

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Senator Udall:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will continue to back the program by providing the highest level of funding possible. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is a critical investment that is needed to sustain our nation's most vulnerable fish and wildlife. In FY 2017, \$62.571 million was appropriated for the program. We ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for FY 2018.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. It has been successful in preventing endangered species listings. The program funds monitoring and on-the-ground conservation such as invasive species control, habitat management, species reintroduction, and disease surveillance that directly address threats to declining species.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is the only federal grant program available to the states, territories, District of Columbia and tribes to conserve more than 12,000 fish and wildlife that are in greatest need of conservation. Without consistent funding, more species will be added to the endangered species list requiring costly and often controversial interventions. With the number of petitions for federal threatened and endangered species listing up by over 1,000% in the last decade, this funding is more important than ever to fulfill the shared federal-state and tribal responsibility for sustaining our nation's fish and wildlife.

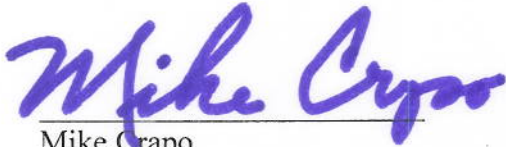
The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is the principal source of funding to implement State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans were revised last year to incorporate the newest science and data so fish and wildlife professionals can address the needs of declining fish and wildlife. Input from thousands of our nation's leading scientists, conservationists, and concerned citizens contributed to these plans so they can effectively lead voluntary proactive fish and wildlife conservation. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program benefits over 90 million citizens who participate in hunting, fishing, photography, hiking, and other forms of wildlife-related recreation. These and other outdoor recreationists contribute \$646 billion to our economy each year.

1

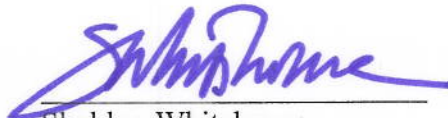
We understand that the nation's debt and economic situation are an important concern. However, investment in the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program saves taxpayers' money by reducing the high cost of recovery when species are added to the federal threatened and endangered species list and reduces regulatory uncertainty to businesses.

We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to provide the most robust funding possible for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in fiscal year 2018 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts can continue.

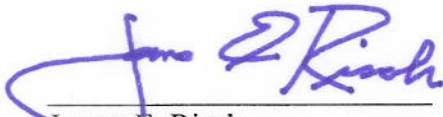
Thank you for your consideration of our request.



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



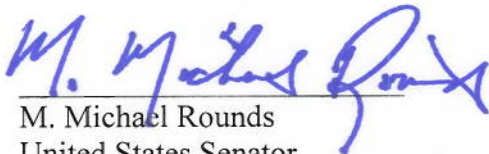
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



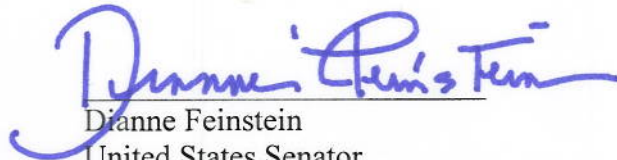
James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



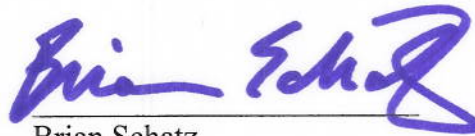
M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



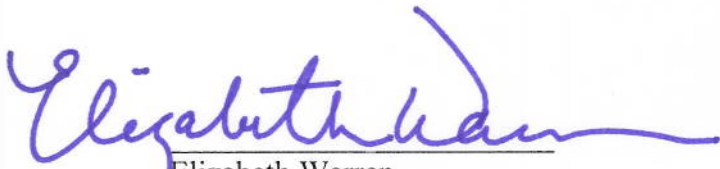
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



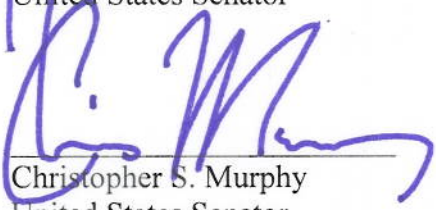
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



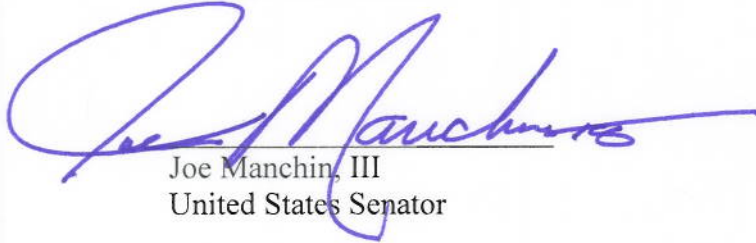
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



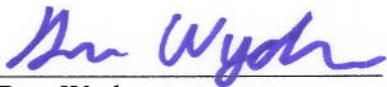
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



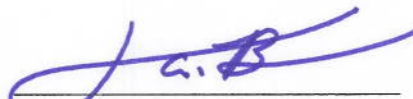
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



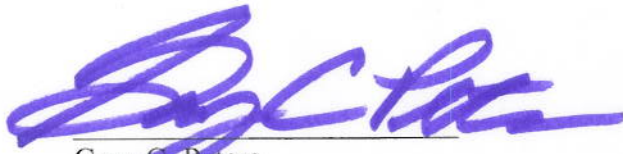
Al Franken
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



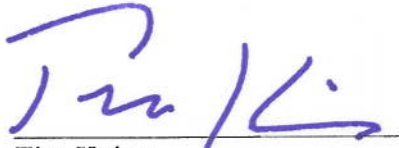
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



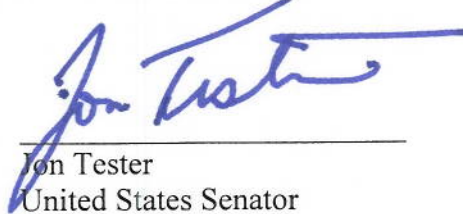
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



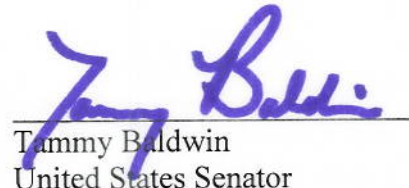
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



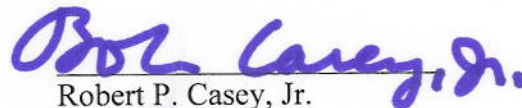
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



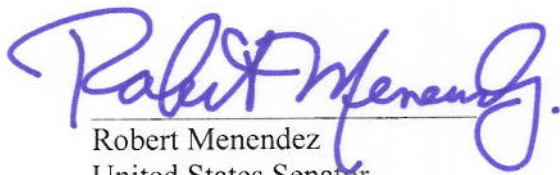
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



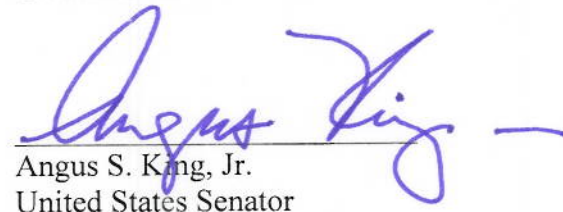
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



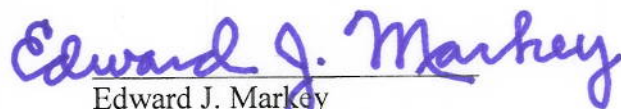
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



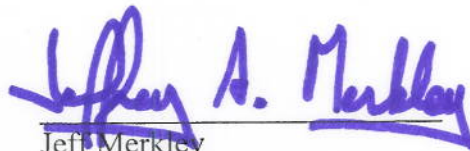
Bill Nelson
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

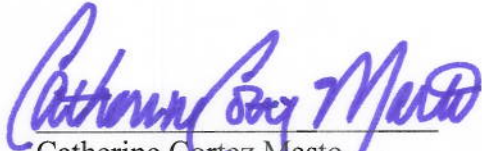


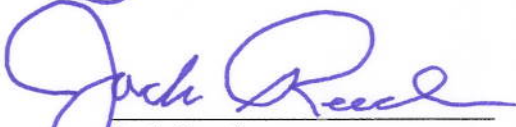
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator


Joe Donnelly
United States Senator


Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator


Jack Reed
United States Senator