

ARKANSAS CHAPTER
of
The Wildlife Society

31 March 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Westerman,

The Wildlife Society (TWS), the Arkansas Chapter of TWS, and the Southeastern Section of TWS look forward to working with you and serving as a resource in your work on the Committee on Natural Resources to represent Arkansans and confront our country's biggest natural resource challenges.

The Wildlife Society's mission 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 Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society comprises the US states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. In particular, the Arkansas Chapter of TWS has objectives consistent with those of TWS, including taking an active role in the development and promotion of sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which humans and wildlife depend. The Chapter is made up of current and future wildlife management professionals, including over 250 members from state and federal agencies, universities, consulting companies, NGOs, etc.

We have appreciated your support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and hope we can add value to your future deliberations by offering our scientific expertise regarding wildlife and habitat whenever needed. As you know, Arkansas has a rich cultural tradition of outdoor recreation, thanks to the bountiful natural resources in our state. Outdoor recreation contributes \$3.5 billion to the Arkansas economy, supporting jobs for 40,000 Arkansans. Protection and management of these natural resources requires educated and trained wildlife professionals, many of which are TWS members.

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 Arkansas 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. TWS also has an extensive library of policy resources covering key issues in wildlife conservation on the TWS [website](#). For your convenience, TWS has included a fact sheet to introduce you to these policy resources as an attachment to this letter. 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 role on the committee. 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 us whenever we might be of assistance.

Sincerely,



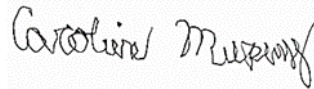
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