

January 30, 2019

**Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act**

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop:

On behalf of our organizations, we strongly encourage the Committee to take up the “Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act” introduced by Reps. John Garamendi (D-CA) and Don Young (R-AK). This bipartisan bill will advance Congress’s leadership in tackling the black-market trade in illegal wildlife and seafood products, which is the fourth most lucrative global crime.

The Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act will strengthen federal enforcement, engage whistleblowers in the fight to bring down global trafficking rings, and provide dedicated funding for wildlife conservation *at no expense to American taxpayers*. The bill includes enforcement provisions passed by the House in November 2015 by voice vote, which will empower federal law enforcement to combat the growing wildlife trafficking trade linked to transnational criminal organizations and even terrorist groups. Wildlife trafficking, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing generates billions in illicit profits each year for groups responsible for human rights abuses, weapons and narcotics trafficking, and political corruption. We urge you to move this important legislation forward, with a hearing and markup in the Committee this year. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this bipartisan bill.

Sincerely,

African Wildlife Foundation  
Animal Welfare Institute  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Earth Day Network  
Environmental Investigation Agency  
Humane Society International  
Humane Society Legislative Fund  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
Mission Blue/Sylvia Earle Alliance

National Whistleblower Center  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Oceana  
Panthera  
Sea Turtle Conservancy  
The Humane Society of the United States  
Thinking Animals United  
Vulcan, Inc.  
Wildlife Conservation Society