



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

6 February 2023

Representative Mary Peltola
2314 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Peltola,

The Wildlife Society would like to congratulate you on your recent election and your recent appointment to the House Committee on Natural Resources. We look forward to working with you and serving as a resource in your work to represent Alaskans and confront our country's biggest natural resource challenges.

Our mission at The Wildlife Society is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. Founded in 1937, TWS and our network of affiliated chapters and sections represent more than 15,000 wildlife professionals dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. TWS and our affiliated working groups also provide expertise to decision makers on a diversity of topics including invasive species management, biological diversity, and human-wildlife conflict.

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society was founded in 1971 and presently has about 200 members from across the state, representing wildlife scientists, resource managers, students, and early career professionals working for state and federal agencies, Alaska Native organizations, universities, non-profit groups, and as consulting biologists. The vision of our Chapter is to achieve excellence in conservation and stewardship of Alaska's wildlife resources through science, education, and information sharing. Our mission is to benefit the long-term health of Alaska's wildlife and the sustained use and enjoyment of these resources by the public we collectively serve. In meeting this mandate, our Chapter serves as an objective, science-based organization that provides information and thoughtful analysis on important and relevant issues pertaining to conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

The Alaska Chapter recognizes that you have significant experience living a subsistence way of life, and a thorough understanding of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. We hope we can add value to your deliberations through offering our scientific expertise regarding wildlife and habitat whenever needed.

The Wildlife Society's Government Affairs program strives to ensure wildlife professionals, and the knowledge they provide, play an active role in the formation of wildlife management and conservation policies, laws, and regulations. We work closely with the Committee on Natural Resources to ensure policies empower, enable, and assist wildlife professionals in managing and conserving wildlife resources for the benefit of the American public.

Through our diverse and dedicated membership, TWS has broad access to scientific knowledge and expertise that can help facilitate and inform decision-making processes. TWS' headquarters staff in D.C. and members throughout the state of Alaska are available to assist you and other committee members with science-based input for managing our nation's natural resources in the face of some of our biggest challenges. We recognize that natural resource decisions must consider many social, economic, and ecological factors, with science serving as the bedrock principle for making those decisions.

We look forward to providing you with the views of wildlife professionals and wish you success in your new role. We stand ready to assist you as the committee works to develop policies that sustainably manage and conserve our nation's natural resources through sound science. Please feel free to contact Caroline Murphy, AWB[®], TWS Government Relations Manager (cmurphy@wildlife.org), or Cyndi Wardlow, The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society President (cwardlowak@gmail.com) whenever we might be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Don Yasuda
Certified Wildlife Biologist[®]
President, The Wildlife Society



Cyndi Wardlow
President, The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society