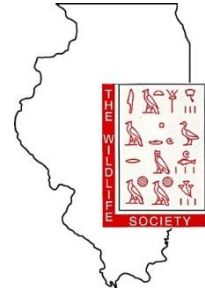


Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



March 9, 2018

Representative Mike Bost
1440 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: **SUPPORT** H.R. 4647 – Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

Dear Representative Bost:

The Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society is an organization of over 100 wildlife professionals dedicated to excellence in wildlife conservation through science and education. We represent biologists, managers, educators, technicians, and others who actively work to study, manage and conserve wildlife and their habitats in Illinois.

We urge you to support and cosponsor H.R. 4647, Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. Introduced by Representatives Fortenberry (R-NE) and Dingell (D-MI) in December 2017, this legislation would provide a path forward for proactive, cost-effective wildlife conservation to take hold in this country. By dedicating \$1.3 billion from energy and mineral royalties to states for species identified as needing additional conservation measures, you will enable wildlife professionals to keep these populations stable before costly federal intervention, such as Endangered Species Act listing, is needed.

River otters in Illinois are one example of a success story. In 1977, river otters were listed as a threatened species in Illinois, and by 1989, fewer than 100 individuals were estimated present in Illinois. Through *funded* research and management, including translocation efforts, the river otter population is now thriving in Illinois and the species is no longer listed as endangered or threatened.

In addition to the Illinois Chapter, The Wildlife Society—in its entirety—represents over 10,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers internationally. 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 cosponsoring this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul A. Brewer
President

copy: Keith Norris, Director of Wildlife Policy and Programs, The Wildlife Society