

Archery Trade Association \* Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies \* Boone and Crockett Club Campfire Club  
of America \* Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation \* Ducks Unlimited  
Houston Safari Club \* Izaak Walton League of America \* National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association \* National Wild Turkey Federation  
North American Grouse Partnership \* Orion – The Hunter Institute \* Pheasants Forever  
Pope & Young Club \* Professional Outfitters and Guides of America \* Quail Forever  
Quality Deer Management Association \* Sportsmen's Alliance  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership \* Whittails Unlimited \* Wild Sheep Foundation Wildlife  
Forever \* Wildlife Management Institute \* Wildlife Mississippi

June 20, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper,

Thank you for your leadership that ultimately led to the passage of S. 826, the Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver ("WILD") Act. Our organizations represent millions of hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and outdoor enthusiasts from all 50 states. The WILD Act included provisions that will improve the conservation of fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and that are of interest to our organizations and members.

Our organizations support the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, reauthorized by the WILD Act. The Partners program supports private landowners who voluntarily commit to take actions benefitting federal trust wildlife such as migratory birds and threatened and endangered species. The 30th anniversary of this important program was recently celebrated with support from DOW AgroSciences, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and other diverse organizations. The WILD Act will keep the program's track record of success and collaboration going.

To improve coordination of efforts to fight invasive species, the WILD Act tackles invasive species in a more comprehensive manner by requiring federal agencies responding to invasive species impacts on wildlife to develop a strategic plan. The goal of the plans is to achieve "a substantive annual net reduction of invasive species populations or infested acreage". The bill requires 75% of funding to go toward on-the-ground projects. Coordination with states and tribes is also required. Invasive species are a massive and growing threat to native and desired non-native species and their habitats in the U.S.

The WILD Act also reauthorizes multinational wildlife conservation programs that help local communities and governments manage and restore popular wildlife species around the world - Asian and African elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles.

Finally, the Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prizes created by the WILD Act are a new and unique way to approach wildlife conservation. Prizes of \$100,000 or more would be awarded to the most innovative technological advances for addressing pressing conservation challenges in four important areas: preventing

wildlife poaching and trafficking; promoting wildlife conservation; invasive species; and endangered species. Funding could come from federal and non-federal sources. This program has the potential to have a meaningful and lasting impact on wildlife conservation.

Our groups thank you for your leadership on the WILD Act and we look forward to working with you for swift action on this bill in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

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