

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

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 make funding for this program a priority. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, now in its twenty-second year, provides a critical investment that is necessary to sustain our nation's biodiversity. In FY2023, \$73.8 million was appropriated to the program, benefiting every state, territory, the District of Columbia and Indian tribes. These funds leveraged tens of millions in state and private funds. We ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for the program in FY2024.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. The program provides funding for priority conservation work aimed at preventing and recovering endangered species. The program is saving taxpayer dollars by supporting interventions before federal listing is required for many species, cutting down on endangered species controversies. Successes in every state, territory and the District of Columbia are highlighted in a September 2020 [report](#) by the US Fish and Wildlife Service that documents 20 years of success for the program.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program funds on-the-ground conservation work such as invasive species control, habitat management, land protection, species reintroduction, disease abatement, research, and monitoring needed to conserve over 12,000 animals identified as *Species in Greatest Conservation Need* in State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans were developed by each state, territory and the District of Columbia using the best available science and with input from farmers, ranchers, business-owners, conservationists, and the public.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program directly benefits over 100 million people who depend on healthy fish and wildlife and habitat for birding, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, hiking and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation. The program, in 2021, was important to sustaining the \$454 billion outdoor recreation economy, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and helps states meet their statutory responsibility for conserving fish and wildlife for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies past support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program and encourage you to make funding for this program a priority in FY2024. Stronger funding for the program will expand conservation work to a greater number of the species that are in decline. Thank you for considering our request.

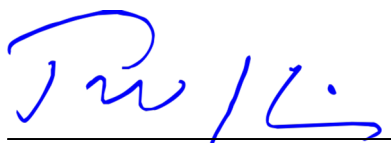
Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



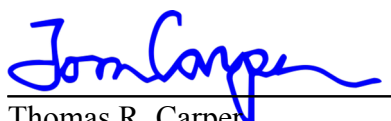
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment
and Public Works



Mike Rounds
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



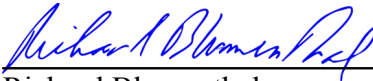
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



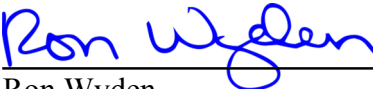
Roger Marshall M.D.
United States Senator



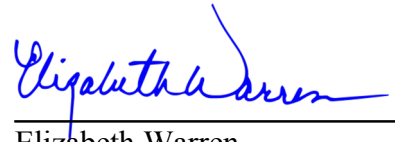
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



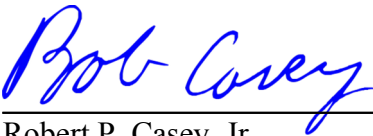
Ted Budd
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



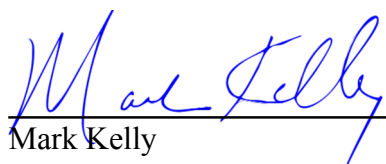
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



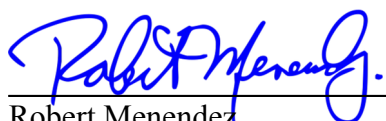
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator




Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator




Robert Menendez
United States Senator



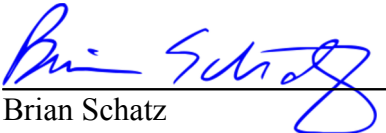
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



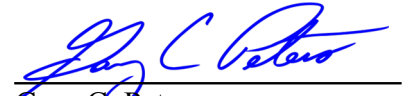
Jon Tester
United States Senator




Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



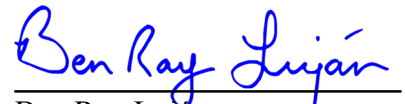
Brian Schatz
United States Senator




Gary C. Peters
United States Senator




Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator




Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



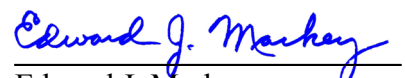
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



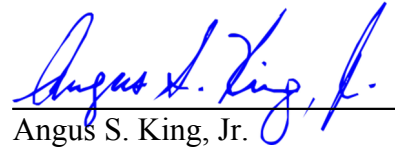
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



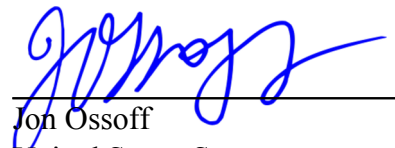
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator