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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2019

Collin O'Mara
President and CEO
National Wildlife Federation
1200 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. O'Mara,

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife to provide testimony on H.R. 2795, the "Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act," and H.R. 3742, the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act," on Thursday, October 17th, 2019. As a follow-up to your testimony, please find the enclosed additional questions submitted by members of the Committee for inclusion in the final hearing record. Please provide your written responses to: Ms. Casey MacLean, Subcommittee Clerk, **no later than October 31st, 2019**. Committee Rule 3(o) requires responses within 10 business days of the last day of the hearing.

We greatly appreciate your time and insight, and we remain grateful for your contribution to the Committee's work. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. MacLean at (202) 226-7673 about this request.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Chair

Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

Enclosure

Questions for the Record

Questions from Rep. Sablan for Mr. Collin O'Mara, President and CEO National Wildlife Federation

Representative Dingell's bill, H.R. 3742, is an important piece of legislation that would amend the Pittman-Robertson Act to provide highly-needed funding to assist states, territories, and tribes in their efforts to conserve, restore, and protect wildlife and habitat. Unfortunately, current funding apportionments for the territories are grossly unfair. Current law guarantees every state a 1% Pittman-Robertson share but caps Puerto Rico at 0.25% and the other territories at just 0.167%.

I introduced H.R. 1809 earlier this Congress, a bipartisan bill to provide funding formula parity for the territories and Washington D.C. under the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts. We had a hearing on the bill in this subcommittee in March and it was approved by unanimous consent by the full committee in May. Last Congress, identical legislation passed the House.

1. Mr. O'Mara, do you agree that the territories need additional resources to protect and conserve wildlife? Where does the National Wildlife Federation stand on H.R. 3742, my bill that removes arbitrary caps for the U.S. territories and give us state-like consideration for Pittman-Robinson funding?

Response to Questions for the Record
Mr. Collin O'Mara

Response to Rep. Sablan:

The National Wildlife Federation fully agrees that the Territories need significant additional resources to protect and conserve wildlife.

We believe that the best way to do this is through passing the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 3742), because it will provide sufficient resources for the Territories to recover the 660 Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including 115 species already listed as Threatened and Endangered under the Endangered Species Act, as identified in their current Wildlife Action Plans.

While we have been generally supportive of the intent of H.R. 1809, we would appreciate discussing a few concerns. For example, unlike the funding of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act which supports recovering the full diversity of species of greatest conservation need in each Territory, some of the funds identified in H.R. 1809 have limited allowable uses and often present challenges with securing sufficient matching funds. We also believe that the funding needs of Puerto Rico, which is nearly three times larger than any other territory and has more listed species and more species of greatest conservation need, warrant greater investment.

We would be pleased to work with your office and the Committee to ensure that the Territories receive additional support to recover the remarkable biodiversity of the Islands.