



NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY

8515 Pearl St., Ste. 203, Thornton, CO 80229

1-866-890-7258, (303)466-1725

www.nafws.org

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman
Water, Oceans, Wildlife Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Water, Oceans, Wildlife Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Huffman, and Ranking Member McClintock,

The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society is composed of Indian Tribes, organizations, and people as well as federal and state agency representatives to aid in the development and protection of Native American fish and wildlife resources. We were established in recognition of the importance and respect accorded to fish and wildlife by Native American people.

Today, we are writing to express our strong support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 3742), and to share letters of support from 30 tribes and tribal entities – representing a total of 61 Tribal nations. We've also included a resolution passed in support of this legislation from the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. The number of tribes writing in support of this bill continues to grow as the nation's sovereign tribes learn more about this once in a lifetime opportunity to finally secure much-needed resources for tribal conservation.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on-and-off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Importantly, tribal lands provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and the more than 525 federally listed threatened and endangered plants and animals.

The Tribal Title in the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide \$97.5 million in dedicated funding for tribal nations – funding that is essential to the preservation of thousands of species – many of which have important ecological and cultural importance.

Tribal wildlife managers are on the front lines of the crisis facing our fish and wildlife. This Committee and this Congress can support the important work being done on-the-ground by supporting and swiftly passing this bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

Elveda Martinez, President
NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY

cc: Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop

NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY



8515 Pearl St., Ste. 203, Thornton, CO 80229

1-866-890-7258, (303)-466-1725

www.nafws.org

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society RESOLUTION

Title: Support for Dedicated Federal Funding to Recover Wildlife

Resolution No. 19-001

WHEREAS, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society ("NAFWS") was established in recognition of the importance and respect accorded to fish and wildlife by Native American people; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS is composed of Indian Tribes, organizations and people as well as federal and state agency representatives forming "a national Native American organization to aid in the development and protection of Native American fish and wildlife resources"; and

WHEREAS, this nation is blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, and while some of these species are thriving, many more are facing increasing challenges and are in steep decline – increasing their possibility of becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified that are in need of proactive conservation action, and we must rise to the challenge that confronts us; and

WHEREAS, tribal lands and waters are essential for wildlife conservation and conservation opportunities on tribal lands overshadow any other non-public land conservation opportunity; and

WHEREAS, tribes own and influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands; and

WHEREAS, tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both biologically and culturally significant to Tribes; and

WHEREAS, Tribes are proven leaders in the protection of these landscapes and their wildlife that provides a model and lessons for other natural resource managers; and

WHEREAS, current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, despite a history of underfunding and exclusion from federal funding, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds upon hundreds of wildlife species and their habitat.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society hereby supports the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and similar legislation for the recovery of fish and wildlife species and preventing them from becoming endangered by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually to assist states with wildlife conservation; and

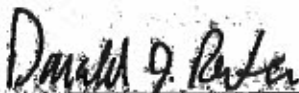
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society respectfully requests that an additional \$97.5 million each fiscal year be dedicated directly to Tribes to assist with wildlife conservation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society supports that such legislation meant to recover wildlife species must be inclusive of Tribes and that resources must be dedicated to assist Tribes with their wildlife conservation efforts on tribal lands.

Certification

This resolution was enacted by the affirmative vote of the Society membership who attended the National Business Meeting held on May 23, 2019. The vote is 98 voting in favor, 0 voting against and 0 members abstaining.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2019.



Donald Reiter, President
Native American Fish & Wildlife Society

Attest:



Mitzi Reed, Secretary/Treasurer
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society



Oneida Nation
Oneida Business Committee
PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54155-0365
oneida-nsn.gov



August 29, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of Oneida Nation, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more

A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.

than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Oneida Nation adopted Water Quality Standards in 1996. A priority of the water resources team is to effectively implement Oneida Tribe's Water Quality Standards and Water Resource Ordinance, and achieve 'fishable and swimmable' waters of the Reservation. As we have limited water resources for our community to enjoy, we hold the protection and restoration of our water resources and their inhabitants in the highest regard.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our nation endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,



Brandon Yellowbird-Stevens, Vice Chairman
Oneida Nation

cc: Senator Ron Johnson

Senator Tammy Baldwin

Congressman Bryan Steil, Wisconsin 1st District

Congressman Mark Pocan, Wisconsin 2nd District

Congressman Ron Kind, Wisconsin 3rd District

Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Wisconsin 4th District

Congressman James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Wisconsin 5th District

Congressman Glenn Grothman, Wisconsin 6th District

Congressman Sean Duffy, Wisconsin 7th District

Congressman Mike Gallagher, Wisconsin 8th District

A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.





MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 910
Keshena, WI 54135-0910

Date: August 01, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and Its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

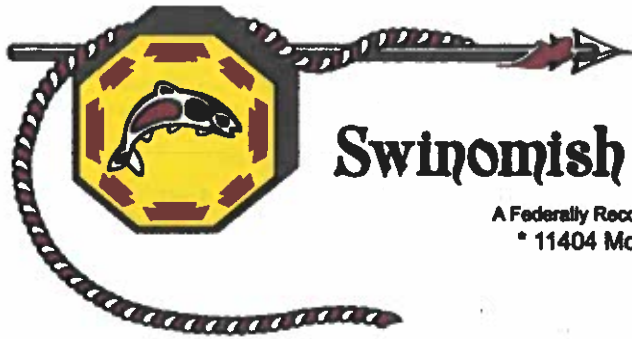
means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

Mr. Douglas Cox, Chairman
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

cc: Senator Ron Johnson
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Congressman Bryan Steil, Wisconsin 1st District
Congressman Mark Pocan, Wisconsin 2nd District
Congressman Ron Kind, Wisconsin 3rd District
Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Wisconsin 4th District
Congressman James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Wisconsin 5th District
Congressman Glenn Grothman, Wisconsin 6th District
Congressman Sean Duffy, Wisconsin 7th District
Congressman Mike Gallagher, Wisconsin 8th District



Main Office: 360.466.3163
Facsimile: 360.466.5309

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

A Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Organized Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 476
* 11404 Moorage Way * La Conner, Washington 98257 *

October 2, 2019

Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Honorable Washington State Congressional Delegation:

I am writing to express the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's strong support for the reintroduction of Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and the inclusion of a new tribal title. We respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives to help pass this important bill. In the Senate we respectfully request development, co-sponsorship, and support of a companion bill. We greatly appreciate Representatives Kilmer, DelBene, and Larsen for their early co-sponsorship of the recently reintroduced House bill.

The Swinomish Tribe is a political successor in interest to certain tribes and bands that signed the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott, which reserved to us, among other rights, the right to fish at our usual and accustomed places and to hunt on our traditional lands. Our tribal members co-manage wildlife with the State of Washington and are active stewards of wildlife and their habitat in northwestern Washington. For our tribal members, many of these wildlife species are treaty-reserved resources, with immeasurable cultural, spiritual, and economic value.

We strongly support RAWA because it is a bipartisan effort that would provide much needed funding for States *and* tribes to manage fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need, as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, RAWA will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million to tribes to further wildlife conservation.

Wildlife management is currently grossly underfunded in the United States. State fish and wildlife agencies agree that existing Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act revenues (derived from a 10-11% federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition) are insufficient to address the broad array of fish and wildlife management issues in the United States. Moreover, tribes have never received funding under this Act and currently receive no stable, dedicated funding to carry out their enumerable wildlife management responsibilities.

In Washington we are blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, many of which are iconic, culturally and ecologically significant species. However, many of our species face increasing challenges, are in steep decline, and may soon face becoming endangered. We believe we must rise to this challenge and proactively manage our wildlife resources—before they become federally listed endangered species.

Proactive management of wildlife requires resources to study population trends and develop science-based management strategies. It also requires capacity to coordinate management with tribal, state, local, and federal governments, because in most cases wildlife traverse jurisdictional boundaries. Yet, current funding for both tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems.

There are many indispensable conservation management opportunities on tribal lands throughout the nation. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to tribes. Therefore, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act must be inclusive of tribes and must dedicate non-competitive resources to assist tribes with our wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for the health of our planet and that of the humans who live upon it. It is also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air

Honorable Raul Grijalva
October 2, 2019
Page 3 of 3

and water, human health, jobs, and a better economy now and for future generations. Therefore, the Swinomish Tribe strongly endorses this year's Recovering America's Wildlife Act with a tribal title, and encourages you to please co-sponsor and support its passage. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Cladoosby".

Chairman Brian Cladoosby
Spee-Pots
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congresswoman Susan DelBene
Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal
Congressman Denny Heck
Congressman Adam Smith
Congressman Derek Kilmer
Congressman Rick Larson



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Office of Principal Chief
Richard G. Sneed



August 23rd, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie
Dingle
United States House of
Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Office of Principal Chief
Richard G. Sneed



Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard G. Sneed", is written over a printed name and title.

Principal Chief Richard G. Sneed
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians



Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

179 W. Three Mile Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Ph: 906-632-0043
Fax: 906-632-1141

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o timothy.huebner@mail.house.gov

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

CORA is comprised of five tribes in Michigan that have treaty rights to commercial and subsistence fisheries in the 1836 treaty-ceded waters of Lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior. The tribes which are party to the 1836 treaty are the Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in

Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! CORA endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to call me or Mike Ripley at (906)632-0043 or via email jteneyck@chippewaottawa.org or mrpleyl@chippewaottawa.org.

Respectfully,

Jane A. TenEyck, Executive Director
Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

Cc: CORA Board
Don Reiter, Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Gary Peters
Representative Jack Bergman
Representative Bill Huizenga
Representative John Moolenaar

CHAIRMAN
Harold C. Frazier

SECRETARY
EvAnn White Feather

TREASURER
Benita Clark

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Bernita In the Woods



P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625
Phone: (605) 964-4155
Fax: (605) 964-4151

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1
Bernita In The Woods
Bryce In the Woods

DISTRICT 2
Theodore Knife, Jr.

DISTRICT 3
Edward Widow
John Kessler

DISTRICT 4
Mark Knight
Vincent Dupris
Merrle Miller
Jim Pearman

DISTRICT 5
Ryman LeBeau
Robert "Bob" Walters
Randel "RJ" Lawrence
Derek Bartlett

DISTRICT 6
Tuffy Thompson
Tater Ward

August 23, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay

The blue represents the thunderclouds above the world where live the thunder birds who control the four winds. The rainbow is for the Cheyenne River Sioux people who are keepers of the Most Sacred Calf Pipe, a gift from the White Buffalo Calf Maiden. The eagle feathers at the edges of the rim of the world represent the spotted eagle who is the protector of all Lakota. The two pipes fused together are for unity. One pipe is for the Lakota, the other for all the other Indian Nations. The yellow hoops represent the Sacred Hoop, which shall not be broken. The Sacred Calf Pipe Bundle in red represents Wakan Tanka – The Great Mystery. All the colors of the Lakota are visible. The red, yellow, black and white represent the four major races. The blue is for heaven and the green for Mother Earth.

the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

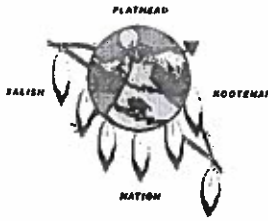
Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HCF', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harold C. Frazier, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

cc: Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD)
Senator John Thune (R-SD)
Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)



THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION
P.O. BOX 278
Pablo, Montana 59855
(406) 275-2700
FAX (406) 275-2806
www.cskt.org



A People of Vision

A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreille
and Kootenai Tribes

September 19, 2019

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ronald Trahan - Chairman
Leonard W. Gray - Vice Chair
Shelly R. Fyant - Secretary
Anita Matt - Treasurer
Len TwoTeeth
D. Fred Matt
Carole Lankford
Dennis Clairmont
Charmel R. Gillin
Myrna L. DuMontier

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Dingell and Fortenberry,

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes thank you for the introduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). With the inclusion of RAWA's Tribal title securing \$97.5 million for Tribal fish and wildlife managers to conserve and restore fish and wildlife species on tribal lands and waters, we offer our endorsement of RAWA and hope this become a new standard for natural resources support in America.

Our people have been successful managers of native species and habitats for thousands of years. Since the Indian Reorganization Act, we have continued to strive for successful fish and wildlife management despite the extremely limited financial resources available to Tribal Nations. Today, the current human activities and related effects influencing our landscape are overwhelming our ability to be proactive or even reactive with management for native plants and sensitive species. Indian Tribes have not had access to financial sources, such as Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration or Sport Fish Restoration, or been treated equally as States are for Federal funding. Now is the time to help correct this unfortunate oversight of the past by including funding of tribal management for millions of acres of Indian Country in RAWA.

We stand ready to offer our assistance and look forward to working with you and other Representatives and Senators to advocate for the passage and enactment of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Sincerely,


Ronald Trahan, Tribal Council Chairman

Cc: Senator Jon Tester
Senator Steve Daines



The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive • Peshawbestown, MI 49682-9275 • (231) 534-7750

RESOLUTION

Number: 19-37.3138

- WHEREAS:** The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) became federally-recognized as an Indian Tribe having a government-to-government relationship with the United States effective May 27, 1980 (see 45 Fed. Reg. 18321-322 (March 25, 1980)); and
- WHEREAS:** GTB is organized under a Tribal Constitution approved by the Secretary of the Interior on March 29, 1988; and
- WHEREAS:** GTB has elected a governmental Tribal Council consisting of Thurlow "Sam" McClellan, Chairman; Kimberly Vargo, Vice Chair; Jane Rohl, Treasurer; Tina A. Frankenburger, Secretary; Mark L. Wilson, Councilor; David Arroyo, Councilor; and Brian S. Napont, Councilor; and
- WHEREAS:** Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Tribal Constitution provides that a power of the Tribal Council is "[t]o promote and protect the health, education, and general welfare of the Band and its members;" and
- WHEREAS:** Article IV, Section (1)(h) of the Tribal Constitution provides that a power of the Tribal Council is "[t]o manage and control the economic affairs, enterprises, property, and all other interests of the Band;" and
- WHEREAS:** Article IV, Section (1)(j) of the Tribal Constitution provides that a power of the Tribal Council is "[t]o administer any funds within the control of the Band and to make expenditures from tribal funds for tribal purposes;" and
- WHEREAS:** Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska) have brought forward a bill to the House of Representatives that would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and further support dedicated federal funding through what is known as "Recovering America's Wildlife Act".
- WHEREAS:** The land and waters that exist in Michigan are home to GTB and 11 other Native American tribes, and as we see changes occurring in ecosystem health and native species diversity, we recognize the importance of swift action; and
- WHEREAS:** GTB has a long history of protecting public lands and waters all-the-while continuing to observe losses to the integrity of our shared natural resources and those species that reside and thrive(d) in them; and

WHEREAS: By way of treaty reserved property rights, public lands and waters within the 1836 ceded territory are essential for wildlife conservation and conservation opportunities on these lands provides greater opportunity than any other non-public land conservation opportunity in Michigan; and

WHEREAS: GTB and the five Chippewa Ottawa Resources Authority tribes own, influence and hold a treaty reserved property right on the management of a natural resource base of nearly 13.8 million acres; and

WHEREAS: these lands provide vital habitat for 26 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, as well as many ecologically and culturally significant species; and

WHEREAS: GTB has led efforts to the protect these landscapes and their wildlife and is compelled to continue to do so for generations to come; and

WHEREAS: current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve wildlife species; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Tribal Council of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians by this Resolution hereby supports the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and similar legislation for the recovery of fish and wildlife species and preventing them from becoming endangered by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually to assist states and an additional 97.5 million annually to tribes to assist with fish and wildlife conservation; and

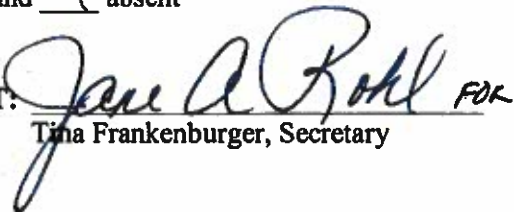
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tribal Council of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians supports that such legislation meant to recover wildlife species would greatly assist GTB and other Michigan tribes with their wildlife conservation efforts on tribal lands.

APPROVED: 
Thurlow "Sam" McClellan,
Chairman

ADOPTED: 
Tina Frankenburger,
Secretary

CERTIFICATION

As Secretary of the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Council, I hereby certify that the above Resolution was approved and adopted at a Special Session of the Tribal Council held on September 25, 2019, by a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 1 absent

ATTEST: 
Tina Frankenburger, Secretary



Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
CHAIRMAN

Clark W. Tenakhongva
VICE-CHAIRMAN

August 2, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act H.R. Bill 3742

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell,

On behalf of the Hopi Tribe, I am writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R. Bill 3742, this includes a Tribal Title, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for conservation and habitat management of vulnerable fish and wildlife species. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate \$1.3 billion to States and includes \$97.5 million to Tribes annually to further wildlife conservation.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. But across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

In Arizona, there are twenty-two tribes which encompass approximately 20,573,485 acres, which is 28% of the land base of State of Arizona. Arizona Tribes face limited funding to manage a diverse array of fish and wildlife habitat and implement conservation measures within Tribal lands, which is a huge challenge to Tribes.

Yet, current funding for both Tribes and States only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not

eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our Tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our Tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-Tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish.

But even with this history of underfunding and Tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act meant to recover wildlife species must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with our wildlife conservation efforts.

The Arizona Tribes would certainly benefit from the passage of the bill, by implementing wildlife conservation management plans, establish their own Tribal Sensitive Species and/or Threatened and Endangered Management plans, and coordinate with Arizona Game & Fish Department on wildlife corridor issues.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs, and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Thus, our Tribe strongly encourages all of Congress to pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Sincerely,



Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma, Chairman
Hopi Tribe

Cc: U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D)
U.S. Senator Martha McSally (R)
U.S. Representative Congressman Tom O'Halleran (D) District 1
U.S. Representative Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick (D) District 2
U.S. Representative Congressman Raul Grijalva (D) District 3
U.S. Representative Congressman Paul A. Gosar (R) District 4
U.S. Representative Congressman Andy Biggs (R) District 5
U.S. Representative Congressman David Schweikert (R) District 6
U.S. Representative Congressman Rueben Gallego (D) District 7
U.S. Representative Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (R) District 8
U.S. Representative Congressman Greg Stanton (D) District 9

Boyd I. Gourneau
Chairman



Tribal Administration
187 Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548
Phone: (605) 473-5561
Fax: (605) 473-5554

Date: September 17, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more

than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,



Boyd Gourneau, Chairman
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

cc: Senator Mike Rounds
Senator John Thune
Congressman Dusty Johnson



LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

*Faron Jackson, Sr., Chairman
Arthur LaRose, Secretary-Treasurer*

*Robble Howe, District I Representative
Steve White, District II Representative*

LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III, District III Representative

September 3, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
U.S. House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, I am writing to express our strong support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. This act will make funds available to Tribes and States for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Conservation opportunities like these are essential to ensure the survival and presence of fish and wildlife species for future generations.

Tribal lands make up a large portion of the land needed to help sustain fish and wildlife populations. The Leech Lake Reservation alone encompasses 864,158 acres of land that includes diverse plant and wildlife communities among vast areas of forests, lakes, streams, and wetlands. We have been faced with new challenges and concerns as many of our fish and wildlife species are threatened by climate change, invasive species, and habitat loss. Current funding only provides a fraction of what is needed to protect our fish and wildlife. Opportunities like the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would greatly help us and many other tribes combat those threats.

Without additional funding and action many fish and wildlife species will continue to be threatened and lost. Now is the time to take action before it is too late. Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faron Jackson, Sr.", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Faron Jackson, Sr., Chairman
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

*Faron Jackson, Sr., Chairman
Arthur LaRose, Secretary-Treasurer*

*Robble Howe, District I Representative
Steve White, District II Representative
LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III, District III Representative*

cc: Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Tina Smith
Congressman Collin Peterson, Minnesota 7th District
Congressman Pete Stauber, Minnesota 8th District

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Senator
Olcott Plaza, Room 105
820 9th Street North
Virginia, MN 55792

The Honorable Tina Smith, Senator
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson, Congressman
714 Lake Avenue
Suite 101
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

The Honorable Pete Stauber, Congressman
Brainerd City Hall
501 Laurel Street
Brainerd, MN 56401



Quinault Indian Nation

POST OFFICE BOX 189 • TAHOLAH, WASHINGTON 98587 • TELEPHONE (360) 276-8211

July 24, 2019

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Derek Kilmer
1410 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Via email: mary_glenn@murray.senate.gov
docs@cantwell.senate.gov
jonathan.smith@mail.house.gov

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Washington State Congressional Delegation,

The Quinault Indian Nation strongly supports the reintroduction of Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) with the inclusion of a new tribal title. We respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives to help pass this important bill. In the Senate we respectfully request development, co-sponsorship, and support of a companion bill. We greatly appreciate Representatives Kilmer and DelBene for their early co-sponsorship of the recently reintroduced House bill.

RAWA is a bipartisan effort that would provide much needed funding for States and tribes to manage fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, RAWA will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million to tribes to further wildlife conservation.

Wildlife management is currently grossly underfunded in the United States. State fish and wildlife agencies agree that existing Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act revenues (derived from a 10-11% federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition) are insufficient to address the broad array of fish and wildlife management issues in the United States. Moreover, the Quinault Indian Nation and other tribes have never received funding under this act.

The Quinault Indian Reservation and our traditional hunting and fishing areas are home to a diverse array of fish and wildlife, many of which are iconic, culturally and ecologically significant species. For the Quinault people, these species are treaty-reserved resources and have immeasurable cultural, spiritual, and economic value. But in Washington, as well as across the United States, many of our species face increasing habitat and ecosystem challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming ESA-listed. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been

identified as in need of proactive conservation. We must rise to this challenge that confronts us and proactively manage our wildlife resources to help prevent them from becoming federally ESA-listed species.

Proactive management of wildlife requires financial resources to study population trends and develop science-based management strategies. It also requires capacity to coordinate management with tribal, state, local and federal governments, because in most cases wildlife traverse jurisdictional boundaries. For example, the Quinault Indian Nation is responsible not only for the conservation and management of sustainable wildlife populations within its 208,000-acre Reservation, but also for the wildlife that inhabit the Quinault's vast traditional use area. Yet, current funding for Quinault wildlife management provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve and manager our species and their ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of tribes being excluded from such funding or being provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs, and many non-tribal recreationists hunt and fish treaty-reserved resources. But even with this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, the tribes are proven conservation-minded wildlife managers that are engaged in numerous successful wildlife management projects.

There are many indispensable conservation management opportunities on tribal lands throughout the country. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to tribes. Therefore, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act must be inclusive of tribes and must dedicate non-completive resources to assist tribes with our wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It promotes outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs, and a better economy now and for future generations. Therefore, the Quinault Indian Nation endorses this year's Recovering America's Wildlife Act with a tribal title, and encourages you to please co-sponsor and support its passage.

Sincerely,



Fawn R. Sharp, President
Quinault Indian Nation

cc:

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515



Lummi Indian Business Council

2665 Kwina Road · Bellingham, Washington 98226 · (360) 312-2000

'Working together as one to Preserve, Promote and Protect our Sche Lang en'

September 9, 2019

Re: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Honorable Washington State Congressional Delegation:

The Lummi Nation strongly supports the reintroduction of Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) with the inclusion of a new tribal title, and we respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives to help pass this important bill. In the Senate we respectfully request development, co-sponsorship, and support of a companion bill. We greatly appreciate Representatives Kilmer, DelBene and Larsen for their early co-sponsorship of the recently reintroduced House bill.

RAWA is a bipartisan effort that would provide much needed funding for States *and* tribes to manage fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, RAWA will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million to tribes to further wildlife conservation.

Wildlife management is currently grossly underfunded in the United States. State fish and wildlife agencies agree that existing Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act revenues (derived from a 10-11% federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition) are insufficient to address the broad array of fish and wildlife management issues in the United States. Moreover, tribes have never received funding under this act and currently receive no stable, dedicated funding to carry out their enumerable wildlife management responsibilities.

In Washington, we are blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, many of which are iconic, culturally and ecologically significant species. For the Lummi Nation, many of these species are treaty-reserved resources, with immeasurable cultural, spiritual, and economic value. But also in Washington, as well as across the United States, many of our species face increasing challenges, are in steep decline, and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as being in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge confronting us and proactively manage our wildlife resources - before they become federally listed endangered species.

Proactive management of wildlife requires resources to study populations trends and develop science-based management strategies. It also requires capacity to coordinate management with tribal, state, local and federal governments, because in most cases wildlife traverse jurisdictional

management with tribal, state, local and federal governments, because in most cases, wildlife traverses jurisdictional boundaries. Yet, current funding for both tribes and states provides only a mere fraction of what is realistically needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of tribes being excluded from wildlife conservation funding support or provided only a nominal fraction of the funding essential for this work. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, and also the facts that 1) our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs; and, 2) many non-tribal recreationists hunt and fish treaty-reserved resources. But even with this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, the Lummi Nation and other tribes have repeatedly demonstrated that we are, conservation-minded wildlife managers, who are engaged in numerous successful wildlife management projects.

There are many indispensable conservation management opportunities on Tribal lands throughout the nation. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. Therefore, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate non-completive resources to assist Tribes with our wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs, and a better economy now and for future generations. With these considerations in mind, the Lummi Nation fully supports and endorses this year's Recovering America's Wildlife Act with a tribal title, and encourages you to please co-sponsor and support its passage. If you have any questions regarding this matter please don't hesitate to contact me at 360-410-1706. Thank you for your time and in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merle B. Jefferson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Merle B. Jefferson, Director
Lummi Natural Resources Department

KA.SO.KA
Geoffrey M. Standing Bear
Principal Chief

Osage Nation

Office of the Principal Chief



KA.SO.KA O.SA.DZA
Raymond Red Corn
Assistant Principal Chief

September 30, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of
Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell,

I support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and approximately \$97.5 million annual to tribes to further wildlife conservation. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. But across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. I believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Yet, current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. But even with this history of underfunding and tribal

exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act meant to recover wildlife species must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with our wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs, and a better economy now and for future generations. I endorse the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourage its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,


Geoffrey M. Standing Bear
Principal Chief

GMS/sld

cc: Oklahoma Congressional Delegation



Point No Point Treaty Council

Port Gamble S'Klallam • Jamestown S'Klallam

August 8, 2019

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and Its Tribal Acknowledgement

Dear Honorable Washington State Congressional Delegation:

The Point No Point Treaty Council and member Tribes, the Jamestown S'Klallam and Port Gamble S'Klallam tribal communities, strongly support the reintroduction of the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act" (RAWA) with the inclusion of the new tribal title. We respectively request your support and co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives to assist with passage of this important Bill. We also sincerely appreciate Representatives Kilmer, DelBene and Larson for early support and co-sponsorship of this reintroduced House Bill. Likewise, we support the development of a companion Senate bill, and request co-sponsorship of this important initiative.

As you know, we in Washington are blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife species. These resources support our tribal culture and treaty rights with immeasurable spiritual and economic value, and enhance the lives of every citizen of Washington. However, across the United States many wildlife species face increasing challenges to survival. An ever growing number of species need proactive management and protection to prevent further population declines and reduce their likelihood of becoming endangered. In the Northwest we are already experiencing endangered species listings of precious steelhead and salmon resources, and are cognizant that many more terrestrial and aquatic species are at risk.

Proactive management of fish and wildlife species, from salmon to elk, requires funding for research and to develop science based management strategies. Our Tribes coordinate management activities with other Tribes, the State, local governments and the federal government. As co-managers of the resource we also participate in managing large overlapping land areas, because wildlife species migrate through jurisdictional boundaries. Yet current funding levels for both the Tribes and State do not provide but a fraction of what is needed for vitally important management coordination, research, and conservation efforts. The challenges facing wildlife can be addressed, but the solutions require stable and long-term funding such as those that would be enabled by a bill such as RAWA.

We understand that RAWA may dedicate some \$1.3 billion in funding throughout the United States annually and \$97.5 million to tribes to further this important wildlife conservation initiative. Most funding opportunities to assist wildlife management, such as the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (derived from sporting arms and ammunition taxes) do not provide tribal governments any direct funding and, simply put, are insufficient to address broad national requirements to conserve and enhance wildlife. Our tribal wildlife resources and management programs need the funding opportunity that RAWA offers.

Proper management, jurisdictional coordination and conservation are essential for our nation's fish and wildlife. It is good for our nation's well-being, encourages outdoor activities, creates a healthier environment and promotes the economy. It also protects our tribal way of life and culture, and honors the intent of our Treaty. We urge your support of this bipartisan Bill with the tribal title. Should you have questions or comments regarding our request or our wildlife program, please don't hesitate to contact our Treaty Council Director, Randy Harder, at (360) 297-6500, or rharder@pnptc.org.

Sincerely,



W. Ron Allen, Chairman
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe



Jeromy Sullivan, Chairman
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Cc:

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Debbie Dingell, United States House of Representatives



PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

26 August 2019

Jeff Fortenberry
1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Debbie Dingell
116 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Dear Representatives, Fortenberry and Dingell,

On behalf of the Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo), a federally-recognized Indian Tribe located in north-central New Mexico, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), which will help protect and recover fish and wildlife species and prevent them from becoming endangered by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually, including \$97.5 million to tribes, using existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

The Pueblo is fortunate to oversee approximately 138,000 acres of our ancestral lands that include a diverse array of traditionally important fish, wildlife, and plants that we depend on to maintain our cultural identity. While the Pueblo has completed a lot of proactive conservation actions that benefit traditionally important and federally listed species, we continue to face challenges in meeting our long-term fish and wildlife population goals. Indeed, nationally, approximately 12,000 species are in need of proactive conservation action to meet population targets.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

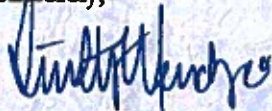
02 DOVE ROAD ♦ SANTA ANA ♦ NM 87004

TEL: 505-771-6700 ♦ FAX: 505-771-6745 ♦ EMAIL: GOV@SANTAANA-NSN.GOV

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations; in reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,



Pueblo of Santa Ana
Timothy Menchego, Governor

cc: Senator Tom Udall
Senator Martin Heinrich
Representative Ben Ray Lujan
Representative Debra Haaland
Representative Xochitl Torres Small



Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
425 Frazier Ave N. Suite 2
Niobrara, Nebraska 68760

Date: August 1, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

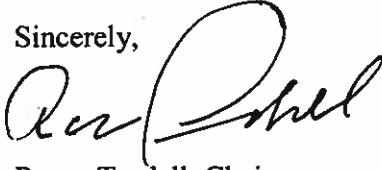
Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Trudell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "T".

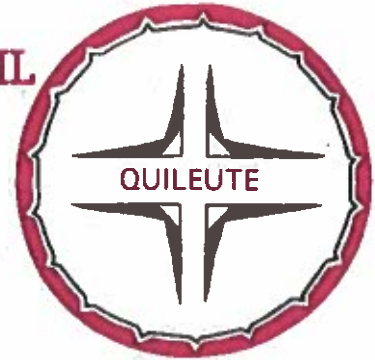
Roger Trudell, Chairman
Santee Sioux Tribe

cc: Senator Deb Fischer
Senator Ben Sasse
Congressman Don Bacon
Congressman Adrian Smith



QUILEUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 279
LA PUSH, WASHINGTON 98350-0279
TELEPHONE (360) 374-6163
FAX (360) 374-6311



August 16, 2019

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
1410 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kilmer:

On behalf of the Quileute Tribal Council, I write today to thank you for cosponsoring H.R. 3742, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), and to encourage you to work with other members of the Washington Congressional delegation and your colleagues on the House Natural Resources and Budget Committees to make this important piece of legislation a top priority for the current Congress. In particular, the Quileute Tribe asks that you work to ensure the final bill includes the Tribal title as drafted, and that funding for state agencies as well as tribes be available for the conservation of species of greatest need, as well as those already listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

As you know, RAWA's findings acknowledge that the Nation's efforts to recover at-risk wildlife populations are not keeping pace with the increased demand for natural resources and threats to native wildlife, including disease, invasive species, habitat loss and fragmentation, shifts in temperature ranges, and extreme weather. Climate change is certain to exacerbate these threats to our Nation's wildlife. For a rural tribe such as Quileute with a small reservation at sea level and a culture and economy highly dependent on the health of our fish and wildlife and their habitat, the combined threats of climate change and diminishment of our fish and wildlife could have particularly devastating results. The Quileute Tribe views RAWA as a partial, but vital, response to these threats.

As further expressed in RAWA's findings sections, the Indian tribes and state fish and wildlife agencies primarily responsible for the conservation and management of the Nation's wildlife are grossly underfunded. Tribes such as Quileute proudly carry the responsibility, and bear the financial burden, not only of conserving and managing wildlife on our reservation lands, but also of participating in collaborative and co-management processes and activities to conserve and manage wildlife on private, state and federal lands throughout our ceded lands and beyond. Yet tribes lack access to revenue streams such as the state hunting and fishing license revenues and Federal excise tax revenues that even our underfunded counterparts in the state fish and wildlife agencies enjoy. It is vital that RAWA include a stable and consistent funding source that supports tribal wildlife conservation and management benefiting the well-being of tribes and

the species they protect and conserve. Quileute therefore applauds you for supporting the Tribal title providing for tribal wildlife and conservation funds.

The Quileute Tribe's collaborative efforts with private, state and federal landowners have, for the most part, avoided the ESA listing of species in our Treaty area. Efforts such as these need to be rewarded and incentivized with appropriate support and funding rather than penalized by unreasonably restricting funds to ESA-related activities. Quileute believes that the 15% set-aside of total funds for imperiled species recovery in H.R. 3742 is reasonable, but we want to be clear that our support for H.R. 3742 is contingent upon both the inclusion of the Tribal title and the majority of funds being available for species of greatest conservation need without further restricting funds to imperiled species recovery. Given the scope of the problem, the broad range of management and restoration actions needed to address the problem, and the limited tribal resources available, Quileute also strongly supports the broad scope of purposes for which the funds may be used as set forth in Section 201(f)(1)(A) through (H), and that the funds for tribes be awarded through a noncompetitive application process without a requirement for matching funds.

Quileute's efforts to manage, conserve, and restore wildlife, along with similar efforts by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, benefit not only the wildlife and our Tribal people, but also the economy of the entire West End of the Olympic Peninsula and the many businesses and jobs in the tourism, outdoor recreation, and extractive resource industries that depend on healthy wildlife populations and avoiding additional regulation under the ESA. It is essential that Tribes have the tools and resources to accomplish this work in collaboration with our state agency partners, and RAWA is a vital, bipartisan step in that direction.

In conclusion, the Quileute Tribe thanks you for the leadership you have demonstrated by co-sponsoring RAWA, and we ask that you continue to utilize your office to move the bill forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Quileute Natural Resources staff (Frank Geyer, Director, frank.geyer@quileutetribe.com; Michael Rossotto, Environmental Attorney, michael.rossotto@quileutetribe.com) if you have questions or suggestions about how the Quileute Tribe can support efforts to pass this important legislation.

Regards,



Douglas Woodruff Jr.
Chairman

Cc: Representative Dingell
Representative Fortenberry



1854 Treaty Authority

4428 HAINES ROAD • DULUTH, MN 55811-1524
218.722.8907 • 800.775.8799 • FAX 218.722.7003
www.1854treatyauthority.org

August 28, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the 1854 Treaty Authority, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. The 1854 Treaty Authority is an inter-tribal resource management agency governed by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The organization is charged to preserve, protect, and enhance treaty rights and related resources within the 1854 Ceded Territory which encompasses present-day northeastern Minnesota.

Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, both within reservation lands and ceded territories where treaty rights have been retained. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Proper preservation and enhancement of species are critical to tribal culture, sustenance, and exercise of treaty rights.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. Even with this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

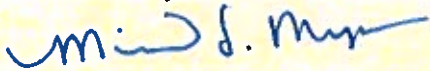
Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of natural resources both on reservation and in ceded territories where treaty rights exist. Tribal lands

A consortium of the Grand Portage and Bois Forte Bands of the Lake Superior Chippewa

and ceded territories provide vital habitat for federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act must be inclusive of Tribes and inter-tribal organizations to dedicate resources for wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish and wildlife resources, and for the tribal way of life and exercise of rights guaranteed by treaty with the United States. It is critical that we properly preserve and enhance resources for future generations. The 1854 Treaty Authority endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,



Millard (Sonny) Myers
Executive Director

cc: Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Tina Smith
Congressman Jim Hagedorn, Minnesota 1st District
Congresswoman Angie Craig, Minnesota 2nd District
Congressman Dean Phillips, Minnesota 3rd District
Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Minnesota 4th District
Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Minnesota 5th District
Congressman Tom Emmer, Minnesota 6th District
Congressman Collin Peterson, Minnesota 7th District
Congressman Pete Stauber, Minnesota 8th District

KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

2019 TRIBAL COUNCIL

WARREN C. SWARTZ, JR., President
GARY F. LOONSFOOT, JR., Vice President
SUSAN J. LAFERNIER, Secretary
TONI J. MINTON, Assistant Secretary
DOREEN O. BLAKER, Treasurer

Keweenaw Bay Tribal Center
16429 Beartown Road
Baraga, Michigan 49908
Phone (906) 353-6623
Fax (906) 353-7540

ROBERT "R.D." CURTIS, JR.
DALE F. GOODREAU
RANDALL R. HAATAJA
KIM KLOPSTRIN
MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR.
RODNEY LOONSFOOT
ELIZABETH D. MAYO

October 2, 2019

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Dingell and Fortenberry:

On behalf of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

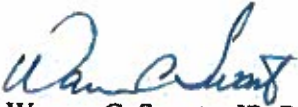
LAKE SUPERIOR BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

"Home of the Midnight Two-Step Championship"

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,



Warren C. Swartz, JR, President
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community of Michigan

cc: Senator Debbie Stabenaw

Senator Gary Peters

Congressman Jack Bergman, Michigan 1st District

Congressman Bill Huizenga, Michigan 2nd District

Congressman Justin Amash, Michigan 3rd District

Congresswoman John Moolenaar, Michigan 4th District

Congressman Daniel Kildee, Michigan 5th District

Congressman Fred Upton, Michigan 6th District

Congressman Tim Walberg, Michigan 7th District

Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, Michigan 8th District

Congressman Andy Levin, Michigan 9th District

Congressman Paul Mitchell, Michigan 10th District

Congresswoman Haley Stevens, Michigan 11th District

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, Michigan 13th District

Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, Michigan 14th District



Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

6730 Martin Way E., Olympia, Washington 98516-5540

Phone (360) 438-1180

www.nwifc.org

FAX # 753-8659

July 31, 2019

Re: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Honorable Washington State Congressional Delegation:

The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – comprised of the 20 treaty Indian tribes in western Washington – strongly supports the reintroduction of Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) with the inclusion of a new tribal title, and we respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives to help pass this important bill. In the Senate we respectfully request development, co-sponsorship, and support of a companion bill. We greatly appreciate Representatives Kilmer, DelBene and Larsen for their early co-sponsorship of the recently reintroduced House bill.

RAWA is a bipartisan effort that would provide much needed funding for states *and* tribes to manage fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, RAWA will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million to tribes to further wildlife conservation.

Wildlife management is currently grossly underfunded in the United States. State fish and wildlife agencies agree that existing Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act revenues (derived from a 10-11% federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition) are insufficient to address the broad array of fish and wildlife management issues in the United States. Moreover, tribes have never received funding under this act and currently receive no stable, dedicated funding to carry out their enumerable wildlife management responsibilities.

In Washington we are blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, many of which are culturally and ecologically significant species. For our tribes, many of these species are treaty-reserved resources, with immeasurable cultural, spiritual, and economic value. But in Washington, as well as across the United States, many of our species face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us and proactively manage our wildlife resources, before they become federally listed endangered species.

Proactive management of wildlife requires resources to study populations trends and develop science-based management strategies. It also requires capacity to coordinate management with tribal, state, local and federal governments, because in most cases wildlife traverse

jurisdictional boundaries. Yet, current funding for both tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, nationally tribal members often pay the taxes that fund these programs, and many non-tribal recreationists hunt and fish treaty-reserved resources. But even with this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, the tribes are proven, conservation-minded wildlife managers, who are engaged in numerous successful wildlife management projects.

There are many indispensable conservation management opportunities on tribal lands throughout nation. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to tribes. Therefore, funding through the RAWA must be inclusive of tribes and must dedicate non-completive resources to assist tribes with our wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the wellbeing of humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs, and a better economy now and for future generations. Therefore, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission endorses this year's Recovering America's Wildlife Act with the tribal title and encourages you to please co-sponsor and support its passage. If you have any questions regarding this matter please don't hesitate to contact Justin Parker, Executive Director or Todd Bolster, Legislative Assistant at (360) 438-1180.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Loomis
Chairperson

cc: The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Debbie Dingell, United States House of Representatives
NWIFC Tribal Chairs
NWIFC Commissioners



Walker River Paiute Tribe

1022 Hospital Road • P.O. Box 220 • Schurz, Nevada 89427
Telephone: (775) 773-2306
Fax: (775) 773-2585

July 30, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Walker River Paiute Tribe of Nevada, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us. Locally, we are concerned about the loss of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in our beautiful Walker Lake. They cannot survive at this time due to the high salinity and the need for more water. Great strides are being made with the purchase of additional water rights from upstream farmers; the first shot of water recently made it to the lake in early July.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have

some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage. Such funding will help us greatly in habitat restoration and conservation enforcement.

We are hopeful that other Congressmen and women will sign on as co-sponsors to this bill. As of this date we are happy that Nevada Representative Amodei has signed on.

Sincerely,



Amber Torres, Tribal Chairman
WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

cc:

Representative Mark Amodei
Representative Steven Horsford
Representative Dina Titus
Representative Susie Lee
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
Senator Jacky Rosen



MAKAH TRIBE

P.O. BOX 115 • NEAH BAY, WA 98357 • 360-645-2201

The Makah Tribe is an equal opportunity employer.



September 9, 2019

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator
511 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. Rep.
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Honorable Washington State Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the Makah Tribe, the Makah Tribal Council is writing to provide our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) of 2019, with the inclusion of a new tribal title, and we respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives to help pass this important bill. In the Senate we respectfully request development, co-sponsorship, and support of a companion bill. We greatly appreciate Representatives Kilmer, DelBene and Larsen for their early co-sponsorship of the recently reintroduced House bill.

RAWA is a bipartisan effort that would provide much needed funding for States *and* tribes to manage fish and wildlife species and their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, RAWA will dedicate approximately \$1.3 billion to states annually with \$97.5 million for tribes to further wildlife conservation.

Existing funds from the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act are currently insufficient to address the extensive issues fish and wildlife managers face. Moreover, tribes have never received funding under this act and currently receive no stable, dedicated funding to carry out their numerous wildlife management responsibilities.

Washington State supports several unique ecosystems and a diverse assemblage of fish and wildlife, many of which are iconic, culturally and ecologically significant species. For our tribe, several of these species are treaty-reserved resources, with immeasurable cultural, spiritual, and economic value. But in Washington, as well as across the United States, many of our species face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge and proactively manage our wildlife resources.

Proactive management of wildlife requires resources to study population trends and develop science-based management strategies. Because wildlife cross jurisdictional boundaries, it also requires capacity to coordinate management with tribal, state, local and federal governments. Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. Funding sources are becoming more competitive and there are fewer opportunities. There is also a long

and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding to support a fraction of this work. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs, and many non-tribal recreationists hunt and fish treaty-reserved resources. But even with this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, we are proven, conservation-minded wildlife managers, who are engaged in numerous successful wildlife management projects. For example, the Makah Tribe has been instrumental in monitoring elk and deer populations on the Northwest Olympic Peninsula, providing population data and trends to State wildlife managers for over 20 years; and we have partnered with multiple agencies and Tribes to help in the recovery of the Pacific Fisher population on the Olympic Peninsula.

There are many conservation management opportunities on Tribal lands nationwide. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. The Makah Tribe, specifically, manages and/or co-manages approximately 1,550 square miles for wildlife and fisheries resources. Therefore, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate non-completive resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. The Makah Tribal Council supports this year's Recovering America's Wildlife Act with a tribal title, and encourages you to please co-sponsor and support its passage.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact our Wildlife Division Manager, Shannon Murphie at (360) 645-3229 or at shannon.murphie@makah.com. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



John Ides, Sr.
Chairman
Makah Tribal Council

cc: The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Debbie Dingell, United States House of Representatives



Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

PO Box 277 3322 236th St NE
Arlington, WA 98223

August 22, 2019

Re: Stillaguamish Tribe's Support for H.R. 3742-*Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019* (RAWA 2019)

Dear Honorable Washington State Congressional Delegation:

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians strongly supports the reintroduction of the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019 (RAWA 2019)*. The Tribe is particularly pleased with the inclusion of **Title II—*Tribal Wildlife Conservation and Restoration***—in the Act.

We enthusiastically join in the enclosed support letter of July 31, 2019, from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. As Tribal Chairman, I write separately to emphasize the crucial importance of this funding to the Stillaguamish Tribe.

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians is a sovereign, federally recognized tribe, a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855. Treaty Tribes of Western Washington, including the Stillaguamish Tribe, ceded most of their land in exchange for reserving their right by treaty to fishing, hunting and gathering. These treaty rights of fishing, hunting and gathering are of central spiritual, cultural, subsistence and economic importance to our Tribe and other tribes. Indeed, they are central to our identity. We have lived here for thousands of years prior to the settlers arriving. In reserving these rights, the Tribe reserved its lifeways. The US Government, for its part, made promises in these treaties that secure Tribal rights forever.

In signing the treaties, the Stillaguamish Tribe and other tribes realized that they were giving up an enormous part of their past, including an enormous amount of land; but they did not have the power against the military and population pressures to retain everything. What they did retain, and what was secured to them through the treaties, was sacred to them—and central to what they retained was the right to practice their religion and culture; to fish, hunt and gather forever, as they had always done and would need to do; and to rely on the US Government as their Trustee to be a vigorous and honorable advocate for their treaty rights.

But our Tribal treaty rights to fish, hunt and gather forever, to practice our religion and culture, to feed our children and elders with healthy traditional foods and to support their well-being, to grow as a Tribal community as we exercise our self-government and self-determination, are grounded in an important set of contexts. We cannot practice our religion and culture, we cannot

properly teach our children and support their flourishing, we cannot fish, hunt and gather forever if there is no longer clean water, no longer abundant and healthy fish, wildlife and plants, no longer clean air, no longer healthy habitat, no longer respect for our sacred lands and our ancestors. The US, in signing the Treaty, made promises to us that were meant to last forever. Our Tribe takes these promises seriously, and by cherishing and exercising our treaty rights and the responsibilities that go with them, we are wonderful stewards of the natural resources that we rely on.

Our Tribe takes intelligent, creative and responsible co-management of these sacred fish, wildlife and plant resources (broadly defined in the Act as "wildlife") very seriously, and is committed to the best science and the best staff in doing this work. Doing this work requires proper and sustained funding. The US Government, as our Trustee, and to honor its sacred treaty promises, must provide proper funding for this vital wildlife management work.

As the NWIFC notes in its letter of support, wildlife management is seriously underfunded in the United States. This Act, in dedicating \$97.5 million to tribes annually for critical wildlife management work, is an important step in the right direction, and we applaud this step. However, it will not be enough in the long run. Our planet is suffering, and suffering greatly. Tribes will need a substantial increase in this funding as time goes on, so that they can continue to do their part. States will need increases over time also. There are no shortcuts to long-term sustainability. However, we must begin the work, and begin in a serious way.

We are very grateful for the early co-sponsorship of this bill by Representatives DelBene, Kilmer and Larsen for their early co-sponsorship of the recently reintroduced House Bill, and we respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives to help pass this vitally important bill. In the Senate, we respectfully request development, co-sponsorship and support of a companion bill.

We endorse RAWA 2019. We urge your support as well. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Shawn Yanity
Chairman

cc: Stillaguamish Tribe Board of Directors
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission



Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

6730 Martin Way E., Olympia, Washington 98516-5540
Phone (360) 438-1180

www.nwifc.org

FAX # 753-8659

July 31, 2019

Re: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Honorable Washington State Congressional Delegation:

The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – comprised of the 20 treaty Indian tribes in western Washington – strongly supports the reintroduction of Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) with the inclusion of a new tribal title, and we respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship in the House of Representatives to help pass this important bill. In the Senate we respectfully request development, co-sponsorship, and support of a companion bill. We greatly appreciate Representatives Kilmer, DelBene and Larsen for their early co-sponsorship of the recently reintroduced House bill.

RAWA is a bipartisan effort that would provide much needed funding for states *and* tribes to manage fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, RAWA will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million to tribes to further wildlife conservation.

Wildlife management is currently grossly underfunded in the United States. State fish and wildlife agencies agree that existing Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act revenues (derived from a 10-11% federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition) are insufficient to address the broad array of fish and wildlife management issues in the United States. Moreover, tribes have never received funding under this act and currently receive no stable, dedicated funding to carry out their enumerable wildlife management responsibilities.

In Washington we are blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, many of which are culturally and ecologically significant species. For our tribes, many of these species are treaty-reserved resources, with immeasurable cultural, spiritual, and economic value. But in Washington, as well as across the United States, many of our species face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us and proactively manage our wildlife resources, before they become federally listed endangered species.


Proactive management of wildlife requires resources to study populations trends and develop science-based management strategies. It also requires capacity to coordinate management with tribal, state, local and federal governments, because in most cases wildlife traverse

jurisdictional boundaries. Yet, current funding for both tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, nationally tribal members often pay the taxes that fund these programs, and many non-tribal recreationists hunt and fish treaty-reserved resources. But even with this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, the tribes are proven, conservation-minded wildlife managers, who are engaged in numerous successful wildlife management projects.

There are many indispensable conservation management opportunities on tribal lands throughout nation. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to tribes. Therefore, funding through the RAWA must be inclusive of tribes and must dedicate non-completive resources to assist tribes with our wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the wellbeing of humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs, and a better economy now and for future generations. Therefore, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission endorses this year's Recovering America's Wildlife Act with the tribal title and encourages you to please co-sponsor and support its passage. If you have any questions regarding this matter please don't hesitate to contact Justin Parker, Executive Director or Todd Bolster, Legislative Assistant at (360) 438-1180.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Loomis
Chairperson

cc: The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Debbie Dingell, United States House of Representatives
NWIFC Tribal Chairs
NWIFC Commissioners



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 128 LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
PHONE: (406) 477-6506 FAX: (406) 477-8294

Date: October 10, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Dingell and Fortenberry,

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe hereby wishes to convey our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources. We hope this becomes a new standard for natural resources support in America.

As you are no doubt aware, Indian Tribes have never had access to financial sources, such as Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration or Sport Fish Restoration funding that State wildlife programs have benefitted from since the 1930s-50s. Yet, despite the extremely limited financial resources available to us, we continue to strive toward fish and wildlife conservation. Certainly, Tribal partnership in wildlife conservation is essential as Tribes influence management on a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, providing vital habitat for more than 525 federally listed threatened and endangered species. These species are both ecologically and culturally significant to our people.

Tribal Nations have been successful managers of native species and habitats for thousands of years. However, as in many areas across the nation, human activities and related impacts on the landscape are overwhelming our ability to conserve native plants and sensitive species. With the inclusion of RAWA's Tribal title securing \$97.5 million for Tribal fish and wildlife managers to conserve and restore fish and wildlife species on tribal lands and waters, we offer our endorsement of RAWA. We look forward to working with you and other Representatives and Senators to advocate for the passage and enactment of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Sincerely,

Rynalea Pena
President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe

cc: Senator John Tester
Senator Steve Daine



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery

P.O. Box 190, Mescalero, New Mexico 88340

Phone (575) 464-8768

Board of Directors

Jacob Mazzone
Chairman

Glenn Selby
Vice-Chairman

Steve Whiteman
Secretary-Treasurer

Staff

Adam Ringja
Interim Executive Director

Shelley Belin
Hatchery Manager

Member Tribes

Jicarilla Apache Nation
Mescalero Apache Tribe
Navajo Nation
Northern Ute Tribe
Ob-kay Owingeh
Pueblo of Cochiti
Pueblo of Isleta
Pueblo of Laguna
Pueblo of Picuris
Pueblo of Sandia
San Carlos Apache
Santa Clara Pueblo
Southern Ute Tribe
Zuni Pueblo
Taos Pueblo
Nambé Pueblo
San Ildefonso Pueblo
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

August 26, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission and our 18 member tribes, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to states and tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion annually to states and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources.

Our tribal nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline, and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Current funding for both tribes and states provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of tribes being excluded from, or provided only a nominal portion of, federal wildlife conservation funding. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the facts that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs, and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. Even with this history of tribal under-funding and exclusion, tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base amounting to nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species, and this must be inclusive of tribes by dedicating resources to assist tribes with their wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, as well as for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, cleaner air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. We cannot afford to let this opportunity pass by or be delayed. Our Commission endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

Jacob A. Mazzone,
Chairman
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

cc: Senator Michael Bennet
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
Senator Cory Gardner
Senator Martin Heinrich
Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Mike Lee
Senator Martha McSally
Senator Jacky Rosen
Senator Kyrsten Sinema
Senator Tom Udall
Representative Paul A. Gosar
Representative Mark Amodei
Representative Andy Biggs
Representative Rob Bishop
Representative Ken Buck
Representative Jason Crow
Representative John R. Curtis
Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Ruben Galego

Representative Raul Grijalva
Representative Debra Haaland
Representative Steven Horsford
Representative Ann Kirkpatrick
Representative Doug Lamborn
Representative Susie Lee
Representative Debbie Lesko
Representative Ben Ray Lujan
Representative Ben McAdams
Representative Joe Neguse
Representative Tom O'Halleran
Representative Ed Perlmutter
Representative David Schweikert
Representative Greg Stanton
Representative Chris Stewart
Representative Scott Tipton
Representative Dina Titus
Representative Xochitl Torres Small



**Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation**

**Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855**

July 16, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell,

On behalf of the Yakama Nation, I'm writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will make funds available to States and tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and approximately \$97.5 million annual to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Tribal Nations have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife. But across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Yet, current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. But even with this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on- and off-reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering

Post Office Box 151, Fort Road, Toppenish, WA 98948 (509) 865-5121



**Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation**

**Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855**

America's Wildlife Act meant to recover wildlife species must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with our wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs, and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Thus, our tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourage its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,


Jode Goudy
Tribal Council Chairman
Yakama Nation

Cc:

Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Blvd. • P.O. Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548
(707)482-1350 (707)482-1377 Fax

Date: August 22, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its Tribal Title

Dear Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell:

On behalf of the Yurok Tribe, I am writing to express our strong support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (Act), which will make funds available to States and Tribes for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as well as their habitats. Developed based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, this legislation will dedicate some \$1.3 billion to states annually and \$97.5 million annually to tribes to further wildlife conservation. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will contribute greatly to the conservation of our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Upon review of the proposed Act, the Yurok Tribe would encourage House Representatives to ensure that the Act explicitly states that these additional funds would be supplementary to existing competitive funding sources, as opposed to replacing them. Additionally, the Yurok Tribe would suggest that the definition of "Wildlife" included in the Act be expanded to explicitly include all members of the Animal Kingdom, in accordance with the definition of "fish and wildlife" supplied under the Endangered Species Act, given the lack of a scientifically rigorous definition associated with the term "fauna." Finally, the Yurok Tribe suggests that it is clarified that Tribal overhead costs be an allowable cost for these funds under Tribal negotiated Indirect Cost Rate agreements, or at 10% if no such agreement has been negotiated.

If enacted, this Act would be of great benefit to Tribal Nations, who have been blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, and who rely on them for the cultural, ecologic, and economic services they provide. Across the United States, while some species are thriving, many more face increasing challenges, are in steep decline and may soon face becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified as in need of proactive conservation. We believe we must rise to this challenge that confronts us.

Current funding for both Tribes and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve our species and ecosystems. There is also a long and sad history of Tribes being excluded

from or provided only nominal wildlife conservation funding support. Tribes are not eligible for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funding, despite the fact that our tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, our tribal members pay the taxes that fund these programs and many non-tribal recreationists visit our lands and communities to hunt and fish. With this history of underfunding and tribal exclusion, Tribes have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

Conservation opportunities on Tribal lands are essential. Tribes influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, both on and off reservation, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and over 18 million acres of forested lands. Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribes. As such, funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act means to recover wildlife species and must be inclusive of Tribes and must dedicate resources to assist Tribes with wildlife conservation efforts.

Proactive conservation is essential for our nation's fish, wildlife and habitat resources, essential for our planet's health and that of the humans who live upon it. It's also good for taxpayers and good for business – promoting and ensuring outdoor activities, healthier air and water, human health, jobs and a better economy now and for future generations. In reality, we cannot afford not to do it! Our Tribe endorses the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and encourages its prompt consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. James".

Joseph L. James, Chairman
Yurok Tribe

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Senator Mike McGuire
Representative Jared Huffman