

United States Senate

November 17, 2021

Senator Tom Carper
Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Office Building

Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
456 Dirksen Office Building

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

I am writing to express my support for Martha Williams, the nominee for Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Ms. Williams would bring a wealth of real-world experience and leadership to this position. Our nation's fish and wildlife and the lands they rely on are a critical component of our outdoor recreation economy. Ms. Williams stands ready to work with stakeholders from all walks of life to protect and conserve those resources and the jobs they support.

Montana's \$7.1 billion outdoor recreation economy, our agricultural producers, and our industries rely on level-headed management of our lands, waters, and wildlife. Ms. Williams has more than proved herself in navigating these challenging waters during her time leading Montana's Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. She has spearheaded collaborative conservation efforts to recover sagegrouse habitat while keeping working agricultural lands working and sensibly extracting natural resources. She has overseen the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council, which brought hard science and input from impacted communities together to make level-headed recommendations about how best to manage grizzly bears in Montana. After aquatic invasive mussels were dedicated in Montana, she managed the state's ongoing efforts to check the further spread of those species through a robust network of watercraft inspection stations. This is the work of someone who understands that our fish and wildlife are the backbone of our outdoor heritage, and tens of thousands of jobs in Montana alone.

Martha has spent her entire career standing up for Montana's public lands and has proven herself to be a thoughtful, nonpartisan steward who works collaboratively with folks on the ground to make positive change. She has demonstrated the ability to find common ground between sportsmen and conservationists alike, and as an exceptional problem solver, I know she will be an outstanding Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. I am looking forward to her confirmation and working with her protect wildlife and Montana jobs for generations to come.

Thank you,



Jon Tester