

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies * National Audubon Society * National Wildlife Federation *
Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever * The American Fisheries Society * The Wildlife Society *
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

October 2, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

As organizations representing state fish and wildlife agencies, natural resource professionals and millions of American conservationists who hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors, we are greatly appreciative of the work of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to advance bipartisan conservation priorities, and we ask that America's fish and wildlife not be left out of the picture for dedicated funding this Congress.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S. 3223, H.R. 4647) will help recover species at-risk by directing \$1.3 billion of existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to state fish and wildlife agencies to implement proactive conservation programs. Specifically, this bill would fund the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration subaccount of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. This approach is based off the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, comprised of various national businesses and conservation leaders.

Our nation is blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife and we have a proud history of bringing species back from the brink of extinction by helping fund professional fish and wildlife management. Only a few decades ago, species like bald eagles, elk, wood ducks, and pronghorns were teetering on the brink—now they are thriving because Americans made conservation action a priority.

Today, we face a new wildlife crisis and one in which the magnitude of the solution must match the magnitude of the challenge. By prioritizing passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, this Congress will ensure that our fish, wildlife and proud outdoor recreation traditions endure for the benefit of future generations.

Sincerely,

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

National Audubon Society

National Wildlife Federation

Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever

The American Fisheries Society

The Wildlife Society

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Cc: McConnell, Schumer