

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice  
Science and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert, Chairman Culberson, Ranking Member McCollum, and Ranking Member Serrano:

As you begin to consider fiscal year 2019 Interior and Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations, we urge you to support robust funding for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing, planning and consultation, species conservation and restoration, and recovery process.

In enacting the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Congress recognized that imperiled species of wildlife, fish, and plants “are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) employ, to great effect, a suite of mechanisms to carry out the law’s aim of conserving endangered and threatened species and the habitat upon which they depend. Their efforts have successfully prevented the extinction of 99 percent of all species listed as threatened or endangered under the Act.

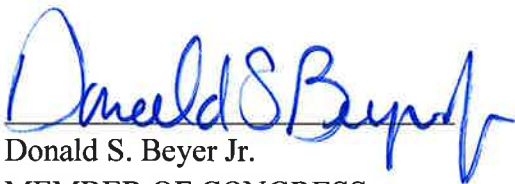
However, developing, coordinating, implementing, and managing all the recovery tools and partner activities in a cohesive and effective manner for species’ recovery requires significant commitment and resources. Strong funding for Ecological Services supports FWS’s work with

partners at the state and local level both to recover listed species and to conserve candidate species and their habitats so that the need for listing is reduced or even eliminated. Similarly, funding for NMFS Protected Resources Science and Management program is crucial for the protection and recovery of imperiled marine species.

The need for increased recovery funding is evident from the nearly 400 U.S. listed species that lack recovery plans. Congressional appropriations for both recovery and consultation, already insufficient, have not kept pace with the number of listed species. Inadequate funding not only puts at risk the recovery of threatened and endangered species and conservation of their habitats; it also impedes FWS and NMFS's ability to apply the best scientific knowledge available in a timely review of listing decisions for species in need of protection. If Congress does not provide the funding increases necessary for FWS and NMFS to carry out their statutory obligations, the agencies may face greater exposure to litigation. More importantly, our Nation could lose even more of our precious wildlife heritage.

We request robust funding for ESA listing, planning and consultation, species conservation and restoration, and recovery in FY 2019. This is critical to recover and conserve our Nation's imperiled species and ultimately protect America's natural heritage.

Sincerely,



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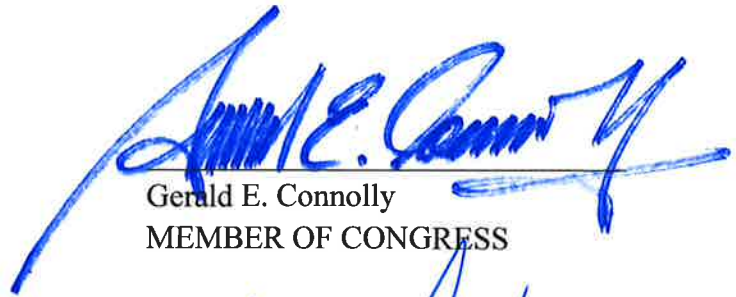
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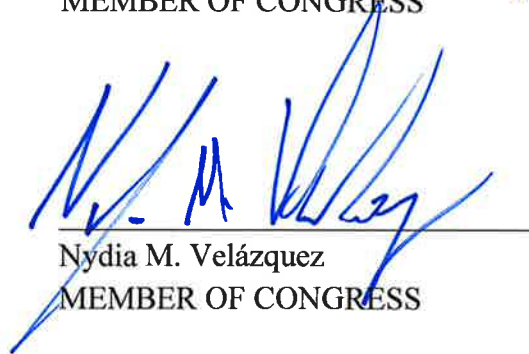
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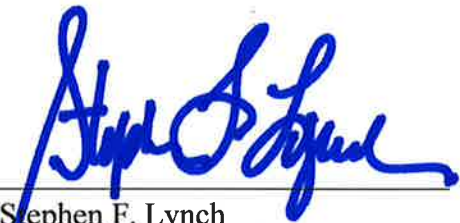
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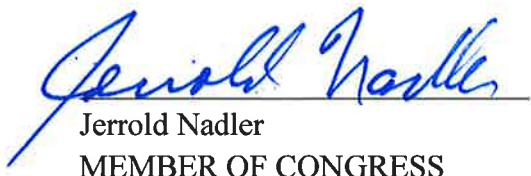
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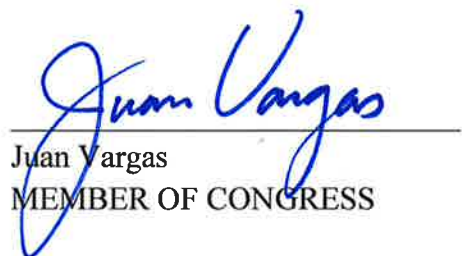
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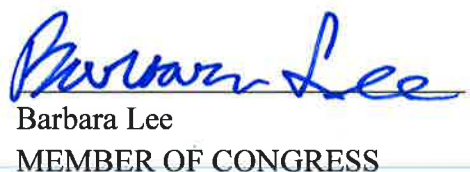
  
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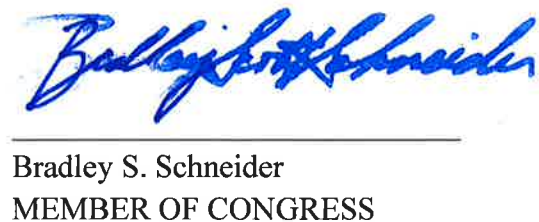
  
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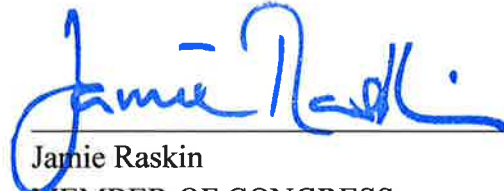
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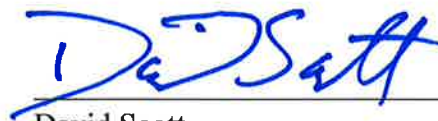
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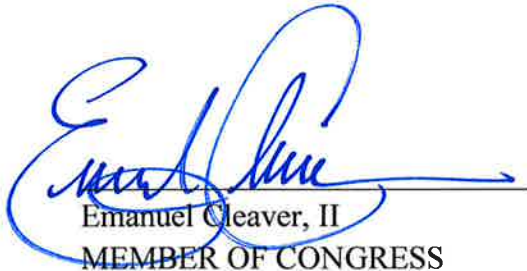
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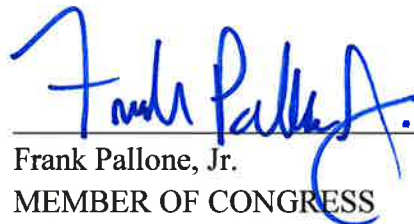
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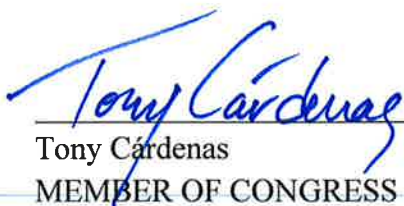
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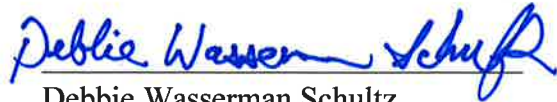
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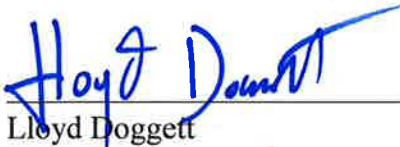
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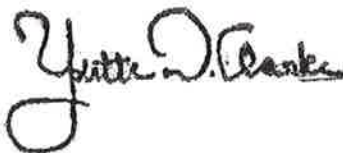
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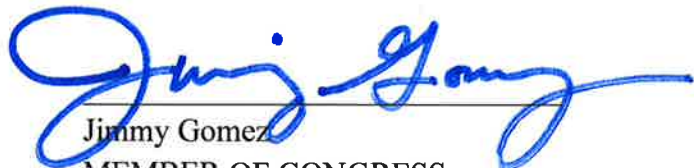
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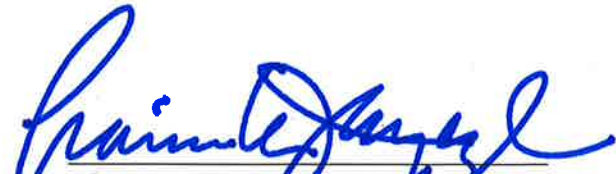


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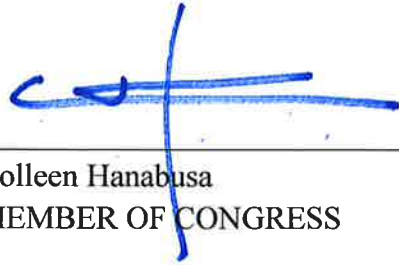
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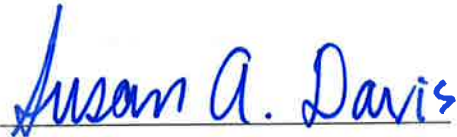
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