



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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10 March 2010

The Honorable Jim Moran  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2239 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Moran:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. The Wildlife Society looks forward to working together to manage and conserve our nation's natural resources. The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit scientific and educational association of over 9,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers, dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to represent and serve wildlife professionals—the scientists, technicians, and practitioners actively working to study, manage, and conserve native and desired non-native wildlife and their habitats worldwide.

Many pressing issues face our nation's wildlife today, including shrinking habitats due to a growing human population, range shifts as a result of climate change, and threats to their health from environmental pollution and degradation. These threats not only affect wildlife, but they also have impacts upon humans that are employed in, depend upon, or enjoy recreation in these ecosystems. For example, it is estimated that 1 in 20 jobs in this country are dependent upon the environment, and that jobs such as reforestation and land restoration create nearly 40 jobs per million spent, surpassing new road construction (14.4 jobs/million dollars) or oil and gas development (5.2 jobs/million dollars).

The programs overseen by your subcommittee are integral to the protection of our nation's wildlife. These include the State and Wildlife Grants program, the only federally-funded program to protect species before they become endangered; the National Wildlife Refuge System, a system which brings in over \$1.7 billion to local economies and supports 41 million visitors each year; and the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center, which will play a pivotal role in addressing the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. The Wildlife Society recognizes these are difficult budget times, but we hope that the Subcommittee continues to value the nation's wildlife and natural resources, and provides adequate funding levels for these and other natural resource programs within the agencies.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss important issues facing wildlife and the wildlife community. Please contact Laura Bies (301-897-9770 ex.308 or [laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)) to arrange a meeting. We look forward to working with you in the future, and serving as a resource to you regarding wildlife management and conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hutchins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Hutchins  
Executive Director/CEO

cc: Austin Durrer, Chief of Staff