

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We appreciate your past support of this program, and we are hopeful that your support will continue. We believe that the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is an important investment needed to sustain our nation's fish and wildlife but also understand the fiscal constraints that our nation is under. We are aware that the President's budget request is \$61.3 million (level to FY12) and ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for this important program in fiscal year 2013. We also ask that the nonfederal match requirement for states remain at 35% to help states who are still struggling to recover from significant reductions in conservation budgets.

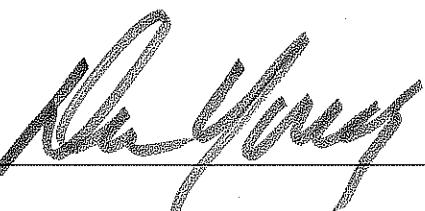
The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in every state. It is a mission-critical element of the Interior Department's budget as no other program is focused on this goal. As you know, states bear the primary responsibility for wildlife management and since the 1930's the federal government has worked in partnership with the states to fund successful conservation programs to ensure the fish and wildlife species enjoyed by millions are sustained.

More than 12,000 species of fish and wildlife are at-risk and potentially headed towards the federal endangered species list. Through early and strategic action to conserve declining wildlife and their habitats, this program has been successful in preventing additional listings, reducing conflicts and saving both wildlife and taxpayer dollars. Adequate and consistent funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is essential to fulfillment of the shared federal-state responsibility for keeping our nation's wildlife from becoming endangered. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this kind of smart, effective investment in conservation.

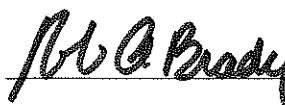
The program supports implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans that were developed collaboratively by leading scientists, sportsmen, conservationists and private landowners and identified the most effective and practical means to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. Congress can demonstrate its commitment to these plans in every state and territory by providing the federal share of support, leveraging millions in state and private matching funds. This investment in conservation helps support jobs and the \$730 billion outdoor recreation industry.

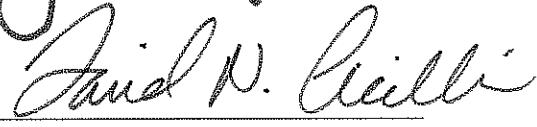
We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to provide the most robust funding possible for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in fiscal year 2013 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts can continue. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

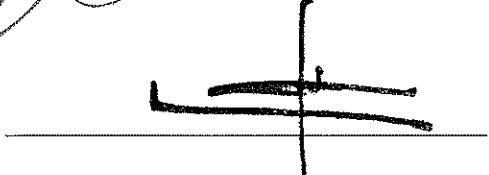
Sincerely,

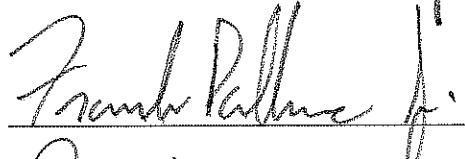
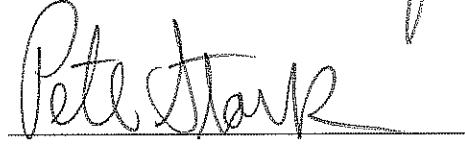
  
John Yea  
Todd R. Platts

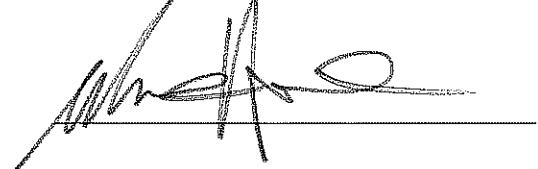
  
Mike Thompson  
  
Ron Kind

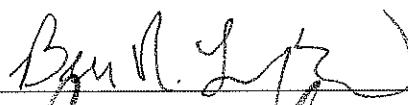
  
Bob Brady  
  
  
Hilda Solis  
Hilda Solis

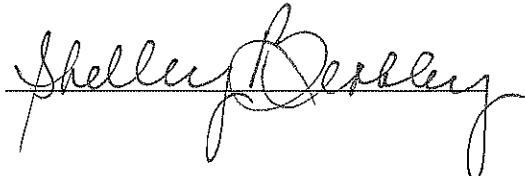
  
Jim Langevin  
  
David N. Cicilli

  
Frederica Wilson  
  
  
Frederica Wilson

  
Joe Courtney  
  
Frank Pallone Jr.  
  
Pete Stark

  
Donny Edwards  
  
Donny Edwards

  
Ben Ray Lujan  
  
Mike Babin

  
Shelley Berkley

  
Karen Bass

Tom Marino

Tom Marino

Paul D. Tonino

Donald E. Connolly

John F. X.

W.H.

Michael F. Quinn

Brent E. Ells

W. Duffy

John McRae

Allyn Smith

Rush Holt

Stan Cohen

MSF

Howard L. Barnell

Keith Ehr

Jim McDonald

Mike Grisley

Sean Tarr

Billy Gandy

T. J.

Mike Fitzpatrick

Sarah Sorenson

Chet R.

Barbara

Mazie K. Hirono

Hart Johnson

Randall H. Gaylor

Judy Chu

Sam Kinsell

Michael H. Michaud

Tom J. Vilsack

Barbara

Emmanuel

Edward J. Markey

Howard L. Berman

Peter Welch

Mark L. Gray

Earl Blumenauer

Jeff Zients

Bruce Baity

Dale

Dale Zihlman

Phil A. Hollen

Dale E. Clodfelter

Eleanor H.eyoul

Colin C. Peterson

Lois Capps

Constance B. Mungo

Frances D'Elia

Suzanne Bonamici

Joseph Crowley  
T. H. H.

Wm. Lacy Clay

Dennis J. Kucinich

Bobby J. Rush

Everett G. Gresham

Gene Green

Frank LoBiondo

Lee Terry

Howard Metzenbaum

Corrine Brown

Alcee Hastings

Carolyn McCarthy

Rosa DeLauro

Deval Patrick

July 2007  
Biggar

Lynn Woolsey

Tommy Baldwin

C.A. Dutch Ruppersburg

Streetland

Biggs

Bob Fith

John F. Sartor

Charles F. Bass

Steph S. Pugh

Bill Russell Jr

Melvin L. Webb

John Dingell

Alastair H. Hildings

Charles B. Rangel

Jan Schakowsky

Steven Rothman

DeBaltazar Jr.

Wendy Wren

Barbara Boxer