

Senator Ted Cruz
127A Russell
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz,

I am writing in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and urge you to introduce this landmark legislation in the U.S. Senate. This Act would direct \$1.3 billion annually to state-led fish and wildlife conservation, including more than \$50 million per year to Texas. Funds would go towards voluntary conservation efforts, such as habitat restoration and brush management on private lands, that will help keep at-risk wildlife from becoming endangered.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act grew out of recommendations from national industry, business, and conservation leaders. It presents a historic opportunity to invest in common-sense measures to prevent the decline of wildlife, thereby avoiding the stricter regulations of the Endangered Species Act and allowing businesses to operate with less cost and more regulatory certainty.

State wildlife agencies have a solid track record working with local partners to accomplish remarkable wildlife restoration successes. However, funding is currently at less than 5% of what is needed to conserve the full array of fish and wildlife and address current habitat management challenges. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act provides a new funding source that is complimentary to the contributions of sportsmen and women, without a new tax. Passage of this legislation will help ensure healthy wildlife populations, support Texas's booming outdoor recreation industry, and preserve our outdoor traditions for future generations. Many iconic species would benefit from the grassland, wetland, and riparian restoration projects that could be expanded – wildlife such as Northern Bobwhite, Pintail duck, Pronghorn, Texas horned lizard, and Guadalupe bass.

Hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers, and other outdoor enthusiasts have created a fast-growing consumer base that depends on healthy wildlife. The Texas outdoor recreation economy generates \$52.6 billion in annual consumer spending, \$3.5 billion in state and local tax revenue, and creates 411,000 direct jobs, accounting for \$15.8 billion in salary and wages. However, habitat loss, invasive species, and other challenges are leading to rapid decline of many fish and wildlife on which this industry depends. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will protect this critical economic engine and reap benefits tenfold. Its passage has the potential to create between 23,800 and 33,600 jobs every year, while adding 3.36 billion of national economic output. All of this would lead to a net positive gain of \$1.96 billion annually to the Gross Domestic Product.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act has acquired nearly 200 bipartisan cosponsors in the U.S. House and enjoys a broad base of support in Texas. Now, we need a Senate champion who understands that Americans from all walks of life are supportive of investments in our natural heritage. Please introduce the Recovering America's Wildlife Act – it will benefit industry, business, agriculture, outdoor recreation, and quality of life of all Texans – something we need now more than ever.

Sincerely,