

July 21, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

**The 155 undersigned Bird Conservation Alliance partner organizations** are writing to share our collective thoughts regarding the recently released text of the House Appropriations bills for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (IERA), Department of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS), and the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOP).

**Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (IERA)**

We want to first thank you for preserving funding in the IERA bill for migratory bird conservation programs including the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and the North American Wetland Conservation Fund. These programs fund grants that conserve critical habitat, facilitate partnerships, and advance bird conservation research. We are also grateful for the increase to State and Tribal Wildlife Grants proposed in the bill.

At the same time, we are concerned with proposed cuts to federal agencies and programs which provide bird conservation funding, program assistance, and scientific knowledge including the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the US Geological Survey (USGS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Additionally, there are many of the riders in the bill that concern us. In particular, we are troubled by those that would undermine the rigorous Endangered Species Act listing process and the best available science for species conservation.

**Department of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)**

We are deeply concerned by the topline cut to NOAA's budget. Specifically, we strongly oppose cuts to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the National Ocean Service (NOS), and the Office for Coastal Management. NMFS helps mitigate bycatch, including of seabirds, and ensures fish stocks are healthy. National Marine Sanctuaries, which are managed under NOS, provide habitat for birds and recreational opportunities for the public. Collectively, these NOAA programs are integral to seabirds, fisheries, and the health of coastal and island communities.

**State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOP)**

**Contact**

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We were pleased to see \$100 million allocated for the U.S. Foundation for International Conservation in the SFOP appropriations bill. These funds will help kickstart the foundation, advancing conservation that benefits wildlife and communities globally. We appreciate the bipartisanship that has made this new source of conservation funding possible and look forward to watching the foundation grow over the next 10 years.

### **Conclusion**

We thank you again for upholding funds for bird conservation. We urge you to protect these programs in the final bills. These programs are:

#### **IERA**

- \$5M for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
- \$49M for North American Wetland Conservation Fund
- \$73.8M for State and Tribal Wildlife Assistance Grants

#### **SFOP**

- \$100M for the U.S. Foundation for International Conservation

Additionally, we urge you to OPPOSE topline funding cuts to the following agencies:

- FWS
- USGS
- EPA
- NOAA

Finally, please OPPOSE all riders that undermine science and species conservation:

- Sec. 116 - No ESA listing for Greater or bi-state sage grouse
- Sec. 117 - No funds can be used to carry out the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment for Draft EIS for Greater Sage-Grouse
- Sec. 126 - Blocks the listing of the Lesser Prairie-chicken and undermines both government process and scientific integrity
- Sec. 134 - Blocks ESA rules relating to economic consideration during listing, unoccupied critical habitat, historical baseline, and the blanket 4(d) rule, among others, undermining government processes
- Sec. 136 - Blocks implementation of BLM Conservation and Landscape Health Rule
- Sec. 138 - Cottonwood: blocks the ability to update a forest management plan when a listed species or its critical habitat are described within forest boundaries
- Sec. 429 - Increase biomass energy production from National Forests
- Sec. 453 - Prevents states from being able to protect themselves from toxic chemicals when the federal agency has fallen short
- Sec. 503 - Blocks expansion of Muleshoe NWR in Texas, an important habitat for the Lesser Prairie-chicken



Sincerely,

Alabama Audubon  
Alabama Ornithological Society  
Allamakee County Protectors - Education Fund  
Alliance for the Wild Rockies  
American Bird Conservancy  
American Ornithological Society  
Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos - ECOAN / Acción Andina  
Associação de Pesquisa e Preservação de Ecossistemas Aquáticos - Aquasis  
Audubon Society of Kalamazoo  
Audubon Society of Western PA  
Baltimore Bird Club  
Bird Conservation Network  
Birds Georgia  
BirdsCaribbean  
Black Canyon Audubon Society  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
Blue Ridge Wildlife Center  
Bozeman Birders  
Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
Chicago Ornithological Society  
Christian Council of Delmarva  
Christians For The Mountains City Wildlife  
Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance (formerly Lane Audubon)  
Conservation Biology Institute  
Conservation Northwest  
Delaware Audubon  
Delaware Valley Ornithological Club  
Delaware Valley Raptor Center  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society (NY)  
Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC  
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society  
Endangered Habitats League  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environment for the Americas

Environmental Protection Information Center- EPIC  
Envirosapes Ecological Consulting, LLC  
Evergreen Audubon  
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety  
Fort Worth Audubon Society  
FOUR PAWS USA  
Friends of Dyke Marsh  
Friends of Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
Friends of the Boundary Mountains (Maine)  
Fyke Nature Association  
Gallatin Wildlife Association  
Georgia Bird Observatory  
Golden Gate Bird Alliance  
Habitats.org  
Halifax River Audubon  
Hilton Head Audubon  
Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History  
Howling For Wolves  
Indiana Audubon  
IndiGo Birding Nature Tours  
International Crane Foundation  
JazzSLAM  
Jeepney Projects  
Kalmia Gardens  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
KlamBlog  
Lehigh Valley Audubon Society  
Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Louisiana Audubon Council  
Louisville Audubon Society  
Lynnhaven River NOW



Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center  
Maine Audubon  
Manistee Audubon Society  
Manomet Conservation Sciences  
Maryland Ornithological Society  
Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project  
Michigan Audubon Society  
Missouri River Bird Observatory  
Montgomery Bird Club  
Nashville Chapter of The Tennessee  
Ornithological Society  
Nature Conservancy  
Nature Forward  
New Mexico Audubon Council  
New York State Ornithological  
Association  
North American Climate, Conservation  
and Environment (NACCE)  
North Cascades Audubon  
Northern New York Audubon  
Northern Virginia Bird Alliance  
NY4Whales  
NYC Bird Alliance  
NYC Plover Project  
One Hundred Miles  
Orleans Audubon Society  
Pacifica Shorebird Alliance  
Palomar Audubon  
Paso Pacifico  
Peoria Audubon Society  
Pilchuck Audubon Society (WA State)  
Presque Isle Audubon Society  
Prince George's Audubon Society  
Project Eleven Hundred  
Rachel Carson Council  
Raptors Are The Solution  
Rock Creek Alliance  
Rockbridge Bird Club  
Safe Skies Maryland  
Salem Audubon Society  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
San Diego Bird Alliance

Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance  
Santa Cruz Bird Club  
Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society  
Save Our Cabinets  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Saw Mill River Audubon  
Sea and Sage Audubon Society  
Sequoia Forestkeeper  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society  
Society for Conservation Biology North  
America  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
SOH CONSERVACION  
Songbirdsaver.org  
Sonoma County Climate Activist  
Network (SoCoCAN!)  
South Florida Wildlands Association  
South Sound Bird Alliance  
Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory  
Southeastern Avian Research  
Southern Maryland Audubon Society  
Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance  
Space Coast Audubon Society  
St. Louis Audubon Society  
Sycamore Audubon Society, West  
Lafayette IN  
Tampa Audubon Society  
Tennessee Naturalist Program  
Tennessee Ornithological Society  
TEXAS POLLINATOR POWWOW  
The Connecticut Audubon Society  
The Safina Center  
The Trumpeter Swan Society  
The Urban Wildlands Group  
The Zoological Lighting Institute  
Tracy Aviary  
Tree Fredericksburg  
Umpqua Watersheds  
Valley Forge Audubon Society  
Virginia Alliance for Animal Shelters  
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Chapter  
Wichita Audubon Society



Wild Cumberland  
Wildbirds in Northern Kentucky, Inc.  
WildEarth Guardians  
Wildlife Forever

Willistown Conservation Trust  
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology  
Words for Birds

