



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

National Advocacy Center
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January 23, 2017

Dear Senator:

The National Wildlife Federation is writing to express our support for Senate confirmation of Representative Ryan Zinke to serve as Secretary of the Interior. As an avid sportsmen and outdoor enthusiast, Representative Zinke understands the intrinsic wildlife and conservation values of the Nation's public lands that are held in trust for generations of all Americans.

During his confirmation hearing, Representative Zinke reiterated his adamant support for keeping public lands public, his commitment to rely on sound science for making natural resource management decisions, his support for investing in such programs as the Land and Water Conservation Fund to enhance and sustain public land, water, and wildlife habitat, and his focus on restoring habitat and reducing the National Parks' maintenance backlog. He has been a strong supporter of the State Wildlife Grants program and other collaborative, proactive efforts to prevent wildlife species from becoming threatened or endangered. These values are top priorities for the National Wildlife Federation's six million members and supporters. Conserving our public lands and improving their management are absolutely crucial to maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunting, angling and recreation opportunities, sustaining the country's \$646 billion outdoor recreation economy, safeguarding clean air and water, and helping impacted wildlife species from becoming endangered.

At the same time, we will seek opportunities to work with Mr. Zinke on how best to balance energy development decisions with key conservation priorities: recovering at-risk wildlife populations, protecting fragile wildlife habitat, increasing access for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation, reducing harmful climate-altering pollution, restoring damaged lands, and managing public lands to be more resilient in the face of a warming world.

Thank you for your stewardship of our nation's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Collin O'Mara
President and CEO
The National Wildlife Federation