



June 13, 2022

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Vote YES on H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021

Dear Representative,

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) believes that everyone has a right to clean air, clean water, public lands, and a safe climate protected by a just and equitable democracy. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote YES on H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021, which would combat our nation's biodiversity crisis by providing the most significant investment in the conservation and restoration of wildlife and plant species in a generation. In the United States today, many wildlife species are declining with one third of species already imperiled or vulnerable and an increasing number at risk of becoming endangered. State wildlife agencies have identified more than 12,000 species in need of conservation attention. This bill would provide over \$1 billion dollars annually in transformative funding for collaborative programs to recover these species and support diverse wildlife populations.

This bill is long overdue. Federal as well as the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant programs have been underfunded for decades, forcing agencies to pick and choose which species are worth saving and focus on expensive reactive methods to rescue a species already on the brink of extinction. The current model of funding is also unpredictable, limiting the ability to undertake multi-year projects needed to reverse declines in wildlife. This cost-effective legislation would help give state, territorial and Tribal wildlife agencies the resources they need to proactively invest in long-term conservation work to maintain healthy populations of fish and wildlife before they are on the brink. Critically, this legislation would be the first and only federal conservation program that guarantees sustained funding to Tribal Nations for fish and wildlife preservation. This Tribal title in the bill was developed by Tribes across the country, and the bill is supported by more than 100 Tribal Nations. Our support for funding wildlife conservation by states, territories, and Tribes goes hand in hand with our steadfast support for the fundamental role federal agencies play in wildlife and biodiversity conservation, which is why we also support increased funding for federal biodiversity programs across the board.

This legislation would also boost the U.S. economy. It will support our nation's outdoor industry by helping provide more recreational opportunities for all people in this country who already spend a combined \$140 billion dollars on wildlife-focused recreation annually. Diverse fish and wildlife and their habitats provide the U.S. billions of dollars in other services including cleaning the water we drink and the air we breathe, pollinating our crops, controlling pests, and mitigating floods. Restoration of wildlife and their habitats is also labor-intensive, meaning that this funding will create thousands of meaningful jobs while helping address one of the biggest crises facing our planet.



For all these reasons, we urge you to support H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021. LCV will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2022 *Scorecard*. If you would like more information, please reach out to a member of our government relations team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Karpinski". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gene Karpinski
President