

July 29, 2021

Dear Chair Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

On behalf of millions of members across the country, we urge you to support the Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act as the House Natural Resources Committee considers legislation related to climate change, resilience, and wildlife in the 117th Congress.

The Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act (SAFE Act), H.R. 2872, would establish a science-based, integrated approach to the impacts of the climate crisis on America's wildlife and natural resources. The SAFE Act would build upon the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy, an interagency plan to help safeguard America's natural resources and wildlife.

With one in five species in the U.S. at risk of extinction, the biodiversity crisis is one of the country's greatest environmental crises. Climate Change is one of the leading drivers of extinction. A workshop recently co-sponsored by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service (IPBES) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that "climate change impacts and biodiversity loss are two of the most important challenges and risks for human societies."¹ Climate change poses a threat to the natural systems that provide us with clean drinking water, clean air, food, crop pollination, medicine, flood protection, recreation opportunities and scenic beauty.

H.R. 2872 would establish an interagency working group—composed of natural resource agencies—to develop a national climate change adaptation strategy and require increased agency coordination to respond to the impacts of climate change. It would also empower experts by creating the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center to develop and compile scientific information.

We urge you to address the ongoing climate and biodiversity crises by supporting the SAFE Act and advancing it for consideration by the full House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

¹ H.O. PÖRTNER ET AL., IPBES-IPCC CO-SPONSORED WORKSHOP REPORT ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE 14 (2021).