

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. We appreciate your past support and we are hopeful that your support will continue. We believe that the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is an important investment needed to sustain our nation's fish and wildlife, but we also understand the fiscal constraints that our nation is under. We ask that you allocate robust funding for this important, time-tested program for fiscal year 2019.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program provides states, territories, the District of Columbia, and Indian tribes with the resources they need to implement proactive and effective wildlife conservation actions aimed at keeping wildlife from becoming endangered. It is a mission-critical element of the Interior Department's budget, as no other program is focused on this goal. As you know, states bear the primary responsibility for wildlife management, and since the 1930's the federal government has worked in partnership with the states to fund successful conservation programs which ensure sustainability of the fish and wildlife species enjoyed by all Americans.

During the last decade, petitions for federal endangered species listings have increased by over 1,000%. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program funds proactive conservation work that is helping to eliminate the need to list more species as federally threatened or endangered, saving taxpayer dollars and reducing regulatory uncertainty to business. Robust and consistent funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is key to meeting the shared state-federal interest for keeping our nation's fish and wildlife healthy and sustainable. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this kind of smart, effective investment in conservation.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program supports implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans that were developed collaboratively by leading scientists, sportsmen and sportswomen, wildlife viewers, conservationists, and private landowners to conserve more than 12,000 species in need of proactive conservation. Congress can demonstrate its commitment to these plans in every state and territory by providing the federal share of support which will

leverage millions in state and private matching funds. This investment helps support jobs and the \$887 billion outdoor recreation industry.


We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to provide the highest appropriation possible for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program in Fiscal Year 2019 so that these important fish and wildlife conservation efforts can continue to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

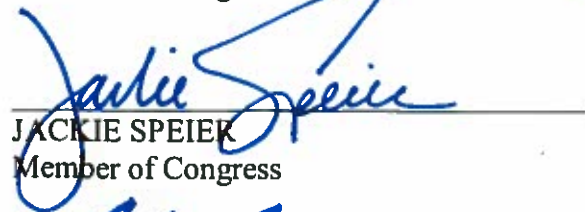
  
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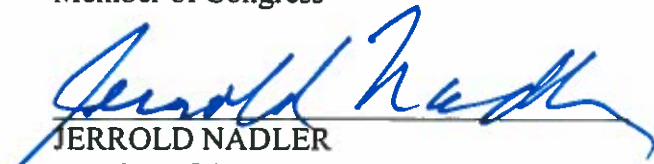
  
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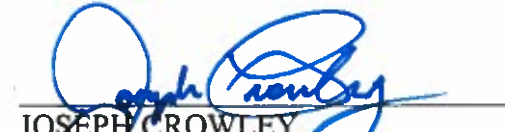
  
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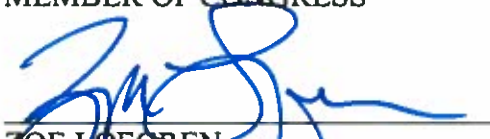
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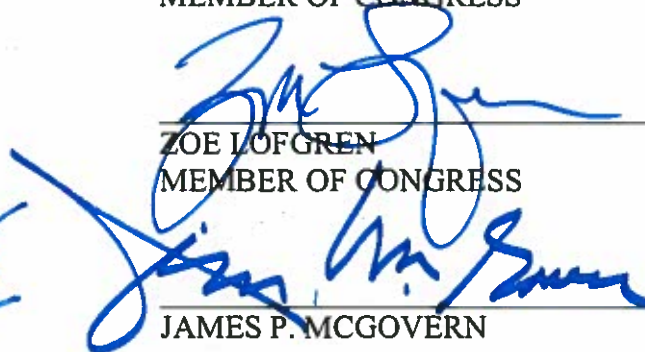
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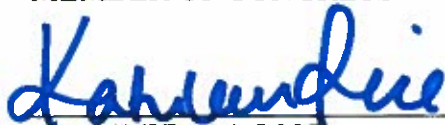


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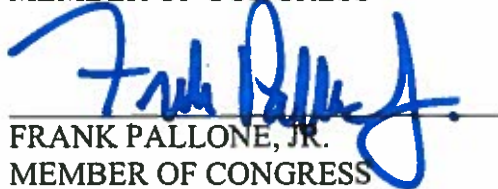
  
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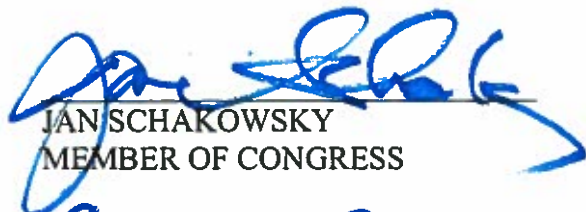
  
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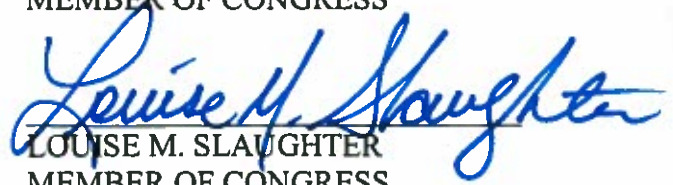
  
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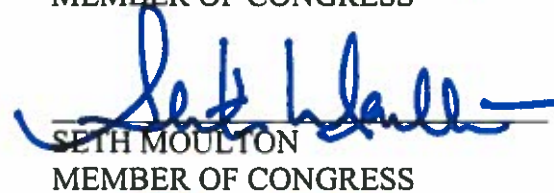
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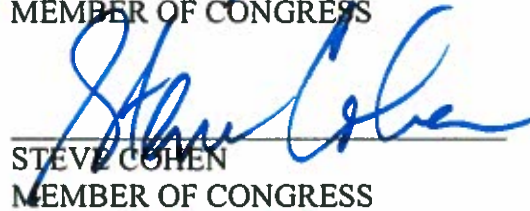
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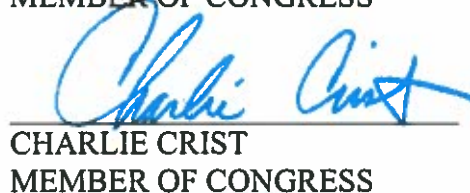
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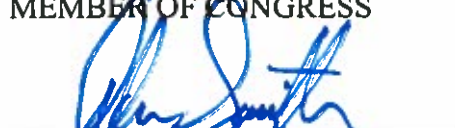
  
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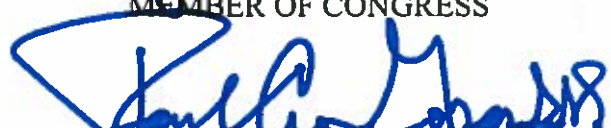
  
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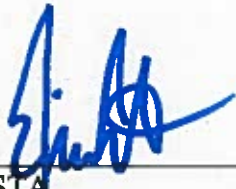
  
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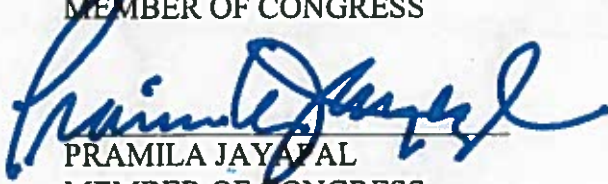
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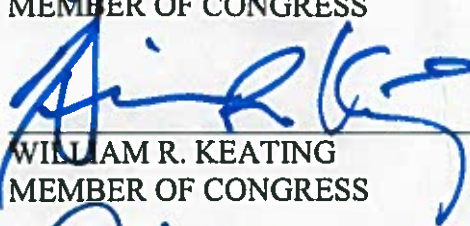
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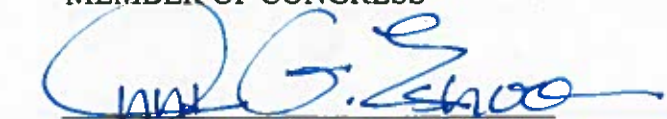
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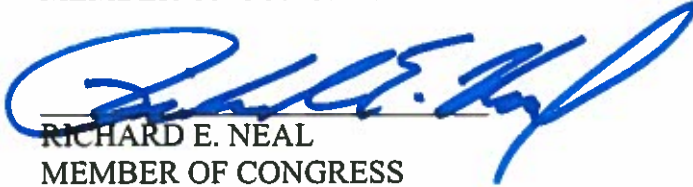
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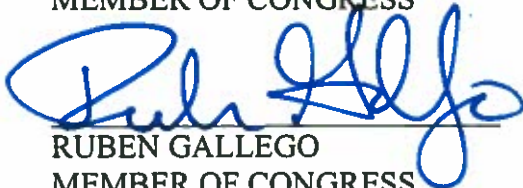
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