



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

National Advocacy Center
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The Honorable Don Beyer
The House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

December 2nd, 2016

Dear Representative Beyer,

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is writing to thank you for introducing the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2016 (WCCA). Across America, wildlife habitat is being broken up, lost and degraded, leaving many wildlife populations with fewer, smaller, and more isolated habitat areas. Habitat fragmentation is limiting the ability of migratory species to move from one area to another, and is undermining the genetic integrity of many increasingly isolated populations. In addition, climate change increasingly is affecting the nation's species and ecosystems, and poorly planned development and incompatible land uses are creating barriers for these species to track climatic shifts.

The recreation opportunities and economies that depend on wildlife also suffer when animal movements are restricted. Animals need to be able to move through the landscape to feed, breed, survive harsh seasonal weather, and ultimately thrive. Many hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching opportunities depend on thriving, mobile wildlife populations.

For all of these reasons, maintaining and enhancing connections and corridors among core wildlife habitat is essential for sustaining the nation's rich diversity of plant and animal species now and into the future. By creating a system of national wildlife corridors, this bill will help to provide the necessary coordination to protect and restore America's wildlife, while building more resilient natural landscapes.

NWF's mission is to *unite all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world*. As an organization of sportsmen and women and outdoor enthusiasts, we consider it imperative to reverse the decline of the full array of our native wildlife, both game and non-game species.

Protecting, restoring, and connecting the core habitats on which wildlife depend is key to accomplishing that mission. Accordingly, NWF enthusiastically supports establishment of a robust national program for recognizing and protecting important migratory corridors, and more broadly for maintaining and enhancing ecological connectivity.

Wildlife don't observe property lines, and can't easily cross a freeway bisecting their historic migration route. It's up to us to help them by conserving and connecting their habitat, thereby ensuring the health of future wildlife populations, and the continuation of our hunting and angling traditions. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you on wildlife corridors legislation in the 115th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Lyon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jim Lyon
Vice President, Conservation Policy
National Wildlife Federation