HEIDI SWANK ASSEMBLYWOMAN District No. 16

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## State of Nevada Assembly

September 25, 2018

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto U.S. Senator 204 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING: 401 South Carson Street

Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Office: (775) 684-8594 Fax No.: (775) 684-8533 Email: Heidi.Swank@asm.state.nv.us www.leg.state.nv.us

The Honorable Dina Titus
U.S. Representative
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jacky Rosen U.S. Representative 413 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dean Heller United States Senator 324 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Amodei U.S. Representative 332 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ruben Kihuen U.S. Representative 313 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (House of Representatives Bill 4647 [H.R. 4647], 115<sup>th</sup> Congress)

Dear Senators and Members of Congress:

As you are aware, the Legislative Committee on Public Lands spends the 18 months between legislative sessions studying policies and issues related to the management of state and federal lands in Nevada. The Committee travels throughout the state and listens to citizen concerns and receives testimony from local elected officials, agency personnel, interest groups, and private organizations.

Based on overwhelming support from the public, agencies, and members, the Legislative Committee on Public Lands voted unanimously to send this letter urging your support of the bipartisan H.R. 4647 (Recovering America's Wildlife Act), introduced on December 17, 2017, by Representatives Fortenberry (R-NE-01) and Dingell (D-Ml-12), and currently with 93 co-sponsors (44 republicans, 49 democrats). This bill implements the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources that included broad representation from the nation's leading outdoor recreation, retail and manufacturing sector, the



energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, sportsmen, conservation groups, and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies.

As proposed in H.R. 4647, the Panel recommended Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion annually of existing revenues from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters for state-led, proactive wildlife conservation, resulting in the State of Nevada receiving more than \$27 million annually to manage, protect, and conserve wildlife and implement the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan. It is the Committee's understanding there are 256 species and 22 key habitats prioritized in Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan. A companion bill, Senate Bill 3223, has also been introduced by Senators Risch (R-ID), Manchin (D-WV), Alexander (R-TN), and Heitkamp (D-ND).

Consistent with the recommendations of Senate Joint Resolution 13, passed by the Nevada Legislature during the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, the Legislative Committee on Public Lands urges your support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R. 4647.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Committee Policy Analyst, Alysa Keller (775/684-6825; <u>Alysa Keller@lcb.state.nv.us</u>), if you have any questions, require additional information, or wish to provide a reply to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair

Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands

HS:njp/W182444