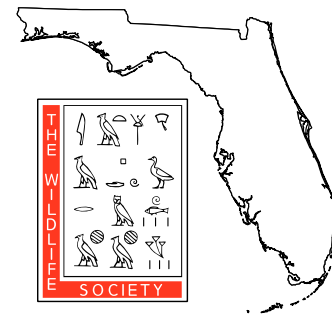


Florida Chapter
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
www.fltws.org



The Honorable Marco Rubio
Russell Senate Office Building
SR-284
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Dear Senator Rubio,

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to **thank you for co-sponsoring the Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2023 (RAWA)**! The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FL TWS) is the organization for professional wildlife biologists in the state. We are a state chapter of The Wildlife Society, which represents more than 15,000 biologists across the United States.

A coalition of FL TWS members from private business, agencies, and academia met with your staff representative Connor Tomlinson on January 9, 2024 and conveyed to him what we felt were important reasons for you to participate as a co-sponsor. As you know, healthy natural resources are essential to our state's economy - the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission estimates that natural resources have a combined economic impact of about \$43 billion dollars and are responsible for more than 347,000 jobs. Florida's proportion of RAWA funding will only serve to enhance the economic impact and result in additional jobs. Even more importantly, conservation funding will enhance habitat for the over 600 species of greatest conservation need identified in Florida's Wildlife Action Plan. RAWA funding will also help manage and prevent new introductions of non-native animal and plants species, expand the numbers of people participating in conservation initiatives, and include protect urban and working lands.

In short, if enacted in a fashion similar to the Senate Bill that you have co-sponsored, significant impacts to Florida's economy, jobs, and conservation will result. We appreciate you stepping up to co-sponsor the Bill and hope you will energetically support passage in Congress and ultimately presidential approval. If our organization can provide technical assistance with any future issues affecting wildlife in Florida, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Maria Zondervan, President
Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society
maria.zondervan@fltws.org

CC: Policy@wildlife.org