

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Megan Brennan
Postmaster General and CEO
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 10804
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Brennan,

It has come to our attention that the United States Postal Service (USPS) may destroy the 51 million remaining 'Save Vanishing Species' semi-postal stamps, which were created by the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-241) and reauthorized in 2013 (P.L. 113-165). We are writing to urge you to refrain from destroying this inventory while Congress is pursuing an extension of the program.

We acknowledge USPS has made the stamp available to the public for the minimum amount required by the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-165), and has agreed to sell the stamp through the end of calendar year 2018. However, Congress has demonstrated its support for continuing the sale of the stamp, and is pursuing legislation to reauthorize the program. This includes S. 480/H.R. 1247, as well as report language in both the House and Senate FY2019 Financial Services appropriations bills to require the sale of the stamp through FY2020.

Given that the stamps are already printed, destroying your current inventory is irresponsible and a waste of USPS resources. Furthermore, the sale of the stamp has raised over \$5.4 million for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Multinational Species Conservation Funds, which have funded 99 projects in 35 countries to help combat wildlife trafficking and protect the world's most threatened species. The stamp program has helped leverage funding and partnerships with partner governments, local NGOs and the private sector, and has become an important vehicle for public participation in financing and awareness raising of wildlife conservation needs. Additionally, the program is consistent with the Administration's commitment to combat wildlife trafficking and counter illegal trade of natural resources, established by the President's February 9, 2017 Executive Order and the December 2017 National Security Strategy.

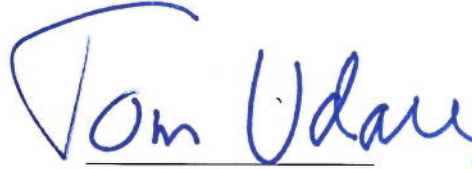
We understand that it is within the authority of USPS to continue selling the stamp, even without congressional authorization. It is frustrating that USPS may destroy the remaining stamps, despite congressional interest in reauthorizing the program and given USPS authority to continue selling the stamp on its own. We therefore ask that USPS refrain from destroying the stamps while Congress works to reauthorize the program, and urge USPS to use its own authority to continue selling the stamp.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator



Tom Udall
U.S. Senator



Tom Carper
U.S. Senator