

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2012

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

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

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We appreciate your past support of this program, 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 also understand the fiscal constraints that our nation is under. We are aware that the President's budget request is \$61.3 million (level to FY12) and ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for this important program in fiscal year 2013. We also ask that the nonfederal match requirement for states remain at 35% to help states who are still struggling to recover from significant reductions in conservation budgets.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in every state. 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 to ensure the fish and wildlife species enjoyed by millions are sustained.

More than 12,000 species of fish and wildlife are at-risk and potentially headed towards the federal endangered species list. Through early and strategic action to conserve declining wildlife and their habitats, this program has been successful in preventing additional listings, reducing conflicts and saving both wildlife and taxpayer dollars. Adequate and consistent funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is essential to fulfillment of the shared federal-state responsibility for keeping our nation's wildlife from becoming endangered. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this kind of smart, effective investment in conservation.

The program supports implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans that were developed collaboratively by leading scientists, sportsmen, conservationists and private landowners and identified the most effective and practical means to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. Congress can demonstrate its commitment to these plans in every state and territory by providing the federal share of support, leveraging millions in state and private matching funds. This investment in conservation helps support jobs and the \$730 billion outdoor recreation industry.

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 2013 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts can continue. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Al Young
Todd R. Platts

Mike Thompson
Ron Kind

McA Brady

Jim Langevin

~~_____~~
Hy Doyth

Fred W. Clilli

Frederica Wilson

ME Shoo

Johnaramendi

Joe Courtney

Frank Pallone Jr.

Pete Stark

Donna F. Edwards

Ben Ray Lujan

Shelley Berkley

Karen Bass

Tom Marino

Chris Moran

Paul D. Tondro

Award E. Connolly

John
with

Michael A. Himm

Paul Ell

WR Duffey

Joe McFly

Glynn F. Schatz

Rush Holt

Steve Cohen

M/S

Thomas L. Caswell

Keith Ell

Jim Mc Dermott

Mike Orizy

Sean Farr

Billy Burt

T. J.

Mine Fitzpatrick

John Lee

Chuck R

~~Paul [unclear]~~

Mazie K. Hiroso

Hank Jensen

Rail M. Grijahn

Judy Chu

Larry Kiell

Michael H. Michael

Tom J. Walsh

Bob Corbin

Emmanuel [unclear]

Edward J. Markey

Hannu & Bern

Peter Welch

Charles G. [unclear]

Paul Blumenthal

Jeff Zeleny
Diane [unclear]

Bruce Bealy

[unclear]

Paul [unclear]

Mike Hollen

Dale E. [unclear]

Eleana H. [unclear]

Colin C. [unclear]

Louis Capps

Condy B. Mudge

Paus DeLette

Suzanna Bronnini

Joseph [unclear]
T. [unclear]

Wm. Lacy Clay

Dennis J. Kucinski

Bob J. [unclear]

Steve [unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

Frank Lo Biando

[unclear]

Arnold Madlee

Corine Brown

Alvin [unclear]

Cardyn McCarthy

Rosa DeLano

David [unclear]

Judy Biggat

Leyna Woolley

Tammy Baldwin

C.H. Dutch Mupperburg

Steve [unclear]

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John P. Stanton

Charles F. Bass

Steph J. Lynd

Bill Caswell Jr

Melvin L. Watt

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Charles B. Rangel

Jan. E. Raley

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