

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chair
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for bringing the bipartisan *Recovering America's Wildlife Act*, S. 2372, before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for a hearing. 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 S. 2372 out of the Committee.

We also thank Senators Heinrich and Blunt for introducing and promoting this important bill. A House companion bill, H.R. 2773, already has over 135 very bipartisan cosponsors, and has been heard by the House Natural Resources Committee.

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
Quail Forever
Ruffed Grouse Society
Sportsmen's Alliance
The Conservation Fund
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works