

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative _____,

I strongly encourage you to co-sponsor and support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R.3742. This legislation would direct \$1.3 billion annually to state-level conservation and \$97.5 million to Tribal Nations of existing federal revenues to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program. Funds would go towards projects and programs that help keep at-risk wildlife species from becoming threatened or endangered. Monies from the Program would be allocated to each state based on population and geographic size. Texas' share would be more than \$50 million per year.

H.R. 3742 grew out of recommendations from national business and conservation leaders, including senior officials with Shell Americas, Toyota, and Bass Pro Shops. It presents a historic opportunity to invest in preventing the decline of species, thus avoiding the stricter protections of the Endangered Species Act and allowing businesses to operate with less cost and more regulatory certainty. Oil and gas officials have referred to this approach as "preventive maintenance". It is good for fish and wildlife, good for taxpayers, and good for business and industry.

Hunters, anglers, birders, wildlife watchers, hikers, and kayakers have created a fast-growing outdoor consumer base that depends on healthy fish and wildlife populations. Today, the Texas outdoor economy generates \$52.6 billion annually in consumer spending, creates 411,000 direct jobs with \$15.8 billion in salary and wages, and generates \$3.5 billion in state and local tax revenue. But habitat loss, invasive species and emerging diseases are leading to rapid decline of many of the fish and wildlife populations on which the tourism industry depends. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act gives us the opportunity to protect this critical economic engine.

Preventative conservation also protects nature's benefits, such as water quality, pest control and pollination services that support our economy, agriculture, health, and quality of life.

Please co-sponsor the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R.3742, to keep at-risk species from becoming endangered and benefit business, industry, agriculture, conservation, outdoor recreation, and the quality of life of all Texans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,