Dear Senator X,

My name is (insert name), and I am writing to you today as a member of The Wildlife Society and as a constituent requesting your support for the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act ([S. 3223](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3223/text)) with the addition of a dedicated funding mechanism. Introduced in July by Senators Risch (R-ID), Manchin (D-WV), Heitkamp (D-ND), and Alexander (R-TN), this legislation would provide state wildlife agencies with a vital source of funding to conserve at-risk wildlife species in a proactive and cost-effective manner.

State fish and wildlife agencies across the U.S. have identified over 12,000 species at-risk of becoming threatened or endangered if proactive, on-the-ground conservation and monitoring actions are not taken. These species are known by state, federal and NGO partners as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would provide a path forward for conserving Species of Greatest Conservation Need by allocating up to $1.3 billion annually towards state agency recovery and monitoring efforts with the goal of keeping common species common and avoiding cost-intensive recovery measures such as Endangered Species Act listings. These appropriated funds would come from existing onshore and offshore energy and mineral extraction royalties already collected by the federal government at $5 billion to $12 billion annually.

This legislation, however, is only part of the solution. In order to provide financial certainty to state agencies planning conservation efforts into the future, **dedicated annual funding is necessary**. The House version of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act ([H.R. 4647](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4647/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%224647%22%5D%7D&r=1)) would provide $1.3 billion in dedicated funding annually and has proven bipartisan support, with over 80 bipartisan cosponsors already backing it, along with [over 1,000 conservation and business interests](https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Wildlife-Conservation/NWF_Recovering-Americas-Wildlife-Act_Sign-On-Letter.ashx?la=en&hash=90444A5E29E19B642B5409518847092900776E92) including The Wildlife Society.

The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit professional society representing over 10,000 wildlife biologists and managers, dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The Wildlife Society and I are supporting this legislation so that wildlife professionals throughout our state will be able to hold the nation’s wildlife in the public trust for generations to come. It is our hope that your office will also put your faith in the professionals working on the front lines of conservation by supporting this legislation.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

(insert name)