

**New Jersey Chapter  
The Wildlife Society**  
<http://wildlife.org/new-jersey/>



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9 September 2018

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

The New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NJTWS) is writing to request your support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act ([S.3223](#)), introduced on July 17, 2018 by Senators Risch (R-ID), Manchin (D-WV), Heitkamp (D-ND), and Alexander (R-TN). This legislation would provide state wildlife agencies with a vital source of funding to proactively and cost-effectively conserve at-risk wildlife species.

The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit professional society dedicated to inspiring, empowering, and enabling wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation. The Wildlife Society (TWS), founded in 1937, is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society. The Wildlife Society encourages professional growth through certification, peer-review publications, conferences, and working groups.

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife recognizes 656 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) but have identified 107 Focal SGCN in their congressionally-mandated conservation action blueprints, known as State Wildlife Action Plan. Conservation efforts for these species are critically underfunded and only receive about \$60 million annually through the existing [State Wildlife Grants](#) program.

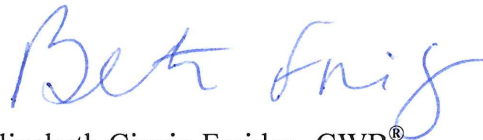
S. 3223 would make great strides in providing states with the funds needed to ensure common species remain common and at-risk species receive necessary intervention measures. **S.3223 would do this by allowing for up to \$1.3 billion annually to be appropriated towards the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need at the state level.** This includes species such as the state endangered bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*), which faces risks associated with habitat loss due to increasing urbanization, alteration/destruction of wetlands, and encroachment of invasive species. These appropriated funds would come from existing onshore and offshore energy and mineral extraction royalties already collected by the federal government at \$5 billion to \$12 billion annually.

We encourage you to support this legislation, with the addition of **dedicated** funding. Dedicated funding would ensure this legislation performs its intended purpose of providing financial certainty to states, allowing them to plan and implement multi-year projects that will help avoid cost-intensive federal measures such as Endangered Species Act listings. This is the case in the **House version of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647)**, which provides **\$1.3 billion in dedicated funding** annually towards the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need. H.R. 4647 has proven bipartisan support, with 37 Republicans and 44 Democrats already backing it, along with [over 1,000 conservation and business interests](#).

Our members are tasked with conserving and managing our nation's public trust wildlife species. We know the way to sustain wildlife for the benefit of the public is to dedicate funds toward proactive, cost-effective, science-based conservation and management on the state level. We hope you will support S. 3223 with a goal of working towards the inclusion of the House's dedicated funding language within the bill text.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Ciuizio Freiday, CWB<sup>®</sup>  
President  
New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Cc: Senator Cory Booker