

NWC | NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER CENTER

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June 19, 2019

Chairman, Sen. James E. Risch, Chairman, and
Ranking Member, Sen. Bob Menendez
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6225

Chairman, Rep. Elliot Engel, and
Ranking Member, Rep. Michael McCaul
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Chairman, Rep. William Keating, and
Ranking Member, Rep. Adam Kinzinger
Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy and the Environment
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Dear Members of Congress,

The National Whistleblower Center is proud to support the Rescuing Animals with Rewards (RAWR) Act.

The Rescuing Animals with Rewards (RAWR) Act has been introduced on a bicameral, bipartisan basis. It will amend the [authorizing language](#) of the State Department's whistleblower rewards program, known as Rewards for Justice, to include wildlife trafficking.

In the House, the bill has been introduced as [H.R.97](#) and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the Senate, the bill has been introduced as [S.1590](#), and referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

This legislation could serve as another valuable tool in the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking and destruction. This is an additional avenue to pursue criminals who engage in wildlife trafficking, building on the existing body of law providing rewards that incentivize whistleblowers to step forward.

We applaud Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Susan Collins (R-ME) and Reps. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Dina Titus (D-NV) for their leadership in introducing and as original co-sponsors of the RAWR Act.

The whistleblower reward structure has been proven to work with decades of data. Whistleblower reward programs run by several different departments and agencies with enforcement capacity and subject-matter expertise, including the State Department, have brought

in billions of dollars into U.S. government coffers. Most importantly, whistleblowers are incentivized to come forward with high-quality information that can assist U.S. law enforcement agents gain information and stop criminals and criminal networks.

The RAWR Act is an important new step in enlisting whistleblowers to make the U.S. government more efficient and effective.

The National Whistleblower Center urges the leadership of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to take concrete steps in support of the RAWR Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kostyack", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Kostyack
Executive Director | National Whistleblower Center
whistleblowers.org