



18 October 2019

Alma Adams
North Carolina 12th District
2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3312

Dear Congresswoman,

The North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NCTWS) is requesting your support for the **“Recovering America’s Wildlife Act of 2019”** (HR 3742). There are currently 138 cosponsors for this **bipartisan** bill, including North Carolina Representatives Rouzer, Budd, and McHenry.

NCTWS is the professional society for wildlife biologists and managers in North Carolina, with over 300 members representing dozens of federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations. As part of our mission, NCTWS “strives to be an acknowledged source of current scientific information and expertise, and acts as a collective voice on matters relating to wildlife biology, management, education, and policy.”

We support 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. The state of North Carolina has **457 of the more than 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need** identified across the country by state agency wildlife professionals. These species, listed in the State’s Wildlife Action Plan, have received insufficient funding through the State Wildlife Grant program over the last 19 years. While many North Carolina taxpayers support these species through the voluntary tax check-off, the amount of funding for species conservation, habitat improvement, and monitoring is still insufficient.

The passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR 3742) will provide **dedicated funds from the U.S. Treasury of \$1.3 billion annually to state fish and wildlife agencies and an additional \$97.5 million to Tribal Nations** for proactive, collaborative conservation actions to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. North Carolina is estimated to receive \$26.5 million dollars annually from HR 3742 and \$1.3 million from the State Wildlife Grant Apportionment which, in total, would accompany a 25% match of \$8.8 million dollars from the state. That is approximately **\$35 million in funding to support North Carolina's 457 species of Greatest Conservation Need**. By dedicating this funding, you will enable wildlife professionals to keep these populations stable before costly federal intervention, such as Endangered Species Act listing, is needed.



It is our hope that your office will put your faith in the wildlife professionals working on the front lines of conservation in North Carolina by **cosponsoring HR 3742** to provide mandatory funding for fish and wildlife species.

Sincerely,

Rachael E. Urbanek, Ph.D.
President, NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Certified Wildlife Biologist®