

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman 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 hope that you will continue to back the program by providing the highest level of funding possible. 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 2018, \$63.6 million was appropriated for the program. We ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for FY 2019.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. It has been successful in preventing endangered species listings of species like the New England cottontail and Arctic grayling. The program funds monitoring and on-the-ground conservation such as invasive species control, habitat management, species reintroduction, and disease surveillance that directly address threats to declining species.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the only federal grant program available to the states, territories, District of Columbia and tribes to conserve more than 12,000 fish and wildlife species that are in greatest need of conservation. 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 threatened and endangered species listing up by over 1,000% in the last decade, this funding is more important than ever to fulfill the shared federal-state and tribal responsibility for sustaining our nation's fish and wildlife.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program supports the implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans were recently revised to incorporate the newest science and data. Thousands of our nation's leading scientists and conservationists helped revise the plans so they can effectively lead to proactive fish and wildlife conservation. The program has the support of the Teaming with Wildlife coalition's 6,475 organizations, representing millions of birders, hikers, hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

We understand that the nation's debt and economic situation are an important concern. However, investment in the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program saves taxpayers' money by reducing the high cost of recovery when species are added to the federal threatened and endangered species list and reduces 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 FY 2019 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



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


James E. Risch
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


James M. Inhofe
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Susan M. Collins
United States Senator


Brian Schatz
United States Senator

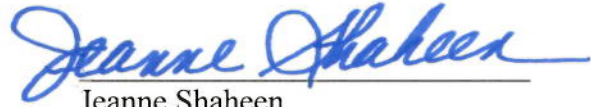

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator


Martin Heinrich
United States Senator


Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



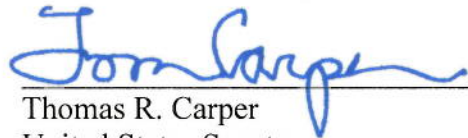
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



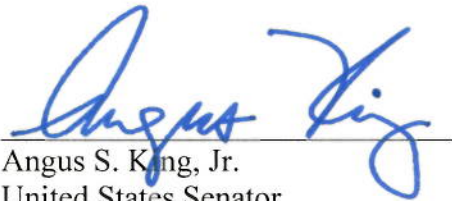
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



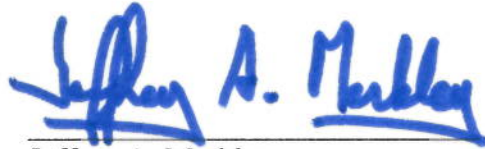
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



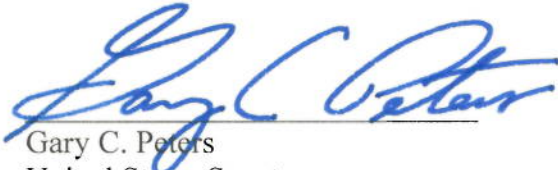
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



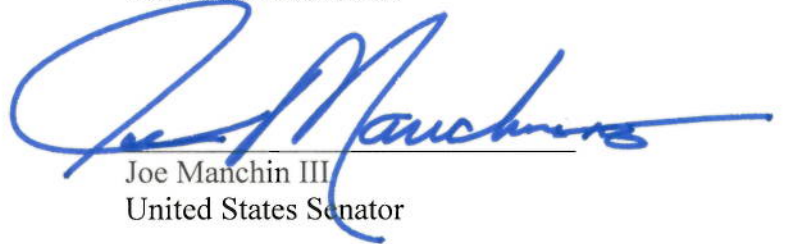
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



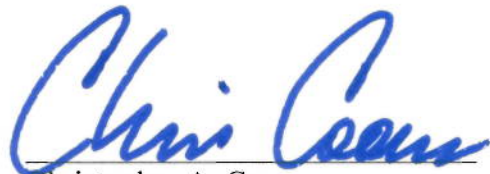
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



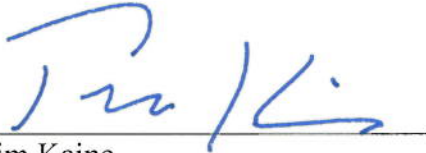
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



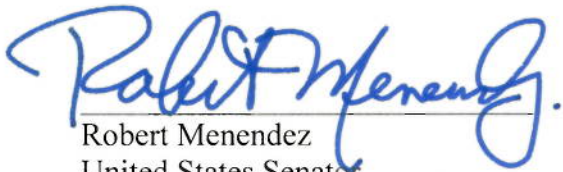
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



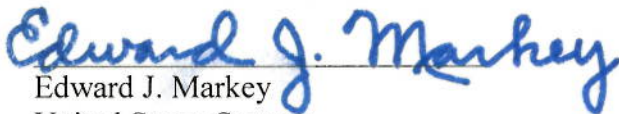
Jon Tester
United States Senator



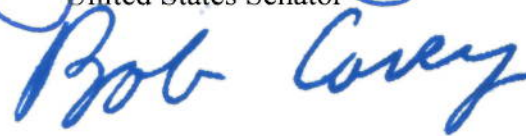
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



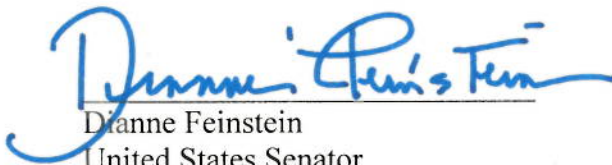
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



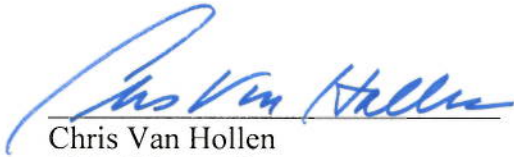
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



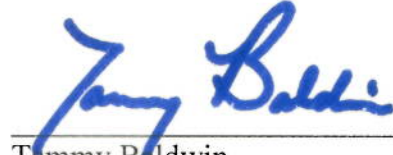
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



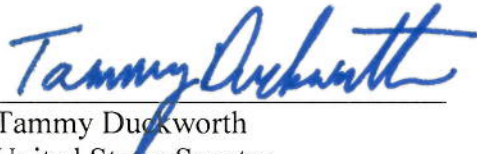
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator