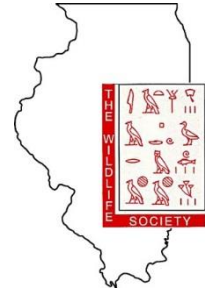


Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



November 30, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin,

The Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your support for Senate floor action on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S. 2372)**, introduced in July 2021 by Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Roy Blunt (R-MO). This legislation would provide state and tribal wildlife agencies with a vital source of funding needed to proactively and cost-effectively conserve America's at-risk wildlife populations.

The Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society is an organization of over 100 wildlife professionals throughout Illinois who actively work to study, manage and conserve wildlife and their habitats through science-based management and conservation.

The recent bipartisan House passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act has highlighted the importance of proactively funding at-risk species conservation and recovery. We can ensure a similar, bipartisan message is sent in the U.S. Senate with your office's outreach to leadership to request floor action.

Nationally, conservation efforts for at-risk species are critically underfunded, only receiving about \$60 million annually through the existing State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. This is not nearly enough for states and tribes to plan for multi-year conservation and recovery projects and keep costlier measures, such as Endangered Species Act listings, from occurring.

Senate action on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act matches an appropriate solution to the scale of this crisis. By dedicating \$1.3 billion annually for the adequate implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans, and \$97.5 million annually for tribal agencies to plan long-term conservation projects, wildlife professionals will have the resources needed to hold the nation's wildlife in the public trust for generations to come.

Thank you for considering using your position to elevate the need for this legislation with Senate leadership. If you have any questions regarding the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and the Illinois Chapter of the Wildlife Society's support for this legislation, please feel free to reach Scott Meister, our chapter's Conservation Affairs Representative, at 630-933-7081.

Sincerely,

Justin Shew
President

Members of the Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society who serve as professional staff of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources are recommended to recuse themselves from participating in this manner.