

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2014

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We appreciate your past support of this program, 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 2014, approximately \$58.7 million was appropriated for this important program. We request that you provide the most robust funding possible for FY 2015.

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 by supporting data collection on species being considered for federal endangered species listing. The program 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 and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is the only federal grant program with the explicit purpose of conserving more than 12,000 at-risk fish and wildlife species. Without consistent funding for this program, 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 more than ever to fulfill the shared federal-state responsibility for keeping our nation's wildlife from becoming endangered.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program supports implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans are 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 6,400 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 2015 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts can continue. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin

Mark

Chuck Grassley

Jim Johnson

Mazie Hirono

Amy Klobuchar

Maria Cantwell

Mike Crogo

August King

Bob

J. A. B.

C. M.

Paul

Elizabeth

Charles Sch

Janne Shaker

Tom Sarge

Robert Menez G.

Richard Blumenthal

Diane Dublin

Jerry Baldi

Jim Trot

James O'Rourke

Patrick Leahy

Mark R. Warner

Bob Casey, Jr.

Frank

James M. Clabby

Edward J. Markey

Coldwin

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