

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.

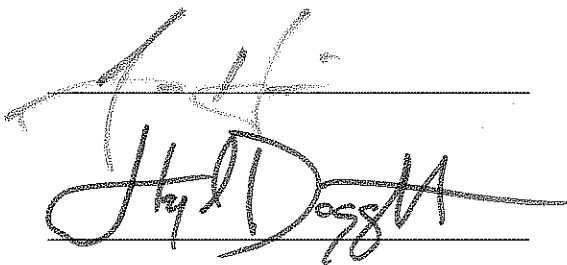
Sincerely,


Todd R. Platts


Ron Kind

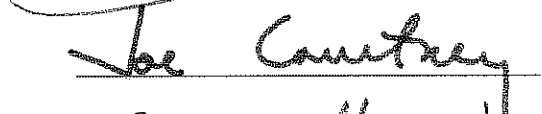

Bob Brady

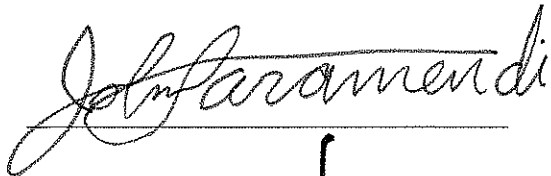

David N. Cicilli

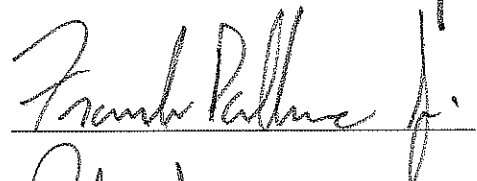

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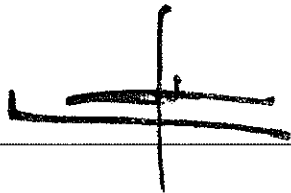

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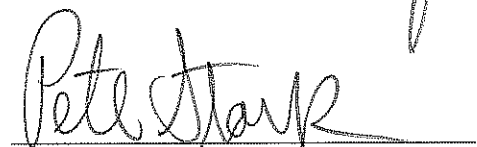

Frederica Wilson

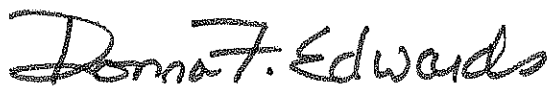

Joe Courtney

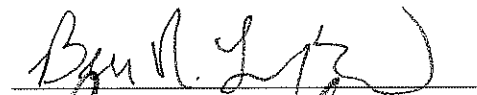

John P. Carrozzini

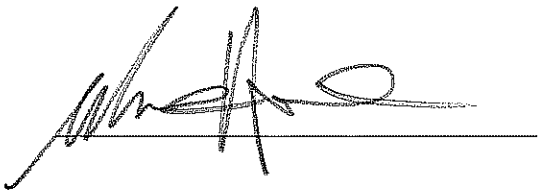

Frank Pallone Jr.



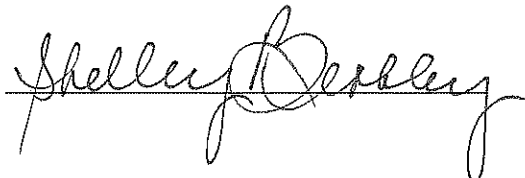

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Donna F. Edwards


Ben Ray Lujan




Phil B. Platts


Shelley Berkley



Karen Bass

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Chris Manna

Paul D. Tondello

Donald E. Connolly

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