

American Fisheries Society • Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies • Backcountry Hunters and Anglers • Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation • Ducks Unlimited • Izaak Walton League of America • National Audubon Society • National Wild Turkey Federation National Wildlife Federation • Native American Fish and Wildlife Society • Pheasants Forever • Quail Forever • The Conservation Fund • The Wildlife Society Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership • Trout Unlimited

June 25th, 2019

Dear Representative,

As organizations collectively representing millions of Americans who enjoy the great outdoors through hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, paddling and gardening, as well as the state fish and wildlife agencies and other natural resource professionals charged with stewarding our nation's wildlife, we are excited about the imminent introduction of the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act and appreciate your support of this legislation in the last congress. **We hope that you will consider becoming an original cosponsor upon its official introduction by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE).**

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will help recover and conserve species at risk by dedicating \$1.3 billion for state-level conservation and \$97.5 million to Tribal nations for on-the-ground conservation projects. The legislation funds the implementation of the congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which outline specific conservation actions necessary to recover and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations. Similarly, tribal nations will expand conservation efforts on their lands, which provide vital habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species, including more than 500 species listed as threatened or endangered.

The crisis facing our nation's fish and wildlife is daunting. More than one-third of all species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered. State fish and wildlife agencies have identified more than 12,000 species in need of proactive, voluntary conservation. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will provide state fish and wildlife agencies and tribal nations with dedicated resources to address this pressing problem. Taking measures to restore species before they are on the brink of extinction and ensuring healthy populations will help prevent these species from needing costly "emergency room" measures under the Endangered Species Act in the first place. Further, ensuring healthy populations of species will also allow businesses and landowners to operate with more regulatory certainty and reduced risk. This collaborative approach to conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers, good for landowners, and good for business.

Our nation is blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. There is a lot at stake and a lot to be gained from the passage of this innovative solution to this growing problem. America has a proud history of coming together to bring species back from the brink of extinction. Only a few decades ago, species like bald eagles, wood ducks, and pronghorns were teetering on the brink of extinction. Now they are thriving because we made conservation action and funding a priority.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act builds on this legacy and presents a solution that meets the magnitude of the challenges facing our fish and wildlife in the 21st century. We appreciate

your consideration of our request to join this effort again by becoming an original cosponsor in the 116th Congress. To do so, please contact: Timothy.Huebner@mail.house.gov (Dingell) and Alan.Feyerherm@mail.house.gov (Fortenberry).

Sincerely,



American Fisheries Society



Audubon National Audubon Society



Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies



National Wild Turkey Federation



Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



National Wildlife Federation



Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation



Native American Fish and Wildlife Society



Ducks Unlimited



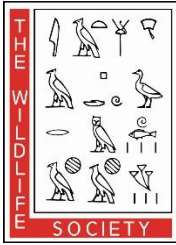
Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever



Izaak Walton League of America



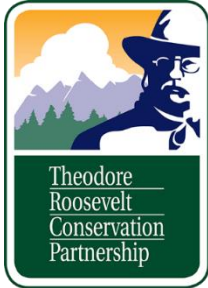
The Conservation Fund



The Wildlife Society



Trout Unlimited



**Theodore Roosevelt
Conservation
Partnership**