

6 April 2022

The Honorable Tim Burchett
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Burchett,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your cosponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773)**, introduced in April 2021. 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 University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society is in west Tennessee with 61 members in various concentrations of our Natural Resources Management program. TWS and other professional societies and conservation organizations are excited to support this legislation alongside 37 Republican Representatives

The state of Tennessee has more than 600 at-risk species as identified by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in their congressionally-mandated conservation action blueprint, known as a State Wildlife Action Plan. This includes species like the lake sturgeon, a fish that can grow up to 8 feet and weigh over 300 pounds, and which is at-risk in Tennessee due to over-fishing and habitat loss from damming of rivers.

Nationally, conservation efforts for these at-risk species are critically underfunded, only receiving about \$70 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 University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society's support for this legislation, please feel free to reach Meghan Dodd at megpdodd@ut.utm.edu.

Sincerely,

Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable Scott DesJarlais
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative DesJarlais,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your cosponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773)**, introduced in April 2021. 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.

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Sincerely,

Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair
megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable Mark Green
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Green,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your cosponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773)**, introduced in April 2021. 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.

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Sincerely,

Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger
167 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Harshbarger,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your cosponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773)**, introduced in April 2021. 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.

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Sincerely,

Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable John Rose
1124 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Rose,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your cosponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773)**, introduced in April 2021. 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.

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Sincerely,

Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable Steve Cohen
2104 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cohen,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to thank you for signing on in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The state of Tennessee alone has 600 of the more than 12,000 at-risk species identified across the U.S. by state and tribal wildlife professionals. By cosponsoring the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, you are empowering state agency wildlife professionals to address this alarming trend in population decline in a proactive, cost effective manner. You are also providing tribal wildlife agencies with the resources needed to plan long-term conservation projects into the future.

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, along with The Wildlife Society headquarters, work to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. By cosponsoring this legislation, you have shown your support for state and tribal wildlife professionals working on the front lines of conservation.

We thank you again and look forward to working with your office on this important legislation going forward. Please feel free to reach out to our chapter with any other wildlife conservation or management issues that arise in your district.

Regards,

Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable Jim Cooper
1536 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cooper,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to thank you for signing on in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The state of Tennessee alone has 600 of the more than 12,000 at-risk species identified across the U.S. by state and tribal wildlife professionals. By cosponsoring the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, you are empowering state agency wildlife professionals to address this alarming trend in population decline in a proactive, cost effective manner. You are also providing tribal wildlife agencies with the resources needed to plan long-term conservation projects into the future.

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Regards,

Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable Charles Fleischmann
462 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Fleischmann,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to thank you for signing on in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The state of Tennessee alone has 600 of the more than 12,000 at-risk species identified across the U.S. by state and tribal wildlife professionals. By cosponsoring the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, you are empowering state agency wildlife professionals to address this alarming trend in population decline in a proactive, cost effective manner. You are also providing tribal wildlife agencies with the resources needed to plan long-term conservation projects into the future.

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Regards,

Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hagerty,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to thank you for signing on in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The state of Tennessee alone has 600 of the more than 12,000 at-risk species identified across the U.S. by state and tribal wildlife professionals. By cosponsoring the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, you are empowering state agency wildlife professionals to address this alarming trend in population decline in a proactive, cost effective manner. You are also providing tribal wildlife agencies with the resources needed to plan long-term conservation projects into the future.

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Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable David Kustoff
560 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kustoff,

The University of Tennessee Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to thank you for signing on in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The state of Tennessee alone has 600 of the more than 12,000 at-risk species identified across the U.S. by state and tribal wildlife professionals. By cosponsoring the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, you are empowering state agency wildlife professionals to address this alarming trend in population decline in a proactive, cost effective manner. You are also providing tribal wildlife agencies with the resources needed to plan long-term conservation projects into the future.

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Meghan Dodd

University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of the Wildlife Society: Policy Chair

megpdodd@ut.utm.edu

6 April 2022

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn

357 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blackburn,

The University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your cosponsorship** of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S. 2372), introduced in July 2021 by Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Roy Blunt (R-MO). 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.

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