

Senator _____
U.S. Senate

Dear Senator _____,

I am writing to ask you to vote YES for the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act*. This legislation will direct \$1.3 billion annually to state-led fish and wildlife conservation, including more than \$50 million per year for Texas. Funds will be distributed by state wildlife agencies for urgently-needed projects that benefit at-risk fish and wildlife populations. State agencies, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, nature centers, universities, and others concerned about declining wildlife can apply for funds for habitat restoration, land stewardship, research, and education and recreation projects.

The bill has passed out of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee with strong bipartisan support. Its sponsors are planning to fast-track it to the Senate Floor.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act grew out of recommendations from national business, industry, and conservation leaders. It presents a historic opportunity to invest in preventing the decline of species, thus avoiding the "emergency room" measures of the Endangered Species Act. Once species have declined to the point of being endangered, it is much more difficult—and more expensive—to recover them.

Each state's congressionally-mandated wildlife action plan identifies species that are at risk and what it would take to recover them. Unfortunately, funding is currently at less than 5% of what is needed to conserve the full array of fish and wildlife identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. State wildlife agencies have a solid track record working with local partners to accomplish remarkable wildlife restoration successes - when funding is available. Now is our chance to save iconic species such as Northern bobwhite, pintail ducks, meadowlarks, horned lizards, and pronghorn.

Texas's fast-growing outdoor recreation economy depends on the state's fish and wildlife resources to support an industry that generates 327,000 jobs, \$14.4 billion in salaries and wages, and \$3.5 billion in state and local tax revenue. However, habitat loss, invasive species, and other challenges are leading to rapid decline of many fish and wildlife on which this industry depends. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will protect this vital economic engine while conserving valuable ecosystem services such as filtering water, pollinating crops, and helping control agricultural pests.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act enjoys a broad base of bipartisan support and is supported by a wide range of sportsman groups, conservation organizations, ranches, businesses, and others. It will benefit industry, business, agriculture, outdoor recreation, and the quality of life of all Texans. We urge you to vote *for* the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Sincerely,