



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter
16760 482nd ave.
Reville SD 57259

July 29, 2019

Representative Dusty Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
1508 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Wildlife Society is an international non-profit association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The South Dakota Chapter achieves this mission in part by evaluating proposed public actions that affect wildlife and habitats. Our Chapter goals and objectives are more clearly outlined at: <http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/>.

We are contacting you today to ask for your help with a critical bill that has the potential to impact South Dakota and South Dakotans for generations to come. On Friday, July 12, Congresswoman Dingell and Congressman Fortenberry introduced H.R. 3742, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). We ask that you cosponsor and support the passage of this bill in the U.S. House.

Our members and organization have supported this effort for many years to fulfill a gap between our natural resource needs and available funding. RAWA identifies stable, long-term funding from existing revenues without raising or creating new taxes to address wildlife challenges using state-based priorities and strong partnerships that reach across all facets of life in South Dakota. Building on the successes of the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs, RAWA would provide more than \$10 million per year to South Dakota to enhance state agency priorities to address wildlife and habitat needs with proactive and preventive measures and help avoid the economic burden of additional threatened and endangered species listings.

In addition to addressing resource needs, we are particularly excited about funding in RAWA for outdoor education and recreation. We know that by experiencing the outdoors at an early age, we can gain a lifetime appreciation for it. South Dakota has much to offer to outdoor enthusiasts, whether hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, or photographers, in addition to those seeking a quiet place to enjoy nature. RAWA also includes funding to meet tribal needs for

proactive wildlife conservation and to help recover species already listed under the Endangered Species Act.

RAWA will help states implement their Wildlife Action Plans, which identify wildlife and fisheries needs and chart strategies for meeting those challenges in a voluntary, nonregulatory way.

South Dakota's Plan is available on the Game, Fish and Parks' website:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-action-plan/>

The broad scope of RAWA lends itself to building new and innovative partnerships. South Dakotans have lots of experience with making the most of their opportunities, and RAWA presents a wonderful chance to improve our quality of life; to enhance the same waters, forests, and grasslands that support people and wildlife; and to provide an even better natural legacy to future South Dakotans. Please see the attached Fact Sheet to learn more about how this legislation would benefit South Dakota.

Thank you for considering this request. We hope to work with you on the successful passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Sincerely,

Eric Magedanz
President
South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society