

**Animal Legal Defense Fund * Animal Welfare Institute * Animals & Society Institute
Born Free USA * Center for Biological Diversity * Cetacean Society International
Coastal Plains Institute * Defenders of Wildlife * Delaware Ecumenical Council
Earth Day Network * Earth Law Center * Earthjustice * Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Small Animal Conservation Fund * Endangered Species Coalition
Environment Montana * Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Environmental Protection Information Center * Friends of Blackwater, Inc.
Friends of the Earth * Friends of the Sea Otter * Great Bear Foundation
Great Old Broads for Wilderness * Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Humane Society Legislative Fund * International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute * Iowa Wildlife Federation
Klamath Forest Alliance * League of Conservation Voters
Marine Mammal Alliance Nantucket * National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council * New Hampshire Animal Rights League
Northcoast Environmental Center * NY4WHALES * Ocean Conservancy * Oceana
Oceanic Preservation Society * Predator Defense * Quiet Use Coalition
Rocky Mountain Wild * San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council * Save the Manatee Club
Save Wolves Now Network * Sierra Club * South Carolina Wildlife Federation
The Humane Society of the United States * Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unexpected Wildlife Refuge * Voices of Wildlife in NH
Western Nebraska Resources Council * Western Watersheds Project
Whale and Dolphin Conservation * Wild Connections * WildEarth Guardians
Wildlife Conservation Society * Wolf Conservation Center * World Wildlife Fund**

November 19, 2019

RE: Please support H.R. 4348, the PAW and FIN Conservation Act

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we urge you to support the Protect America's Wildlife and Fish In Need of Conservation Act (PAW and FIN Conservation Act), H.R. 4348. This critical legislation would restore vital protections for our nation's most imperiled species by repealing the Trump administration's recently finalized regulations that gravely weaken the Endangered Species Act.

One million species are at risk of extinction—many within decades—due to human activity, according to an authoritative and devastating report released this past May by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The report warns that the health of ecosystems upon which humans and all other species depend is deteriorating globally at unprecedented rates, with grave implications for our economies, livelihoods, food security, health, and quality of life worldwide.

The Endangered Species Act is our nation's most effective tool for protecting species threatened with extinction. Given the unprecedented threats to these species, we need a fully funded and actively enforced Act now more than ever. Unfortunately, the Trump administration is

attempting to take us in exactly the wrong direction at this critical time. In August 2019, the U.S. Departments of Interior and Commerce finalized regulations that fundamentally undermine key portions of the Endangered Species Act. The Trump administration's rollbacks undermine the law by making it more difficult to extend protections to newly-listed threatened species and removing language prohibiting economic considerations from factoring into decisions about whether a species should be protected under the Act. Further, the regulations make it easier for companies to advance industrial projects in critical habitat areas that are essential to species' survival and more difficult to protect imperiled species that are most impacted by climate change.

By undermining the Endangered Species Act, the Trump administration's regulations not only risk the future of species like gray wolves, polar bears, and humpback whales, but further threaten the balance of fragile natural systems on which we depend for survival.

The PAW and FIN Conservation Act reflects Americans' desire for stronger protections for imperiled wildlife. Roughly four out of five Americans support the Endangered Species Act and want to see its protections upheld. It should therefore come as no surprise that when the administration released the final Endangered Species Act regulations, the public response was resoundingly negative, with media stories condemning the rules outnumbering those in favor eight to one.

Protecting our natural heritage—including threatened and endangered species—is a core American value. It is up to us to preserve wildlife and their habitats for our children's children, and to protect the health of the ecosystems upon which we and all other species depend. We urge you to help save our most imperiled plants and animals from extinction by supporting H.R. 4348.

Sincerely,

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