Our natural world provides innumerable benefits to human health and economic prosperity. As wildlife and their habitats disappear, these benefits are compromised. Nationwide, experts have identified more than 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including over 1,300 here in Texas. The majority of these include at-risk fish and wildlife -- like the Texas horned lizard, Pronghorn, and American bumblebee.

Unfortunately, America lacks a dedicated funding stream to conserve vulnerable fish and wildlife. We are in danger of losing the ecological benefits of these species and the tremendous economic value of healthy ecosystems. The **Recovering America’s Wildlife Act** offers an incredible opportunity to protect these species and their habitats throughout the country.

The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would provide $1.3 billion per year to states, and $97.5 million to tribal nations, from existing revenues to fund conservation, research, habitat restoration, outdoor recreation, and education programs. Of this, **Texas would be eligible for more than $50 million per year** to implement the Texas Conservation Action Plan and help stabilize the at-risk fish and wildlife in our state.

Each state has completed a Wildlife Action Plan designed to help recover species in decline, helping to prevent the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would provide the funding needed to effectively implement these plans.

This legislation is supported by a wide range of business and conservation interests. Investing in preventative conservation helps avoid regulatory road blocks to development and industry, and the high costs of recovery when species become endangered. It would also fuel our booming outdoor recreation economy, and protect nature’s benefits, such as clean rivers, pest control, and pollination services.

**Good for wildlife. Good for business. Good for Texas.**
A smart investment
The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act represents an unprecedented opportunity to sustain the benefits of our natural world - water purification, food production, and our booming outdoor recreation industry. In Texas, outdoor recreation results in $52.6 billion in annual consumer spending and generates 411,000 jobs.

The more than $50 million per year in federal funds that Texas would be eligible to receive, coupled with a 25% match, would translate into new jobs, increased funding for conservation, support for habitat restoration, and numerous other benefits to Texas fish and wildlife.

Benefits to the tourism industry

- Our booming outdoor recreation industry depends on healthy fish and wildlife populations. In Texas, this industry generates $52.6 billion in consumer spending annually and provides 411,000 jobs. This amounts to $15.8 billion in wages and salaries and $3.5 billion in state and local revenue tax.

- More than half of all Texans engage in some sort of outdoor activity each year. These activities frequently involve overnight travel, retail sales of equipment and clothing, and purchasing food, fuel, and supplies.

- One quickly growing sector of our outdoor recreation economy is nature tourism. There are an estimated 4.4 million wildlife watchers in Texas, including 2.2 million birders. 45 million bird watchers in the US spend an estimated $1.8 billion in retail sales annually. Birders from across the globe travel to Texas destinations to see migrating and wintering birds.

- Rare species can be a big tourist draw. For example, the yellow-green vireo, a bird local to the Rio Grande Valley, is estimated to have generated more than $100,000 in local spending in a single year.

- A portion of funding from the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will go towards nature education and increasing participation in, and access to, outdoor recreation. Texans and tourists alike would have expanded opportunities to see and learn about at-risk fish and wildlife and their habitats.