

*** Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies *** Backcountry Hunters & Anglers *** Boone and Crockett Club *** Camp Fire Club of America *** Catch-A-Dream Foundation *** Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation *** Dallas Safari Club *** Houston Safari Club *** Masters of Foxhounds Association *** Mule Deer Foundation *** National Association of Forest Service Retirees *** National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative Foundation *** National Deer Association *** National Wildlife Federation *** North American Grouse Partnership *** Pheasants Forever *** Quail Forever *** Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation *** Safari Club International *** Sportsmen's Alliance *** The Wildlife Society *** Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership *** Whitetails Unlimited *** Wild Sheep Foundation *** Wildlife Forever *** Wildlife Management Institute ***

September 10, 2024

Rep. Bruce Westerman, Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 8836 – the Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act

Dear Chair Westerman & Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of the millions of hunters, recreational shooters, and natural resource management professionals we collectively represent, we write to express our strong support for the Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act. This bipartisan legislation supports proven approaches to effectively and strategically apply conservation activities that improve the ability for wildlife to make necessary life-sustaining movements.

Secretarial Order 3362 (Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors) has been a tremendously successful effort and is well supported by a wide diversity of organizations and individuals. Importantly, implementation of the Order provided a template for how to conduct true collaboration between the federal government, states, conservation organizations, and other stakeholders. To ensure continued success, the Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act seeks to codifying the Order by making into law and strengthen it by expanding the focus beyond three species and 11 western states. H.R. 8836 incorporates the expertise of state, tribal, federal, non-profit, and private individuals and agencies, which ensures that public funds are used efficiently and effectively, by formalizing the voluntary and non-regulatory conservation approach of Secretarial Order 3362. H.R. 8836 supports wildlife conservation while respecting the rights of property owners, state wildlife management authority, tribal sovereignty and embraces the multiple-use management of federal lands.

As organizations committed to the stewardship of our natural resources in the most practical and effective manner, we understand that the health of our ecosystems, and ultimately human populations, is closely tied to the survival and well-being of big game (i.e. elk, deer, pronghorn, moose, wild sheep) and other wildlife species. Ensuring the

conservation and enhancement of habitats along, and connected by, movement routes is essential to maintain the functionality of entire ecosystems across this country.

We urge your committee to swiftly mark up and pass the Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act.

Sincerely,

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