

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
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. Landowners, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, nature centers, universities, and others could apply for funds for habitat restoration, wildlife reintroductions, research, education, nature tourism, and recreation projects to help declining wildlife and connect Texans to the outdoors. The bill would also expand voluntary cost-share programs and increase statewide capacity for technical guidance—helping more private landowners implement land management activities that benefit at-risk wildlife, as well as cattle and working lands.

The Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works passed the Senate version of the legislation with strong bipartisan support, and the companion House bill passed the full House in June, again with bipartisan support.

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 of working with local partners to accomplish remarkable wildlife restoration successes—when funding is available. Now is our chance to restore iconic species such as Bobwhite Quail, Guadalupe Bass, Meadowlarks, Texas 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 close to 300,000 jobs, \$14.1 billion in salaries and wages, and \$31 billion in Total Value Added. Habitat loss, invasive species, wildlife diseases, and other challenges lead to rapid decline of many of the 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 controlling agricultural pests. Delaying action on this legislation will only result in more species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, which will increase regulatory uncertainty and cost working lands, businesses, Texans, and the American taxpayers more money in the long run. Consequently, we urge action on this bill as soon as possible.

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, ranchers, businesses, and others.

Senator \_\_\_\_\_, this piece of legislation is one that many thousands of Texans care deeply about. It will benefit industry, business, agriculture, outdoor recreation, and the quality of life of all Texans.

We urge you to vote YES on the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act*.

Sincerely,