

May 14 2021
The Honorable Senator Susan Collins,
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

The Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to request your co-sponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773), introduced in April by Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE). This legislation would provide state and tribal wildlife agencies with a vital source of funding needed to proactively and cost-effectively conserve America's at-risk wildlife populations. Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society and its 15,000 professional and associated members work to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife biologists and managers to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. The Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society represents over 120 wildlife professionals with a variety of backgrounds in the private and public sector. The states and tribes within our chapter have more than 375 at-risk species as identified by The Maine Department of Inland fisheries and wildlife in their congressionally-mandated conservation action blueprints, known as State Wildlife Action Plan(s). This includes species like the Northern Bog Lemming (*Synaptomys borealis sphagnicola*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*), and the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).

Nationally, conservation efforts for these at-risk species are critically underfunded, only receiving about \$60 million annually through the existing State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. This is not nearly enough for states and tribes to plan for multi-year conservation and recovery projects or prevent costlier measures, such as Endangered Species Act listings, from occurring.

Passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would match an appropriate solution to the scale of this crisis. By dedicating \$1.3 billion annually for the adequate implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans, and \$97.5 million annually for tribal agencies to plan long-term conservation projects, wildlife professionals will have the resources needed to hold the nation's wildlife in the public trust for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. If you have any questions regarding the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society's support for this legislation, please feel free to reach out to Joseph Roy via email at joseph.merle.roy@gmail.com or by phone at (207) 578-8095

Sincerely,

Joseph Roy
Chairperson – Conservation Affairs Committee
The Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society