



October 13, 2021

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Support for Recovering America's Wildlife Act; S.2372**

As New Hampshire conservation organizations, we deeply appreciate your long-standing support for federal policies that support environmental protection in our state. We write at this time to urge that you sign on as a co-sponsor for the recently introduced Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S.2372, hereafter RAWA). This important legislation provides permanent funding to support the nation's wildlife species most in need of conservation and their habitats as determined by each state's State Wildlife Action Plan. While funds for this Act would come from the Treasury General Fund, the proposed annual funding level is based on the \$1.4B in civil and criminal penalties, fines, sanctions, and similar federal revenues levied annually against violators of environmental and natural resources laws and regulations.

As of this writing, 28 Senators have co-sponsored RAWA, including 13 Democrats and 14 Republicans from all corners of our nation. This bipartisan bill is a shining example of shared values, despite the currently challenging divided government – we all care about wildlife and our nation's natural environment.

This legislation would support strategies developed in each State Wildlife Action Plan, which ensures local determination of the highest priorities for wildlife conservation and local control of implementation. Projects could be as wide ranging as aquatic restoration, habitat protection, outdoor recreation, and environmental education, as well as inventory and monitoring of at-risk species and research to identify reasons for population declines. The recent decision of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to declare 23 species extinct underscores the urgent need for effective actions both to recover declining species and to keep common species common. This Act provides the means to implement such actions.

Your support of funding for the existing State Wildlife Grants program has enabled steady, but incremental progress toward recovery of some of New Hampshire's most threatened wildlife species, including the New England Cottontail.

We hope you will consider adding your name to the growing list of co-sponsors. If you have any questions or concerns, and if we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to arrange a ZOOM discussion with partners in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely:

Doug Bechtel  
President  
NH Audubon

Jack Savage  
President  
Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Jim O'Brien  
External Affairs Director  
The Nature Conservancy, NH

Susan Arnold  
Vice President, Conservation  
Appalachian Mountain Club



October 13, 2021

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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