## Sign-On Letter Urging Passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act

December 2, 2022

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi,

We appreciate your leadership in working to address the climate crisis through passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, among other actions. Today we're writing to urge that you address the related—but often overlooked—crisis facing our nation's fish and wildlife. We respectfully request that you prioritize and ensure passage of the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act before the end of the 117th Congress. We recognize that Congress has many priorities to tackle before the end of the year, but hope this game-changing legislation will be among them.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act puts resources in the hands of wildlife professionals to implement congressionally mandated programs that can make a significant difference in slowing and reversing the decline and extinction of species. State and territorial wildlife action plans are essential to a comprehensive response to the biodiversity crisis, but they have been deeply underfunded for decades. This legislation supports this critical work, while also ensuring more resources for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expedite the recovery of species already listed as threatened or endangered and the implementation of federal projects that may affect endangered species.

Passage of this legislation will also guarantee that federally recognized Tribal nations receive secure, non-competitive funding for fish and wildlife management for the first time ever. This bill is an essential step in addressing more than a century of inequitable funding for Tribal fish and wildlife programs

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is an historic environmental accomplishment that is poised for passage due to its broad support from both parties in Congress and a range of stakeholders and advocates. It is also popular with the <a href="American public">American public</a>. We respectfully urge you to prioritize passage of this legislation in the 117th Congress and stand ready to help.

Thank you,

Dr. Maureen McClung Conservation Chair Arkansas Audubon Society