



June 21, 2023

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman, Senate Environment and
Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Senate Environment
and Public Works Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Senator
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thom Tillis
Senator
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Robin Vos
Speaker
Wisconsin State Assembly
President, NCSL

Anne Sappenfield
Director
Wisconsin Legislative
Council
Staff Chair, NCSL

Tim Storey
Chief Executive Officer
NCSL

RE: The Recovering America's Wildlife Act

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories, and commonwealths, we write to express our support for the reintroduction and passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA).

As required by Congress, each state, territory and the District of Columbia has a comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), identifying imperiled species within their respective boundaries, and outlining specific actions to assist in the species protection and recovery. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies estimates that \$1.3 billion is needed annually for states to implement these plans and proactively invest in conservation strategies, and current federal funding is a fraction of that estimated need.

RAWA will ensure states have the requisite funding to address conservation needs within their boundaries before species require protection under the Endangered Species Act—which can create regulatory uncertainty, in addition to being costly and disruptive to states.

We look forward to working with Congress to strengthen state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies' capacity to implement their SWAPs and to ensure the future of healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and their natural habitats on which they depend. Further details on NCSL's positions on RAWA can be found in [NCSL's Recovering America's Wildlife policy resolution](#). Please contact NCSL staff Kristen Hildreth (kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org) with any additional questions

Sincerely,

Tim Storey
Chief Executive Officer
National Conference of State Legislatures