

November 17, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Boehner:

On behalf of our millions of members, we write to respectfully request that you prioritize the consideration of a package of land, water and wildlife conservation bills including several key pieces of wildlife related legislation that will help America continue to preserve its legacy of leadership in wildlife conservation during the remaining legislative calendar in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Several pieces of legislation crucial to the conservation of some of the world's last remaining charismatic and ecologically important species and other rare and imperiled wildlife have been passed by the House of Representatives and have all been reported by the Senate Environment and Public Works and Commerce Committees, including those that protect sharks, rare wild cats and dogs, southern sea otters, cranes, sea turtles, and neo-tropical migratory birds. Quick action on this package would guarantee U.S. global leadership and sustained efforts in a multitude of conservation efforts. These bills are the result of extensive collaboration and enjoy broad support from American conservationists, non-profit organizations, businesses and other stakeholders.

In addition to establishing programs that would directly benefit wildlife conservation, these measures would provide local jobs, build capacity and provide support, training and expertise in the United States and beyond. They would also bring great benefits to local communities by facilitating economic development, promoting essential components of America's national heritage, protecting key natural resources and fostering U.S. legacy of conservation leadership. Despite their importance, these legislative initiatives still await final consideration by the Congress.

On behalf of the organizations below and the millions of Americans we represent, we respectfully request that you make the consideration of these significant proposals a priority in a comprehensive land, water and wildlife conservation package before the adjournment of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

African Wildlife Foundation  
American Bird Conservancy  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance  
Center for Native Ecosystems  
Cheetah Conservation Fund  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo  
Conservation Northwest  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Franklin Park Zoo  
Georgia Aquarium  
Humane Society Legislative Fund  
Humane Society of the United States  
International Crane Foundation  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
John G. Shedd Aquarium  
Lincoln Park Zoo  
Monterey Bay Aquarium  
National Aquarium  
National Audubon Society  
Oceana  
Oregon Wild  
Sea Research Foundation  
Snow Leopard Conservancy  
Stone Zoo  
The Earth Cause Organization- ECO  
The Wildlife Society  
Western Nebraska Resources Council  
Wildlife Alliance  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Woodland Park Zoo  
World Wildlife Fund