

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Liz Cheney
U.S. House of Representatives
416 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cheney,

The below signed organizations write to urge your support for federal funding for wildlife-roadway crossing projects in any forthcoming legislation. Wildlife-roadway crossing projects make our roads safer for all motorists, prevent lost revenue, and reduce wildlife mortalities. Nearly 6,000 big game animals such as deer, pronghorn, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep die each year from vehicle collisions on Wyoming's highways. All sectors of our economy are impacted by roadway safety, including energy, agriculture, recreation, and education. These collisions result in an estimated annual cost of \$24 million in injury and damage costs and another \$25 million in lost wildlife value.

Existing wildlife crossing projects near Pinedale, Kemmerer, and Baggs have been highly successful, resulting in close to a 90% reduction in wildlife-vehicle collisions. The success of these crossings underscores the need for similar projects across Wyoming in other high-risk corridors. A task force comprised of state and federal agencies and nonprofits identified 41 such high-priority sections of highways with high collision rates and estimate that addressing the top ten projects would cost around \$200 million. Funding these projects is a critical need to improve highway safety and to reduce the loss of wildlife and revenue.

A recent University of Wyoming poll showed 86% of Wyomingites support constructing wildlife-roadway crossing projects. Funding these projects is a sound investment that will provide immediate benefit to all people that drive on Wyoming's roadways. The Wyoming Legislature recently passed a budget that included \$3 million for these projects and updated the wildlife conservation account to allow for voluntary contributions and donations. Federal funding will also be needed for these projects to be realized and your support is crucial to achieving that funding.

The undersigned organizations encourage you to support federal funding for wildlife crossings similar to that which is proposed in S. 2302, America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019. This bill includes a pilot program that will fund the construction of wildlife crossings across the nation, allocating \$250 million from FY2021 – FY 2025 to be accessible by state departments of transportation to supplement state funding for these projects. These funds are essential for the Wyoming Department of Transportation to construct the crossings on high-risk sections of Wyoming's roadways, and we encourage you to support this program in either stand-alone legislation or as a part of the House's own highway bill.

Thank you for your work on behalf of beautiful Wyoming and our nation. We wish you, your family and your staff all the best in these very challenging times.

Sincerely,

Wyoming Game Wardens Association
Daniel Beach

Mule Fanatic Foundation
Josh Coursey

Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Jim Magagna

Wyoming County Commissioner Association
Jeremiah Rieman

Western Landowners Alliance
Lesli Allison

Western Bear Foundation
Joe Kondelis

Mule Deer Foundation
Shawn Blajszczak

Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Dwayne Meadows

The Nature Conservancy – Wyoming Chapter
Richard Garrett

One Shot Antelope Past Shooters Club
John Shipper

The Wildlife Society – Wyoming Chapter
Eric Maichak

Wyoming Outfitters & Guides Association
Sy Gilliland

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
Kurt Eisenach

Wyoming Federation of Union Sportsmen- Area 5
Mike Burd

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Nick Dobric

Safari Club International – Central Wyoming Chapter
Michael Keim

Bowhunters of Wyoming
Harvey Dalton

Wyoming Hunters and Anglers Alliance
Max Ludington

National Bighorn Sheep Center
Sara Domek

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers – Wyoming Chapter
Buzz Hettick

Water for Wildlife Foundation
Vickie Hutchinson