

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

September 20, 2021

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) supports S.2371, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). 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. The majority of current state wildlife action plans identify the need to prevent, control, and manage invasive species to protect native and imperiled species, maintain outdoor recreation, sustain industry, and protect our nation's water and food supplies. NAISMA encourages prioritization of these funds to prevent and manage invasive species on public lands and waters.

Senator Martin Heinrich's bill, S. 2371, introduced with Senator Roy Blunt as the original cosponsor, has been referred to your committee. The bill would take a significant step toward protecting America's wildlife, biodiversity, and economy from the harm caused by invasive species. We urge the Committee to promptly schedule a hearing on the bill and bring the bill to markup.

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