

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James P. Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We appreciate your past support of this program and we are hopeful that your support will continue. We believe that the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is an important investment needed to sustain our nation's fish and wildlife but we also understand the fiscal constraints that our nation is under. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, approximately \$58 million was appropriated for the program and we ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for this important program in FY 2014. We also ask that the nonfederal match requirement for states remain at 35% to help states who are still struggling to recover from significant reductions in conservation budgets.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in every state. It is a mission-critical element of the Interior Department's budget as no other program is focused on this goal. As you know, states bear the primary responsibility for wildlife management and since the 1930's the federal government has worked in partnership with the states to fund successful conservation programs to ensure the fish and wildlife species enjoyed by millions are sustained.

More than 12,000 species of fish and wildlife are at-risk and many of those will be headed toward federal endangered species listing if proactive measures are not taken. Through early and strategic action to conserve declining wildlife and their habitats, this program has been successful in preventing additional listings, reducing conflicts, and saving both wildlife and taxpayer dollars. Adequate and consistent funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is essential to fulfillment of the shared federal-state responsibility of keeping our nation's wildlife from becoming endangered. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this type of smart, effective investment in conservation.

This program supports implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans that are developed collaboratively by leading scientists, sportsmen, conservationists and private landowners and identified the most effective and practical means to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. Congress can demonstrate its commitment to these plans in every state and territory by providing the federal share of support which will leverage millions in state and private matching funds. This investment helps support jobs and the \$730 billion outdoor recreation industry.

We urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to provide the most robust funding possible for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in FY 2014 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts continue. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



**MIKE THOMPSON**  
Member of Congress



**DON YOUNG**  
Member of Congress



**RON KIND**  
Member of Congress



**MICHAEL GRIMM**  
Member of Congress



**BENNIE THOMPSON**



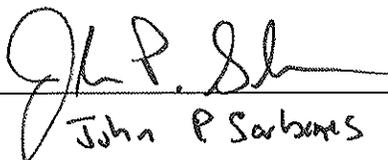
**PAUL TONKO**



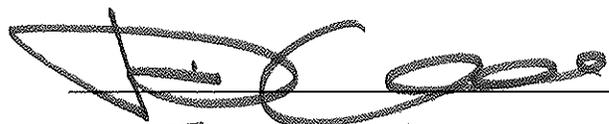
**RICHARD NOLAN**



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**JOHN P. SARBANES**



**JIM GERLACH**

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Daniel N. Cicillini

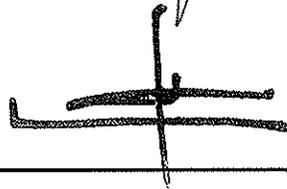
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L. L. Bonds

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