



2 February 2024

The Honorable Senator Bob Casey, Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey,

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to thank you for your co-sponsorship of The Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2023 (S. 1149), introduced in March 2023 by Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM). 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 Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society represents 343 wildlife professionals with a variety of backgrounds in the private and public sector. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has 664 species of greatest conservation need as identified by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Department for the Conservation of Natural Resources in their congressionally-mandated conservation action blueprint, known as the State Wildlife Action Plan [[Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan \(fishandboat.com\)](https://fishandboat.com)]. This includes species like the Northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*), 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 co-sponsoring this important legislation. If you have any questions regarding the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society's support for this legislation, please feel free to reach out to me via email at pachaptertws@gmail.com or by phone at 717-319-6674.

Sincerely,

Kyle Van Why
President



The Pennsylvania State Chapter of the Wildlife Society

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The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society, founded in 1977, is comprised of 320 professionals in wildlife management, conservation, educators, and researchers who are dedicated to conserving Pennsylvania's wildlife heritage by supporting and developing the wildlife profession within our state.