ACL Inc * Alaska Wilderness League * Alliance for the Wild Rockies * American Bird Conservancy * American Forests * American Rivers * Americas for Conservation + the Arts * Animal Protection Voters * Animal Welfare Institute * Azul * BARK * Berkshire Environmental Action Team * Born Free USA * Buffalo Field Campaign * Butte Environmental Council * California Native Plant Society * California Wolf Center * Californians for Western Wilderness * Cascadia Wildlands * Center for Biological Diversity * Center for Food Safety * Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists * Citizen Action New Mexico * Clean Water Action * CNPS, Yerba Buena Chapter * Colorado Native Plant Society * Conservation Congress * Conservation Council for Hawai'I * Conservation Northwest * Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship * Cornell Lab of Ornithology * Craighead Institute * Defenders of Wildlife * Doris Day Animal League * Earthjustice * Earthworks * Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research * Endangered Habitats League * Endangered Species Coalition * Endangered Wolf Center * Environmental Defense Fund * Environmental Protection Information Center * Federated Conservationists of Westchester County * Florida Native Plant Society * Friends of Bell Smith Springs * Friends of the Bitterroot * Friends of Whitehaven Park * Friends of the Wild Swan * Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf and Wildlife * Gallatin Wildlife Association * Golden Gate Audubon Soc, SF, CA * Grand Canyon Trust * Grand Canyon Wildlands Council * Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project * Great Old Broads for Wilderness * Greater Yellowstone Coalition * GreenLatinos * Greenpeace * Heartwood * Hells Canyon Preservation Council * Hoosier Environmental Council * Howling For Wolves * Humane Society International * Humane Society Legislative Fund * Humane Society of the United States * Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust * Idaho Conservation League * International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute * Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society * Kinikinnick Native Plant Society * Klamath Forest Alliance * KS Wild * La Madre Tierra * League of Conservation Voters * League of Humane Voters® - Florida Chapter * League of Humane Voters® - Georgia Chapter * League of Humane Voters® - New Jersey Chapter * League of Humane Voters® - New York Chapter * League of Humane Voters® - Ohio Chapter * League of Humane Voters® - Wisconsin Chapter * Living with Wolves * Los Padres ForestWatch * Mission Wolf * Missouri Wildlife Rescue Center * Montana Native Plant Society * National Audubon Society * National Wolfwatcher Coalition * Native Plant Conservation Campaign * Natural Resources Defense Council * Nature Abounds * NE Oregon Ecosystems * North Cascades Conservation Council * North Coast Rivers Alliance * Northern Jaguar Project * Oceana * Oklahoma Native Plant Society * Orca Behavior Institute * Orca Network * Oregon Wild * Pacific Beach Coalition * Pacifica Shorebird Alliance * Predator Defense * Progressive Congress * Project Coyote * Raptors Are the Solution * Red Wolf Coalition * RESTORE: The North Woods * Rocky Mountain Wild * Round River Conservation Studies * SandyHook SeaLife Foundation * San Francisco Estuary Partnership * Save Our Sky Blue Waters * Save our Wild Salmon * SAVE THE FROGS! * Sequoia ForestKeeper * Sierra Club * Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College * Sky Island Alliance * Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment * Southern Resident Killer Whale Chinook Salmon Initiative * Speak Up For Wildlife Foundation * The Cougar Fund * The Enviro Show * The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs * The Rewilding Institute * The Shawnee Forest Sentinels * The Southwest Environmental Center * The Urban Wildlands Group * The Walden Woods Project * The Wisconsin Conservation Political Activity Committee (WC-PAC) * The Wolf Mountain Nature Center * Turtle Island Restoration Network * Tucson Audubon Society * University of California-Davis Arboretum * Upper Gila Watershed Alliance * Ventana Wilderness

Alliance * Virginia Native Plant Society * Voces Verdes * Western Environmental Law Center * Western Watersheds Project * Western Wildlife Conservancy * Whale and Dolphin Conservation * Whibdey Environmental Action Network * White Mountain Conservation League * Wild Utah Project * WildEarth Guardians * Wilderness Watch * Wilderness Workshop * Wildlands Network * Wildlife Alliance of Maine * Wildlife Center of Virginia * Wisconsin Wolf Defenders * Wolf Conservation Center * Wolf Haven International * Wolves of Douglas County Wisconsin * Wolves of the Rockies * World Wildlife Fund * Wyoming Untrapped * Wyoming Wildlife Advocates * Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation * Yellowstone to Uintas Connection * Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

November 18, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters throughout the United States, the undersigned organizations write to urge you to reject all riders on final spending legislation for Fiscal Year 2016 that would undermine the Endangered Species Act and put individual species at risk of extinction. While there are numerous anti-environmental riders we oppose due to their effects on air quality, water quality and human health, this letter focuses on those riders that would weaken the Endangered Species Act.

The Endangered Species Act remains the most important law our nation has ever passed to protect species at risk of extinction. It has been tremendously effective at safeguarding species and placing them on the path to recovery. In its 42 years, the Endangered Species Act has prevented the extinction of 99 percent of the species placed under its protection. The Endangered Species Act is also one of the most popular conservation laws. According to a June 2015 poll, 90 percent of American voters support the Endangered Species Act.[1]

In spite of this bedrock environmental law's tremendous success and its popularity with the American public, some members of Congress are determined to weaken the Act primarily for the benefit of polluting industries that contribute to climate change and harm our planet. One U.S. Representative even announced recently that he would like to see the Endangered Species Act repealed.[2] More than 85 legislative proposals have already been introduced in this Congress to weaken this vital law. Each of these measures, including the record number of riders currently on the Interior appropriations bills, undermines the Endangered Species Act.

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[1] National poll conducted by Tulchin Research, July 2015, *available at* http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/PollingMemoNationalESASurvey.pdf

[2] Television interview with Congressman Valadao (R-CA), June 2015, *available at* http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/drought/Congressman-Valadao-joins-Eyewitness-News-to-talk-drought-309607701.html

The House of Representatives voted to include numerous riders that weaken the overall implementation of the Endangered Species Act on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2016. These riders remove necessary protections for species at risk of extinction, prevent future protection for imperiled species, limit citizens' ability to enforce the government's legal obligations under the Act, and automatically remove protections for species if the appropriate federal wildlife agency fails to complete its 5-year review on time. These proposals run counter to the Endangered Species Act's science-based process to protect all wildlife, plants, and fish in danger of extinction. The Senate Interior appropriations bill contains three of the same riders that attack protections for gray wolves, sage grouse, and the lesser prairie chicken. Enactment of any of these riders would be damaging to the species involved and contribute to the unraveling of the Endangered Species Act and the decades' worth of protections that have saved species like the bald eagle, gray whale, and American alligator from extinction.

The conservation challenges America faces today are far greater and more complex than they were when the Endangered Species Act was enacted over four decades ago. We face the reality of climate change and other enormous threats to our planet's biodiversity—which in turn threaten our own survival as a species. Scientists predict that as many as 30 to 50 percent of all species could be heading toward extinction by mid-century.[3] Clearly, now is not the time to weaken the best tool our nation has to combat the planet's sixth great wave of extinction.

As your Administration works with Congress to negotiate the Fiscal Year 2016 omnibus appropriations bill, we urge you to flatly reject all riders that undermine the Endangered Species Act in any way, including weakening or preventing protection for specific species. These harmful measures have no place in the appropriations context and only serve to chip away at one of America's most popular and effective environmental laws. We look forward to working with your Administration to uphold the Endangered Species Act, continuing the legacy of conservation for which this great country is known.

Respectfully,

ACL Inc
Alaska Wilderness League
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
American Bird Conservancy
American Forests
American Rivers
Americas for Conservation + the Arts
Animal Protection Voters
Animal Welfare Institute
Azul
BARK

[3] *Ibid.* and Thomas, C. D., A. Cameron, R. E. Green, M. Bakkenes, L. J. Beaumont, Y. C. Collingham, B. F. N. Erasmus, M. Ferreira de Siqueira, A. Grainger, Lee Hannah, L. Hughes, Brian Huntley, A. S. van Jaarsveld, G. F. Midgley, L. Miles, M. A. Ortega-Huerta, A. Townsend Peterson, O. L. Phillips, and S. E. Williams. 2004. Extinction risk from climate change. *Nature* 427: 145–148.

Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Born Free USA
Buffalo Field Campaign
Butte Environmental Council
California Native Plant Society
California Wolf Center
Californians for Western Wilderness
Cascadia Wildlands
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Food Safety
Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists
Citizen Action New Mexico
Clean Water Action
CNPS, Yerba Buena Chapter
Colorado Native Plant Society
Conservation Congress
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Conservation Northwest
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Craighead Institute
Defenders of Wildlife
Doris Day Animal League
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
Endangered Wolf Center
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Protection Information Center
Federated Conservationists of Westchester County
Florida Native Plant Society
Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Friends of the Bitterroot
Friends of Whitehaven Park
Friends of the Wild Swan
Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf and Wildlife
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Golden Gate Audubon Soc, SF, CA
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace
Heartwood

Hells Canyon Preservation Council
Hoosier Environmental Council
Howling For Wolves
Humane Society International
Humane Society Legislative Fund
Humane Society of the United States
Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust
Idaho Conservation League
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society
Kinikinnick Native Plant Society
Klamath Forest Alliance
KS Wild
La Madre Tierra
League of Conservation Voters
League of Humane Voters® - Florida Chapter
League of Humane Voters® - Georgia Chapter
League of Humane Voters® - New Jersey Chapter
League of Humane Voters® - New York Chapter
League of Humane Voters® - Ohio Chapter
League of Humane Voters® - Wisconsin Chapter
Living with Wolves
Los Padres ForestWatch
Mission Wolf
Missouri Wildlife Rescue Center
Montana Native Plant Society
National Audubon Society
National Wolfwatcher Coalition
Native Plant Conservation Campaign
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Abounds
NE Oregon Ecosystems
North Cascades Conservation Council
North Coast Rivers Alliance
Northern Jaguar Project
Oceana
Oklahoma Native Plant Society
Orca Behavior Institute
Orca Network
Oregon Wild
Pacific Beach Coalition
Pacifica Shorebird Alliance
Predator Defense
Progressive Congress
Project Coyote
Raptors Are the Solution
Red Wolf Coalition
RESTORE: The North Woods

Rocky Mountain Wild
Round River Conservation Studies
SandyHook SeaLife Foundation
San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Save our Wild Salmon
SAVE THE FROGS!
Sequoia ForestKeeper
Sierra Club
Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College
Sky Island Alliance
Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment
Southern Resident Killer Whale Chinook Salmon Initiative
Speak Up For Wildlife Foundation
The Cougar Fund
The Enviro Show
The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
The Rewilding Institute
The Shawnee Forest Sentinels
The Southwest Environmental Center
The Urban Wildlands Group
The Walden Woods Project
The Wisconsin Conservation Political Activity Committee (WC-PAC)
The Wolf Mountain Nature Center
Turtle Island Restoration Network
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Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
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Voces Verdes
Western Environmental Law Center
Western Watersheds Project
Western Wildlife Conservancy
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Whibdey Environmental Action Network
White Mountain Conservation League
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Watch
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlands Network
Wildlife Alliance of Maine
Wildlife Center of Virginia
Wisconsin Wolf Defenders
Wolf Conservation Center
Wolf Haven International
Wolves of Douglas County Wisconsin
Wolves of the Rockies

World Wildlife Fund
Wyoming Untrapped
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior
Mr. Brian Deese, Assistant to the President & Senior Advisor from the Office of the Chief of Staff
Mr. Shaun L.S. Donovan, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Ms. Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service