

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. We appreciate your past support and we are hopeful that your support will continue. We believe that the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is an important investment needed to sustain our nation's fish and wildlife, but we also understand the fiscal constraints that our nation is under. We ask that you allocate robust funding for this important, time-tested program for fiscal year 2018.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants 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 the Interior Department'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 which ensure sustainability of the fish and wildlife species enjoyed by all Americans.

During the last decade, petitions for federal endangered species listing have increased by over 1,000%. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program projects provide federal agencies with the best science to determine whether a species should be listed. The need to list species under the Endangered Species Act was eliminated when data funded through this program demonstrated that a listing was not warranted, saving taxpayer dollars and reducing regulatory uncertainty to business. Robust and consistent funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is a key to fulfillment of the shared federal-state responsibility for keeping our nation's fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this kind of smart, effective investment in conservation.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program supports implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans that were developed collaboratively by leading scientists, sportsmen, wildlife viewers, other conservationists, and private landowners to conserve more than 12,000

species known to need proactive attention. 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 \$746 billion outdoor recreation industry.


We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to provide strong and continued support for Fiscal Year 2018 at levels at or above Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program so that these important fish and wildlife conservation efforts continue. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


MIKE THOMPSON


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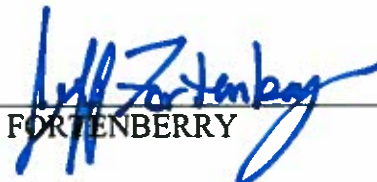

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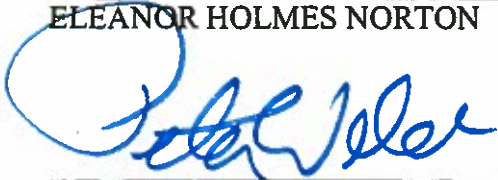

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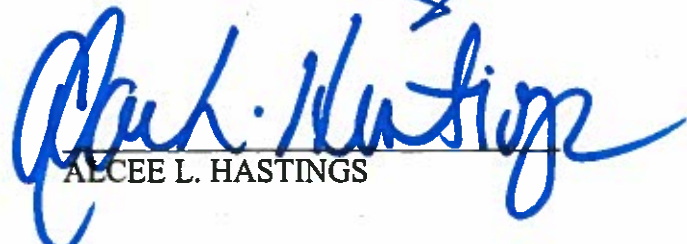

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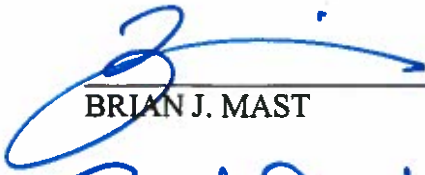
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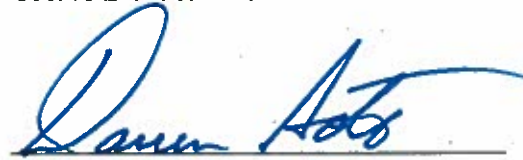

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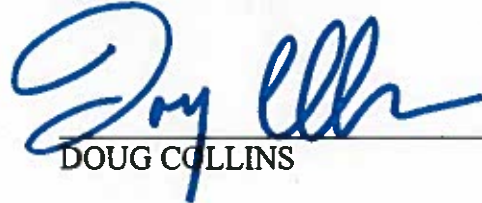
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