



February 14, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee,

Healthy fish and wildlife populations and their habitats are essential to the quality of life of every American. Yet today, we are facing an historic fish and wildlife challenge that could alter future Americans' opportunities to benefit from these resources. Scientists estimate that one-third of wildlife species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered unless we pursue proactive, collaborative efforts to accelerate their recovery. The dramatic decline of so many species of wildlife and the habitats they depend on has an adverse effect on fundamental life benefits provided by nature such as water purification and aquifer recharge, flood abatement, pollination, recreation and food and fiber production that are essential to human health. These species declines threaten Americans' quality of life, as well as our national economy and create regulatory uncertainty for businesses and industries, further impacting jobs and the health of our communities. Fortunately, proven solutions exist to reverse this decline and bolster our economy.

We write today to offer our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647) recently introduced by Representatives Fortenberry (R-NE-01) and Dingell (D-MI-12). We believe this legislation represents a critical solution towards addressing the imminent challenges facing America's wildlife. Many of us came together to serve on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources, consisting of members representing the outdoor recreation, retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, sportsmen's and other conservation groups, and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. Together, our industries represent more than a trillion dollars of economic impact, millions of non-exportable jobs, and tens of millions of members and consumers across the country, all who rely on healthy fish and wildlife populations.

As proposed in H.R. 4647, our Panel recommended for Congress to dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to the existing Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program for state-led, proactive, collaborative-based wildlife conservation before "emergency room" federal measures are necessary. This concept has struck a chord among a diverse group of Americans, and in response, the Panel has rapidly expanded into the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife which represents additional diverse interests aligned in support of

increased fish and wildlife conservation funding, which complements existing natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation programs. Together, we stand united to help secure passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

We applaud the leadership of Congressman Fortenberry and Congresswoman Dingell, and urge you to support this vital legislation. Rather than investing in less expensive, preventative measures, we often wait to take action until there is a crisis, which then requires costly measures and, too often, onerous regulations that can create economic uncertainty for businesses and our communities. H.R. 4647 changes this approach by focusing proven, proactive, science-driven conservation measures, which will help recover thousands of species, while saving taxpayers billions of dollars and leveraging additional funds through innovative public/private partnerships. This proactive and voluntary approach is better for wildlife, taxpayers, businesses, and local communities.

Not since enactment of the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, which provided critical funding for fish and wildlife in steep decline, have we had an opportunity to pass legislation of such importance to protecting what is every American's birthright—our great natural heritage. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act has the potential to be the most important conservation legislation in generations.

We appreciate your consideration of our request for your support of this important legislation. There is a lot at stake, and a lot to be gained from the passage of this innovative solution to a growing problem. We want to offer future generations of Americans the same opportunities that we have had in our lifetimes to enjoy our treasured natural resources. Together we can build a brighter economic future that includes conservation of our fish and wildlife and helps sustain our communities.

Sincerely,

Members of the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife:

Virgil Moore
President
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies



Jeff Crane
President
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation



Collin O'Mara
President and CEO
National Wildlife Federation



John L. Morris
Chief Executive Officer
Bass Pro Shops
White River Marine Group

Greg Hill
President, COO
Hess Corporation



Dale Hall
Chief Executive Officer
Ducks Unlimited



Amy Roberts
Executive Director
Outdoor Industry Association



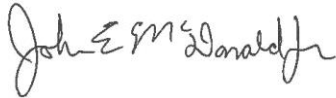
Rebecca Humphries
Chief Executive Officer
National Wild Turkey Federation



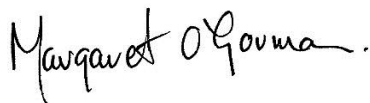
Steve Sanetti
President
National Shooting Sports Foundation



Dr. John E. McDonald, Jr.
President
The Wildlife Society



Margaret O'Gorman
President
Wildlife Habitat Council



Steve McMullin, Ph.D.
President
American Fisheries Society



Steve Williams
President
Wildlife Management Institute



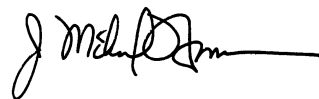
David Yarnold
President and CEO
National Audubon Society



John W. Fitzpatrick
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Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Mike Nussman
President and CEO
American Sportfishing Association



Whit Fosburgh
President and CEO
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership



Scott Kovarovics
Executive Director
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