

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) program. We appreciate your past support and are hopeful that your support will continue. We believe that the STWG program is an important investment needed to sustain our nation's fish and wildlife. In Fiscal Year 2021, \$72.4 million was appropriated for the program to conserve fish and wildlife in the 56 states, territories, and District of Columbia, and on tribal lands. We ask that you allocate robust funding for this important, time-tested program for Fiscal Year 2022.

The STWG program provides states, territories, the District of Columbia, and Indian tribes with the resources they need to implement proactive and effective wildlife conservation actions aimed at keeping wildlife from becoming endangered. It is a mission-critical element of Department of the Interior's budget, as no other program is focused on this goal. As you know, states bear the primary responsibility for wildlife management, and since the 1930's the federal government has worked in partnership with the states to fund successful conservation programs that ensure sustainability of the fish and wildlife species enjoyed by all Americans.

The STWG program is the only program that funds proactive conservation work aimed at eliminating the need to list species as federally threatened or endangered, saving taxpayer dollars and reducing regulatory uncertainty to business. The program is also critical to state efforts to recover species that are already federally threatened or endangered. Robust and consistent funding for the STWG program is key to meeting the shared state-federal responsibility for keeping our nation's fish and wildlife healthy and sustainable. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this kind of smart and effective investment in conservation.

The STWG program supports implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans that were developed collaboratively by leading scientists, sportsmen and sportswomen, wildlife viewers, conservationists, tribes, and private landowners to conserve more than 12,000 species in need of proactive conservation. Congress can demonstrate its commitment to these plans in every state and territory by providing the federal share of support which will leverage millions in state and private matching funds. This investment helps support jobs and the \$460 billion outdoor recreation economy.

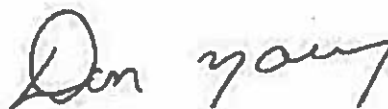
We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to provide the highest appropriation possible for the STWG program in Fiscal Year 2022 so that these important conservation efforts can expand to prevent more fish and wildlife from becoming endangered.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG
Member of Congress

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES

/s/
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/
Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

/s/
Adam Smith
Member of Congress

/s/
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

/s/
Al Green
Member of Congress

/s/
Al Lawson
Member of Congress

/s/
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

/s/
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/
Angie Craig
Member of Congress

/s/
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

/s/
Annie Kuster
Member of Congress

/s/
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/
Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

/s/
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Posey
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/
Buddy Carter
Member of Congress

/s/
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

/s/
Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

/s/
Cori Bush
Member of Congress

/s/
Darren Soto
Member of Congress

/s/
David Scott
Member of Congress

/s/
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

/s/
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

/s/
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

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Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

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Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Mast
Member of Congress

/s/
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

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Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

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Dan Meuser
Member of Congress

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David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

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Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

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Dina Titus
Member of Congress

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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

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Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

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Elissa Slotkin
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Frank Lucas
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Bruce Westerman
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Cheri Bustos
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Cindy Axne
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Conor Lamb
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

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David Rouzer
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Deborah K. Ross
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Don Bacon
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Doris Matsui
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Fred Keller
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G. K. Butterfield
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Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

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Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

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Grace F. Napolitano
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Greg Stanton
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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Gwen Moore
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Haley Stevens
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

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Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

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Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

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James P. McGovern
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James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

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Jared Golden
Member of Congress

/s/
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

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Jason Crow
Member of Congress

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Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

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Jeffrey Fortenberry
Member of Congress

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Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress

/s/
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

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Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

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Jim Costa
Member of Congress

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Jim Himes
Member of Congress

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Jimmy Panetta
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Joe Courtney
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Joe Neguse
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John B. Larson
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John Garamendi
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John Katko
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John P. Sarbanes
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John Yarmuth
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Juan Vargas
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Judy Chu
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Karen Bass
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

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Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

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Marilyn Strickland
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Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

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Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

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Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

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Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

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Pramila Jayapal
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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

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Rick Larsen
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Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

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Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

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Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

/s/
Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress

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Marc Veasey
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress

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Mike Levin
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Ro Khanna
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Kaiali'i Kahele
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Ron Kind
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Steve Stivers
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Susan Wild
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Suzan K. DelBene
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Ted W. Lieu
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William R. Timmons, IV
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

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