



March 4, 2024

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Dear Chairman Westerman:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is pleased to support H.R. 7408, the America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act.

H.R. 7408 would provide a much-needed investment in America's habitat and wildlife conservation. Throughout the nation, and here in Florida, America's wildlife and their habitats need help. The State of Florida has committed significant resources to the conservation of our fish, wildlife and habitats and leads the nation in our programs for land acquisition and to keep working lands working. Management of these lands is critical to maintaining their value for fish and wildlife. According to Florida's State Wildlife Action Plan (2019), 690 animals are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Needs. We must continue to restore and provide ongoing management of habitats to prevent more species from being listed as Threatened or Endangered and aid in the recovery of species that are already listed.

The America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act is a step to provide immediate funding assistance to these habitats and species. As you know, the America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act would provide \$300 million each year for five years to the states for habitat and species conservation.

Thank you for introducing H.R. 7408, and FWC looks forward to working with you to advance this legislation and improve our country's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Rodney Barreto
Chairman

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