

Alaska Wilderness Action * Appalachian Trail Conservancy * Association of Zoos and Aquariums * Azul * Banks of the Wabash * Blue Planet Strategies * California Native Plant Society * Center for American Progress * Center for Biological Diversity * Conservation International * Conservation Lands Foundation * Conservation Law Foundation * Conservation Voters of South Carolina * Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice * EcoFlight * Endangered Habitats League * Endangered Species Coalition * Environment America * Environmental Protection Information Center * Friends of the Earth * Friends of the Mariana Trench * Friends of the WI Wolf & Wildlife * Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance * Great Old Broads for Wilderness * Greater Hells Canyon Council * GreenLatinos * Greenpeace * Heartwood * Hispanic Access Foundation * Indiana Forest Alliance * Inland Ocean Coalition * International Fund for Animal Welfare * International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute * Klamath Forest Alliance * League of Conservation Voters * Los Padres ForestWatch * Marine Conservation Institute * Mission Blue * Monterey Bay Aquarium * Mystic Aquarium * National Aquarium * National Audubon Society * National Parks Conservation Association * National Wildlife Federation * Natural Resources Defense Council * New England Aquarium * New Mexico Wild * Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides * NY4WHALES * Ocean Conservancy * Oceana * Oceanic Preservation Society * Oregon Natural Desert Association * Pacific Environment * Predator Defense * Rocky Mountain Wild * Save the Manatee Club * Seattle Aquarium * Shedd Aquarium * Sierra Club * Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance * Surfrider Foundation * The Nature Conservancy * The Ocean Project * The Wilderness Society * Turtle Island Restoration Network * Unexpected Wildlife Refuge * Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center * WildEarth Guardians * Wildlands Network * Wildlife Conservation Society / New York Aquarium * Winter Wildlands Alliance * World Wildlife Fund

February 7, 2020

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our members and supporters, we urge you to cosponsor Representative Haaland's "Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature," H. Res. 835. This resolution calls on the federal government to establish a national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and 30 percent of the ocean of the United States by 2030. The resolution responds to scientific recommendations to help address the current extinction, climate and biodiversity crises.

Nature, like climate, is at a tipping point. The documented loss of public lands, water and wildlife is staggering.

- A football field's worth of natural lands disappears to development in the United States every thirty seconds¹
- A million species are at risk of extinction worldwide.²
- 2.9 billion birds in the United States and Canada have been lost since 1970.³
- Half of all freshwater and saltwater wetlands in the contiguous 48 States has been lost according to Fish and Wildlife Service.⁴
- Three-fourths of the planet's lands and two-thirds of its marine environments have been "severely altered" by human activity.⁵

To confront the rapid loss of America's natural places and wildlife, the U.S. needs to accelerate land and ocean protection and restoration efforts at all levels of government and across the

country. Currently, only 12 percent of U.S. lands and 26 percent of U.S. oceans (almost exclusively in the western Pacific and northwestern Hawaii) are protected.

Conserving and restoring our nation's lands and waters must be part of the solution. According to world-renowned scientist Edward O. Wilson and others, roughly half of all lands and waters should be conserved in a natural condition if we want to prevent most wildlife species from going extinct, and if we want future generations to have continued access to clean water, clean air, and secure food supplies.

The Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature outlines policy recommendations designed to achieve a goal of conserving and protecting 30% of land and ocean areas by 2030. The resolution makes clear that the U.S. should be a leader in the global effort to conserve nature by joining the global commitment to protect 30 percent of all its lands and ocean by 2030—a commitment that is widely supported by Americans.

The goal must be achieved in an equitable and inclusive manner. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, the resolution encourages the federal government to work with local communities, tribes, states and private landowners to conserve natural places and resources. Also, it calls for improved access to nature for communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

The situation is alarming. However, the good news is that there are solutions if we act now. Therefore, we urge leaders to take bold action before we reach the climate, biodiversity and extinction tipping points and request that you co-sponsor the Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature," H. Res. 835.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness Action
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Azul
Banks of the Wabash
Blue Planet Strategies
California Native Plant Society
Center for American Progress
Center for Biological Diversity
Conservation International
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservation Voters of South Carolina
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice

EcoFlight
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Protection Information Center
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Mariana Trench
Friends of the WI Wolf & Wildlife
Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Hells Canyon Council
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace
Heartwood

Hispanic Access Foundation
Indiana Forest Alliance
Inland Ocean Coalition
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Marine Mammal Project of
Earth Island Institute
Klamath Forest Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch
Marine Conservation Institute
Mission Blue
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Mystic Aquarium
National Aquarium
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
New England Aquarium
New Mexico Wild
Northwest Center for Alternatives to
Pesticides
NY4WHALES
Ocean Conservancy

Oceana
Oceanic Preservation Society
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Pacific Environment
Predator Defense
Rocky Mountain Wild
Save the Manatee Club
Seattle Aquarium
Shedd Aquarium
Sierra Club
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Surfrider Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
The Ocean Project
The Wilderness Society
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unexpected Wildlife Refuge
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
WildEarth Guardians
Wildlands Network
Wildlife Conservation Society / New York
Aquarium
Winter Wildlands Alliance
World Wildlife Fund

1 January 18, 2019. Loss and fragmentation of natural lands in the conterminous U.S. from 2001 to 2017. Conservation Science Partners.

Retrieved from: <https://www.csp-inc.org/public/CSP%20Disappearing%20US%20Exec%20Summary%20011819.pdf>

2 May 6, 2019. The IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Retrieved from: <https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services>

3 October 4, 2019. Decline of the North American avifauna. Science. Retrieved from <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6461/120>

4 Retrieved from: <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>

4 May 6, 2019. The IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Retrieved from: <https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services>