

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 Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Deer Association
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

