

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7110

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 131  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 125  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Senator 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 2016, \$60.6 million was appropriated for the program and the President has requested \$67 million for FY 2017. We ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for FY 2017.

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 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 & 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 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 implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans were revised last year 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 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 taxpayer's 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 fiscal year 2017 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts can continue. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



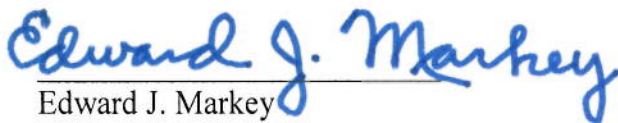
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



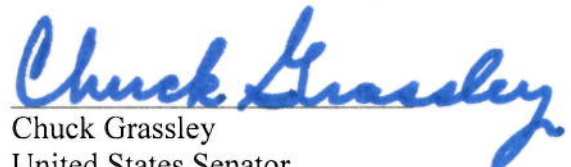
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



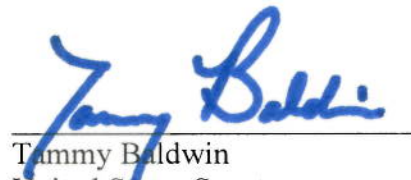
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator




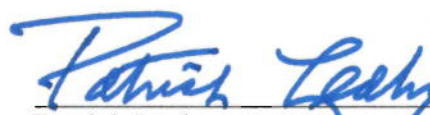

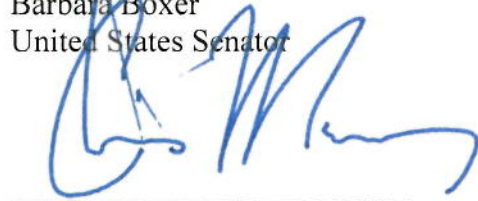
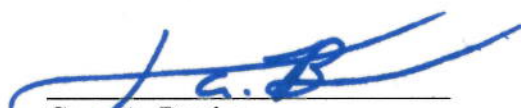


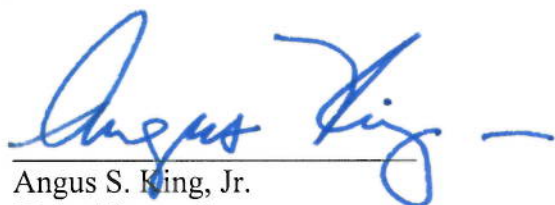
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



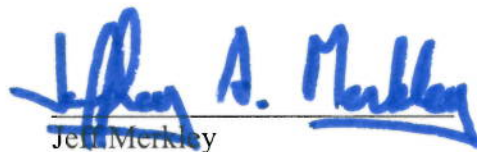
Daniel Sullivan  
United States Senator



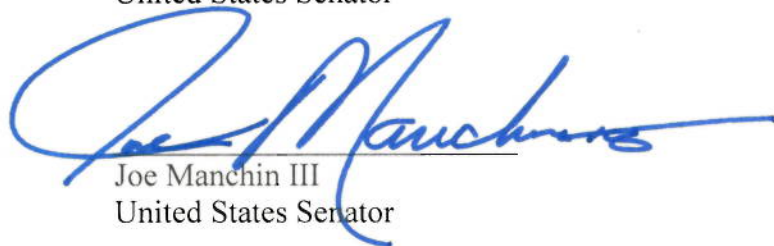
  
Elizabeth Warren  
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Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator  
Robert P. Casey Jr.  
United States Senator  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator  
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator  
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator  
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator  
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator  
Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator  
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator  
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator  
Al Franken  
United States Senator



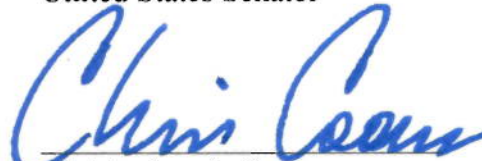
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



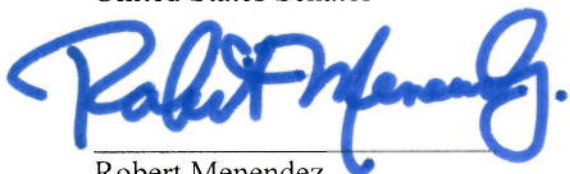
Christopher A. Coons  
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Richard Blumenthal  
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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



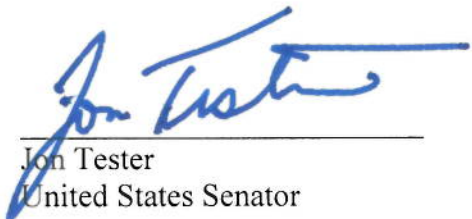
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator