

February 7, 2020

Dear Senator:

On behalf 180 businesses and organizations, our members and supporters, we urge you to cosponsor Senators Udall and Bennet's "Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature," S. Res. 372. 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 seconds.¹
- 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, S. Res. 372.

Sincerely,

Acadia Institute of Oceanography
Alaska Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Alaska Wilderness League Action
Amargosa Conservancy
American Littoral Society
American Rivers
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Azul
Banks of the Wabash
Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation
Blue Planet Strategies
Bold Alliance
California Chaparral Institute
California League of Conservation Voters
California Native Plant Society
California Wilderness Coalition
Californians for Western Wilderness
Center for American Progress
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition
Central Texas Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Chesapeake Conservancy
Chispa Arizona
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island
Coastwalk/California Coastal Trail Association
Colorado Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Colorado Native Plant Society
Colorado State University Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Conejos Clean Water

Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
Conservation Alabama
Conservation Alliance
Conservation Colorado
Conservation International
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservation Minnesota
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
Conservation Voters of South Carolina
Conserve Southwest Utah
Corazon Latino
Defenders of Wildlife
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Earth Ethics, Inc
Earthjustice
EcoFlight
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental League of MA
Environmental Protection Information Center
Exocetus Autonomous Systems
Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area
Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Lost Coast
Friends of the Mariana Trench
Friends of the WI Wolf & Wildlife
Gila Resources Information Project
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Lakes Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Hells Canyon Council
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace
Heal the Bay
Heartwood

Hispanic Access Foundation
Illinois Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Illinois Environmental Council
Indiana Forest Alliance
Inland Ocean Coalition
Inland Ocean Coalition Buffalo Chapter
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
John Muir Project
Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum
Klamath Forest Alliance
Last Tree Laws
League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch
Maine Conservation Voters
Marine Conservation Institute
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Mission Blue
Montana Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Montana Wilderness Association
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Mystic Aquarium
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
National Aquarium
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Native American Land Conservancy
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
Nevada Conservation League
New England Aquarium
New Jersey Conservation Foundation
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
New Mexico Wild
New York League of Conservation Voters
North Texas Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Nuestra Tierra
NY4WHALES
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean River Institute
Oceana

Oceanic Preservation Society
Ohio Environmental Council
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
Oregon Wild
Pacific Environment
Patagonia
Predator Defense
Public Citizen
REI Co-op
Rocky Mountain Wild
San Juan Citizens Alliance
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Sanctuary Forest, Inc.
SandyHook SeaLife Foundation
Save Our Shores
Save the Manatee Club
Seacoast Science Center
Seattle Aquarium
Sequoia ForestKeeper®
Shedd Aquarium
Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Surfrider Foundation
The Conservation Foundation
The Conservation Fund
The Enviro Show
The Mountain Pact
The Nature Conservancy
The Ocean Project
The Rewilding Institute
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society
Tuleyome
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unexpected Wildlife Refuge
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Utah Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
Western Environmental Law Center
Western Leaders Network
Western Slope Conservation Center

Western Values Project
Western Watersheds Project
Wild Arizona
Wild Connections
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Workshop
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlands Network
Wildlife Conservation Society / New York Aquarium
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Women Working for Oceans - W2O
World Wildlife Fund
WSL PURE
Wyoming Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

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>