

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

September 20, 2021

Dear Chairman Grijalva,

The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) supports H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) of 2021. NAISMA is a broad network of professionals and organizations that implement and support programs to prevent and manage the detrimental impacts of invasive species to North America's lands and waters.

RAWA will bring much-needed resources to wildlife professionals tasked with conserving the diversity of America's native species. These resources will fund multi-stakeholder efforts to conserve and monitor at-risk species, known in states as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Among the largest threats to SGCN are invasive species, which have contributed to the need to list more than 42 percent of the organisms currently listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Invasive species create an estimated \$137 billion annual strain on the US economy. Among other provisions, RAWA will provide \$97.5 million annually to fund proactive wildlife conservation efforts on tribal lands and \$1.3 billion in dedicated funding annually for the implementation of state fish and wildlife agencies' wildlife action plans. There is a critical need to prevent, control, and manage invasive species to protect native and imperiled species, in addition to safeguarding our water supplies and lands.

Representative Debbie Dingell's bill, H.R. 2773, currently has 110 cosponsors, and has been referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States. The bill would take a significant step toward protecting America's wildlife, biodiversity, and economy from the harm caused by invasive species. NAISMA encourages the subcommittee to schedule the bill for a hearing.

Thank you very much in advance for your efforts to protect wildlife, the environment, and the economy of the United States from the threat of invasive species.

Sincerely,



Belle Bergner, Executive Director
North American Invasive Species Management Association

cc: Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources'
Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States