

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on the  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We appreciate your past support and are hopeful that your support will continue. We believe that the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is a critical investment that is needed to sustain our nation's most vulnerable fish and wildlife. In FY 2015, \$58.7 million was appropriated for this important program and the President has requested \$70 million for FY 2016. We request that you provide the most robust funding possible for FY 2016.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's CORE program to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. This program has been successful in preventing endangered species listings and is used by states to collect data on species being considered for federal endangered species listing. The program also funds on-the-ground conservation such as species reintroduction, invasive species control and habitat management and protection that directly address threats to declining species.

The State & Tribal Wildlife Grants program is the only federal grant program with the explicit purpose of conserving more than 12,000 fish and wildlife identified as at-risk. Without consistent funding, more species will be added to the endangered species list requiring costly and often controversial interventions. With the number of petitions for federal listing up by over 1,000% in the last 5 years, funding is needed now more than ever to fulfill the shared federal-state responsibility for keeping our nation's fish and wildlife sustainable.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program supports implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans were developed collaboratively by leading scientists, wildlife enthusiasts, conservationists and private landowners to conserve our nation's most vulnerable fish and wildlife. These plans identify effective, practical and voluntary means to proactively conserve fish and wildlife. The program has the support of the Teaming With Wildlife coalition's 6,475 organizations and directly impacts the 90 million individuals who participate in wildlife-related recreation and safeguards their \$145 billion in annual expenditures.

We understand that the nation's debt and economic situation are an important concern. However, the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program has proven to be successful and is the type of smart and efficient investment that will save taxpayer money and reduce regulatory uncertainty to business.

We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to provide the most robust funding possible for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in fiscal year 2016 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts can continue. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

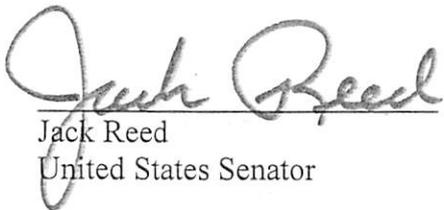
Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



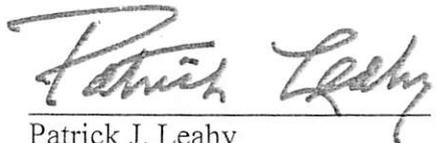
Robert P. Casey Jr.  
United States Senator



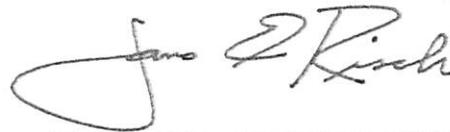
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



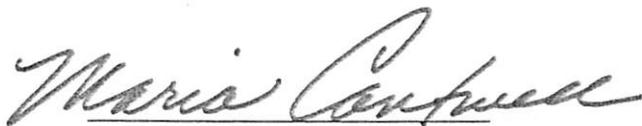
Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senator



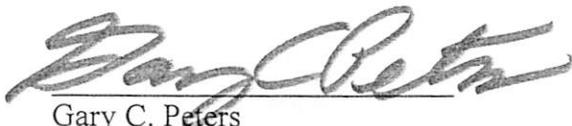
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



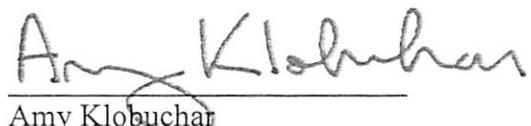
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



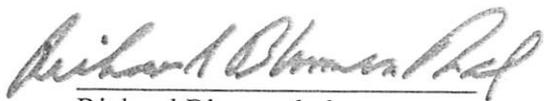
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



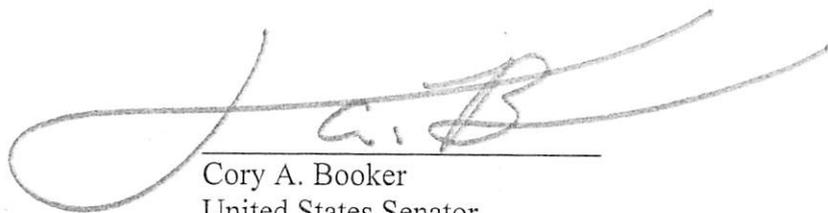
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



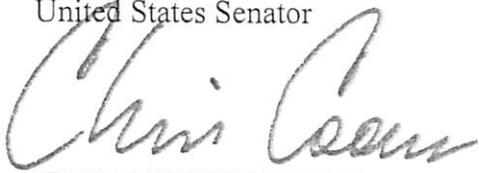
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



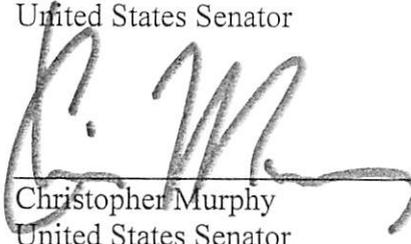
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



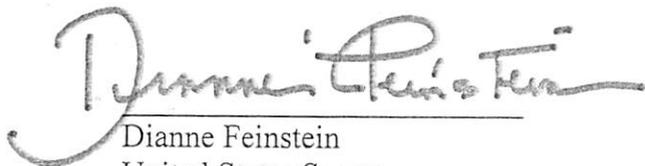
Al Franken  
United States Senator



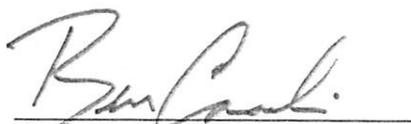
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



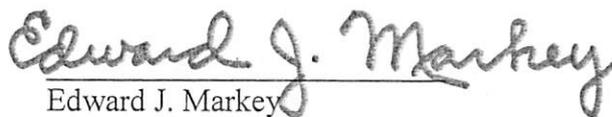
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



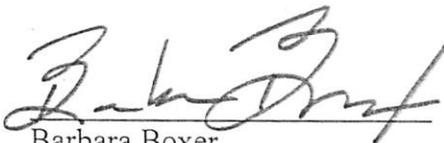
Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator



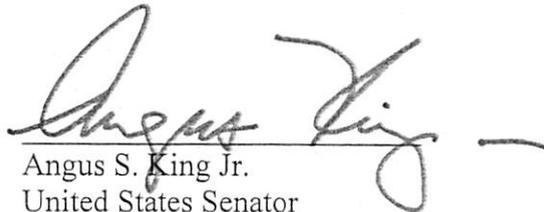
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

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Mazie Hirono  
United States Senator

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Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator

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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

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Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

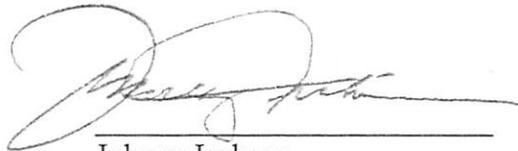
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Mike Rounds  
United States Senator



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James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



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Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator

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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator