



July 21, 2022

Scott Saiki
Speaker of the House
Hawaii
President, NCSL

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Joseph James
"J.J." Gentry, Esq.**
Counsel
Senate Ethics Committee
South Carolina
Staff Chair, NCSL

Tim Storey
Chief Executive Officer
NCSL

RE: The Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

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 Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) as passed by the House and urge the Senate's bipartisan support.

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.

Passage of 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 ensure passage of this legislation 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,

Representative Megan Blanksma
NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure
Committee Co-Chair
Idaho House of Representatives

Representative David Tarnas
NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure
Committee Co-Chair
Hawaii House of Representatives