



ATLANTIC FLYWAY COUNCIL

Ontario	Québec	Nunavut	New Brunswick	Newfoundland & Labrador	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
Maine	New Hampshire	Vermont	Massachusetts	Rhode Island	Connecticut	New York
Pennsylvania	New Jersey	Delaware	Maryland	Virginia	West Virginia	North Carolina
South Carolina	Georgia	Florida	Puerto Rico	Virgin Islands		

September 27, 2019

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Chair
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Yarmuth, Chair
The Honorable Steve Womack, Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Grijalva, Ranking Member Bishop, Chair Yarmuth, and Ranking Member Womack:

The Atlantic Flyway Council is a coalition of 17 states, Puerto Rico, 1 territory, and 6 Canadian provinces that works in conjunction with the respective federal governments to manage migratory birds and their habitats in eastern North America. Atlantic Flyway Council states, cooperating with various federal agencies and non-governmental partners, deliver many of the conservation programs for migratory birds in a significant portion of the eastern seaboard of North America. Recreational use of migratory birds contributes to the \$1.06 trillion in total economic activity and 9.4 million jobs that are part of outdoor recreation, nature conservation, and historic preservation.

Our nation has a proud tradition of caring for a diverse array of fish and wildlife that is important to our economy, our traditions, our communities, and our general wellbeing. While some of these species are thriving due to the good conservation work carried out by state agencies, outdoorsmen and women, and other partners, many more are facing growing challenges and are in steep decline – increasing their possibility of becoming endangered. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act, introduced recently as House Bill 3742, provides a new solution to preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. Please support preventative wildlife conservation funding by supporting the Recovering America's Wildlife Act in the House of Representatives.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act, if enacted, would authorize almost \$1.4 billion annually to the federal Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, using existing revenue in the U.S. Treasury funds. The Atlantic Flyway Council sees this as our opportunity to implement the

proactive, voluntary, and incentive-based measures that have been proven to prevent threatened and endangered species listings. At the request of Congress, every state has developed a State Wildlife Action Plan to assess both the health of their state's fish and wildlife and outline conservation actions necessary to sustain the 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. However, current federal funding provides only a fraction of what states need to conserve these species, and in order to provide financial certainty to state agencies planning conservation efforts into the future dedicated annual funding is necessary. The magnitude of the solution must match the magnitude of the challenge.

It costs the American public and the private sector hundreds of millions of dollars each year to restore federally listed threatened and endangered species. These expenses and disruptions can be avoided or greatly reduced through funding additional state-led proactive conservation measures. Healthy fish and wildlife populations fuel our state economies and provide recreational opportunities that are a part of our great American heritage. We know that proactive conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers, and good for business.

We request your strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Sincerely,



Rob Hossler, Chair
Atlantic Flyway Council

Distribution List

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
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