conservation.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association  
American Woodcock Society  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Boone and Crockett Club  
California Waterfowl Association  
Camp Fire Club of America  
Catch-A-Dream Foundation  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Conservation Force  
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports  
Dallas Safari Club  
Delta Waterfowl  
Ducks Unlimited  
Houston Safari Club  
Izaak Walton League of America  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees  
National Deer Association  
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
North American Falconers Association  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Mule Deer Foundation  
Orion: The Hunter's Institute  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope & Young Club  
Professional Outfitters and Guides of America  
Quail Forever  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Sportsmen's Alliance  
Texas Wildlife Association  
The Conservation Fund  
The Wildlife Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Whitetails Unlimited  
Wild Sheep Foundation  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute

Cc: Members of the House Natural Resources Committee

