



National Wildlife Federation

Headquarters

11100 Wildlife Center Drive | Reston, VA 20190

202-797-6800 | www.nwf.org

December 5th, 2018

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Don Beyer
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Udall and Congressman Beyer,

On behalf of our six million members and supporters across the country, the National Wildlife Federation would like to offer our gratitude and support for your leadership on the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2018. As one of the oldest and largest conservation organizations in the United States, we advocate for issues that ensure wildlife continue to survive and thrive in a changing world. Wildlife corridors, and habitat connectivity initiatives in general, are one of the most important conservation tools we can employ as a nation in order to ensure wildlife continue to have access to the resources they need.

This legislation is an important step toward overcoming the challenges wildlife managers face today. Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation are making it increasingly difficult for wildlife to move in a changing world. Wildlife connectivity projects offer important opportunities for federal, state, and tribal land managers to overcome these barriers. This bill will also increase collaboration between these stakeholders, something that is critical for building support for wildlife conservation moving forward.

As an organization that represents hundreds of thousands of hunters and anglers, and millions of outdoor enthusiasts, we appreciate your efforts to ensure important species and outdoor opportunities withstand the challenges facing wildlife managers so that future generations can enjoy the same experiences. In 2016, 101.6 million Americans enjoyed some form of fishing, hunting or wildlife-associated recreation. These outdoor pastimes contributed over \$156.3 billion to the US economy, creating jobs for local communities. Threats to wildlife equate to threats to this booming outdoor economy, and proactive conservation legislation will ensure this economy continues to flourish.

The Wildlife Movement Grant Program will help fund connectivity projects around the country, such as wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation projects. Wildlife crossings, roadside fencing, culverts and other structures can reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, which will protect wildlife, cut costs from vehicle damage, and save human lives. Under-road culverts can help all species safely cross the road and ensure better access to habitat. Trout, turtles, and salamanders can all benefit from better culverts.

Corridors on public lands will help ensure wildlife are able to migrate across large distances, and will help them to better track range shifts as their habitat is altered by a changing climate. Preparing for the challenges wildlife will face in the future is the type of innovative, forward thinking policy we need from our national leaders.

The National Wildlife Federation deeply appreciates your leadership in overcoming the challenges wildlife and land managers face, and we hope to work with you in the future on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Collin O'Mara', written in a cursive style.

Collin O'Mara

President and Chief Executive Officer

National Wildlife Federation