

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
H-204  
Washington, D.C.

June 29, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned hunting, angling, outdoor recreation, and conservation organizations representing millions of Americans support numerous provisions contained in H.R. 2, The Moving Forward Act. These provisions include sound investments in surface transportation, water quality, natural infrastructure, climate adaptation, and habitat restoration across the nation. Such policies and programs will serve to energize the American economy by committing much-needed resources to improving the health of our natural ecosystems and enhancing public safety. We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for these policies and look forward to working with you to ensure they continue to be part of a bipartisan and bicameral effort on infrastructure.

Conservationists have long supported funding for constructing wildlife crossings in order to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions. As such, we are encouraged to see the inclusion of language from the INVEST in America Act in the base text of H.R. 2, specifically:

- Sec. 1201 – Expands eligibility for the National Highway Performance Program to include resiliency improvements, natural infrastructure, and wildlife crossings.
- Sec. 1307 – The Rebuild Rural grant program makes investments in improving transportation safety on federal lands, as well as wildlife-vehicle crossings.
- Sec. 1620 – This requirement to set aside a portion of NHPP funding for projects that reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions guarantees that every state will have access to funding to support the development of these innovative structures.
- Sec. 5107 – The authorization of continued studies of the impact of wildlife-vehicle collisions and habitat connectivity is essential to measure the success of wildlife crossings and to identify best practices to expand and improve upon their effectiveness.

Our community has long advocated for investments in natural infrastructure, water quality and drought resilience as a means of building resilience and restoring and protecting our nation's wildlife, landscapes, and the people that enjoy them. To that end, we appreciate the robust definitions of "natural infrastructure" and "resilience" provided in the bill in Sec. 1103 and believe that the provisions below are essential to restoration and resiliency initiatives and support their inclusion in H.R. 2.

- Sec. 1202 – The establishment of a pre-disaster mitigation program is an investment that will assist with the construction of resilience improvements, including natural infrastructure and protective features, on existing, eligible roadways.
- Sec. 21004 – This appropriation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – and in particular the \$500 million for water-related environmental infrastructure projects - is critical in completing a backlog of authorized projects that will improve water quality, and resiliency, and to address operation and maintenance needs for existing projects.
- Sec. 22103 – The inclusion of these funds to support state water quality improvement efforts will directly strengthen Section 106 of the Clean Water Act.
- Sec. 22109 – Requiring that 15% of Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grant dollars be set-aside for green infrastructure or efficiency projects will support more efficient water delivery and use nationally.

- Sec. 22113 – This increase in funding and the 15% dedicated to green infrastructure projects for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund will ensure water quality improvements across the nation.
- Sec. 22201 – The reauthorization of the nonpoint source management program is a critical investment in maintaining and improving water quality, supporting federal, state, and tribal NPS management projects.
- Sections 22301 – 22306 – These place-based authorizations and reauthorizations, including the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, are essential to support the ongoing work watershed recovery efforts.
- Sections 81201—81252 and 81301—81335 – These Western Water and Drought Resiliency authorizations set out a balanced approach to providing 21st century western water infrastructure, water supply security, and ecological resiliency.

In addition to Sec. 1202 highlighted above, we also support Title III and the creation of a Resilience Revolving Loan Fund authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to work with states and tribes to establish hazard mitigation revolving loan funds to carry out projects to reduce disaster risk in order to decrease the loss of life and property, the cost of insurance claims, and federal disaster payments.

Outdoor recreationists are committed to expanding access to and improving the condition of natural landscapes. We appreciate the inclusion of the following sections that expand Americans' ability to enjoy our public lands.

- Sections 24001 – 24005 – These provisions, including the Sport Fish Restoration, Recreational Boating Safety, and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2020 along with other critical authorizations and reauthorizations to support sport fishing and recreational boating are forward-thinking steps to expand access to and safety on our nation's waterways.
- Sections 82201 – 82206 – The Outdoors for All Act is a smart investment to improve access to greenspace and develop and improve recreational infrastructure in traditionally underserved communities.
- Sec. 82401 – The Forest Service Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Program is a top priority for the conservation community. We encourage inclusion of this provision, as well as future increases in funding to support USFS legacy roads maintenance initiatives.
- Sec. 83101 – This establishment of a coastal resiliency fund will support the funding of restoration projects that not only restore critical habitat, but also serve to protect communities from a changing climate. These projects, managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA, will simultaneously provide economic stimulus for coastal economies while investing in the future resiliency of coastal landscapes.
- Sec. 83102 – Living shoreline projects are another critical investment in climate resiliency and adaptation, and we strongly support this authorization.
- Sections 84401 – 84412 – The inclusion of the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act in H.R. 2 represents an innovative approach to promoting the development of renewable energy projects while investing in our public lands. The revenue from these projects, via the establishment of the Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund, will be essential to maintaining federal facilities.

We greatly appreciate your work and the work of your colleagues and staff in recognizing the value of conservation to the American taxpayer, natural environment, and outdoor way of life. The inclusion of the aforementioned provisions in H.R. 2 are an important step in ensuring that American infrastructure meets the needs of our communities, natural resources, and the outdoor recreation of millions of Americans. We look forward to working with you to ensure that these long-sought priorities are ultimately reflected in law.

Sincerely,  
American Sportfishing Association  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Ducks Unlimited  
Environmental Defense Fund  
National Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Federation  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited

CC:

The Honorable Raul Grijalva; Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Rob Bishop; Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Peter DeFazio; Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
The Honorable Sam Graves; Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee