

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) program. We appreciate your past support and are hopeful that your support will continue. We believe that the STWG program is an important investment needed to sustain our nation's fish and wildlife. In fiscal year 2020, \$67.6 million was appropriated for the program to conserve fish and wildlife in the 56 states, territories, and District of Columbia, and on tribal lands. We ask that you allocate robust funding for this important, time-tested program for fiscal year 2021.

The STWG program provides states, territories, the District of Columbia, and Indian tribes with the resources they need to implement proactive and effective wildlife conservation actions aimed at keeping wildlife from becoming endangered. It is a mission-critical element of Department of the Interior's budget, as no other program is focused on this goal. As you know, states bear the primary responsibility for wildlife management, and since the 1930's the federal government has worked in partnership with the states to fund successful conservation programs that ensure sustainability of the fish and wildlife species enjoyed by all Americans.

The STWG program is the only program that funds proactive conservation work aimed at eliminating the need to list species as federally threatened or endangered, saving taxpayer dollars and reducing regulatory uncertainty to business. The program is also critical to state efforts to recover species that are already federally threatened or endangered. Robust and consistent funding for the STWG program is key to meeting the shared state-federal responsibility for keeping our nation's fish and wildlife healthy and sustainable. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this kind of smart and effective investment in conservation.

The STWG program supports implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans that were developed collaboratively by leading scientists, sportsmen and sportswomen, wildlife viewers, conservationists, tribes, and private landowners to conserve more than 12,000 species in need of proactive conservation. Congress can demonstrate its commitment to these plans in every state and territory by providing the federal share of support which will leverage millions in state and private matching funds. This investment helps support jobs and the \$427 billion outdoor recreation economy.

We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to provide the highest appropriation possible for the STWG program in Fiscal Year 2021 so that these important conservation efforts can expand to prevent more fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON

DON YOUNG

CINDY AXNE

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

JULIA BROWNLEY

PETER DEFAZIO

BILL FOSTER

RUBEN GALLEGO

RO KHANNA

RON KIND

BARBARA LEE

JOHN LEWIS

GWEN MOORE

GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

JAN SCHAKOWSKY

JOHN YARMUTH

GREG STANTON

TULSI GABBARD

DANIEL W. LIPINSKI

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

MARK DESAULNIER

SUZANNE BONAMICI

JOHN P. SARBANES

DANNY K. DAVIS

SEAN CASTEN

JAMES P. MCGOVERN

RICK LARSEN

ALCEE L. HASTINGS

DAVID N. CICILLINE

ANTHONY G. BROWN

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

SCOTT PETERS

PRAMILA JAYAPAL

ELIOT L. ENGEL

PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.

MIKE DOYLE

JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

KATHY CASTOR

DON BACON

TONY CÁRDENAS

MADELEINE DEAN

JUAN VARGAS

STEVE COHEN

SUZAN K. DELBENE

MARC VEASEY

JOSEPH D MORELLE

AL GREEN

A. DONALD MCEACHIN

GERALD E. CONNOLLY

BRIAN FITZPATRICK

DAVE LOEBSACK

PETER WELCH

JIMMY PANETTA

JAHANA HAYES

KATHLEEN M. RICE

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

MARK TAKANO

JOHN GARAMENDI

ELISE M. STEFANIK

JOHN KATKO

JUDY CHU

EARL BLUMENAUER

ANTONIO R. DELGADO

ALBIO SIRES

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

JIM COSTA

CAROLYN B. MALONEY

LORI TRAHAN

DONNA SHALALA

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

SUSAN A. DAVIS

JOHN B. LARSON

SHARICE L. DAVIDS

ANN MCLANE KUSTER

FILEMON VELA

GLENN THOMPSON

BILL PASCRELL JR.

ANNA G. ESHOO

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

BRENDAN F. BOYLE

THOMAS R. SUOZZI

MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

WILLIAM R. KEATING

RICHARD E. NEAL

JACKIE SPEIER

DONALD S. BEYER JR.

STEPHEN F. LYNCH

CEDRIC RICHMOND

JOE COURTNEY

TOM O'HALLERAN

RAUL RUIZ, M.D.

STEVEN HORSFORD

STEPHANIE MURPHY

AL LAWSON

CHRIS PAPPAS

ILHAN OMAR

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

COLIN ALLRED

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

DAVID ROUZER

VERONICA ESCOBAR

ROBIN L. KELLY

ADAM B. SCHIFF

BOBBY L. RUSH

KIM SCHRIER, M.D.

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II

DINA TITUS

PETE STAUBER

DEB HAALAND

KENDRA S. HORN

ZOE LOFGREN

JERRY MCNERNEY

LIZZIE FLETCHER

HARLEY ROUDA

COLLIN C. PETERSON

FRANK PALLONE, JR.

DAVID TRONE

DENNY HECK

G. K. BUTTERFIELD

ANGIE CRAIG

DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL

STACEY E. PLASKETT

JAMIE RASKIN

JARED HUFFMAN

SUSIE LEE

ANDY LEVIN

JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

AMI BERA, M.D.

JAMES R. LANGEVIN

TOM MALINOWSKI

ADAM SMITH

DORIS O. MATSUI

KAREN BASS

PAUL D. TONKO

DANIEL T. KILDEE

RASHIDA TLAIB

PAUL COOK

ROSA L. DELAURO

JEFFERSON VAN DREW

DIANA DEGETTE

TED W. LIEU

ADRIAN SMITH

DANIEL P. MEUSER

DEAN PHILLIPS

JERROLD NADLER

ALAN LOWENTHAL

BEN MCADAMS

SALUD O. CARBAJAL

GREG GIANFORTE

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

MIKE LEVIN

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

ABIGAIL SPANBERGER

BEN RAY LUJÁN

FRED KELLER

CONOR LAMB

ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.

ELISSA SLOTKIN

GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.

JOE NEGUSE

DARREN SOTO

LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

JAMES A. HIMES

DOUG LAMALFA

JOSH GOTTHEIMER

MIKE KELLY

JASON CROW

DAVID SCOTT

DOUG COLLINS

DANIEL WEBSTER

SYLVIA R. GARCIA

JEFF FORTENBERRY

FRANK LUCAS