

June 14, 2022

**Re: Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act**

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our organizations and our millions of members and supporters, we are writing to offer our support for H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2022 ("RAWA"), which offers the best chance to address the extinction crisis and loss of biodiversity occurring in this country. RAWA has improved substantially since it was first introduced in 2016 and would represent a monumental change in how wildlife and plants are conserved. The legislation now includes a rational funding allocation that ensures the states with the most difficult conservation challenges receive the greatest funding, additional funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, funding for Tribal Nations, and the inclusion of stronger accountability mechanisms to ensure funding is spent on the species in the greatest need of on-the-ground conservation.

The size of a state does not correlate with the conservation challenges that it faces. Hawaii is one of the smallest states, but has more endangered species, and faces more difficult conservation challenges than almost anywhere on the planet. Under the improved funding allocation, Hawaii will now receive \$60 million per year, one of the largest allocations possible, and states in the southeast will receive significant shares of funding as well to address the freshwater extinction crisis.

Threatened and endangered species will receive dedicated funding, as will plant species that are too-often overlooked by state fish and game agencies. According to the US. Fish and Wildlife Service's own data and recovery plans, saving all species currently listed as threatened or endangered will require \$1.6-\$2.3 billion per year. While RAWA funding for endangered species will not reach this level, it is a marked improvement from the status quo, in which hundreds of endangered species receive less than one thousand dollars per year.

We also support dedicated funding for Tribal Nations to address biodiversity challenges on their lands. RAWA funding will vastly increase and improve the capacity of Tribal fish and wildlife agencies to conserve and recover their wildlife and plant populations.

We certainly recognize that not every state fish and game agency is equally committed to saving at-risk species, with states like Idaho and Montana greenlighting the mindless slaughter of thousands of wolves. However, these antiquated states have backwards fish and game departments in part *because* their funding is tied to hunting revenue. Providing these agencies with funding and incentives to finally address the full sweep of biodiversity found in their states could actually help modernize and transform them into functional, science-based organizations.

We understand that RAWA may not be viewed as perfect, but it is our best and perhaps last hope of confronting the extinction crisis in the United States. Securing \$1.4 billion for biodiversity protection is a once in a generation opportunity, and if passed, RAWA will define broad wildlife funding for decades to come. Thus, we urge you to support and vote for this

legislation.

Sincerely,

Center for Biological Diversity  
7th Generation Advisors  
American Bird Conservancy  
American Indian Mothers Inc  
Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc  
Beyond Pesticides  
Bird Conservation Network  
Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter  
Boulder Rights of Nature, Inc.  
Cahaba River Society  
California Wildlife Foundation  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
Center for Environmental Policy, Bard College  
Center for Public Environmental Oversight  
Christians Caring for Creation  
Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research  
Endangered Habitats League  
Environmental Protection Information Center- EPIC  
Foundation Earth  
Friends of the Bitterroot  
Georgia River Network  
Glynn Environmental Coalition  
Grand Canyon Trust  
Greater Hells Canyon Council  
GreenLatinos  
Greenpeace USA  
Houston Audubon  
In Defense of Animals  
Jemez Peacemakers  
Juniata Valley Audubon Society  
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
Kentucky Heartwood  
Kickapoo Peace Circle  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
LEGACY-The Landscape Connection  
Life of the Land  
Madison Audubon Society  
Maryland Ornithological Society  
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries  
MountainTrue

New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light  
New Mexico Wild  
Northeast Oregon Ecosystems  
Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition  
Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology  
Post Carbon Institute  
Public Lands Project  
Raptors Are The Solution  
RESTORE: The North Woods  
Rocky Mountain Wild  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
Savannah Chatham Sustainability Coalition  
Save Animals Facing Extinction  
Save Our Allegheny Ridges  
Save The Colorado  
SAVE THE FROGS!  
Social Compassion in Legislation  
Social Justice Commission (Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts)  
South Florida Wildlands Association  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
The Cloud Foundation  
The Enchanted Biscuit  
The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council  
The Safina Center  
Upstate Forever  
Uranium Watch  
Utah Native Plant Society  
Ventana Wild  
VINE Sanctuary  
Wasatch Clean Air Coalition  
WILDCOAST  
WildEarth Guardians  
Wildlands Network  
Wisconsin Council of Churches