



NCEL

National Caucus of
Environmental Legislators

May 20, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned state legislators, encourage you to establish a National Biodiversity Strategy to protect, restore, and secure our rich biodiversity for generations to come. Our nation and the planet is in the midst of a biodiversity crisis, one that states alone cannot solve. While states are working hard to conserve their plants and wildlife, the threats to biodiversity are manifold and don't recognize state boundaries. We rely on the federal government to help us coordinate a bold, whole-of-government response to a crisis of national and global proportions. It is critical that the federal government strengthen the nation's collective response to escalating species extinctions and reaffirm America's role as a global leader in biodiversity conservation.

The global scientific consensus is that as many as one million species are at risk of extinction. Studies have shown that we are losing species and their habitats faster than ever before. For example, in North America alone, nearly 3 billion birds have disappeared since 1970. The loss of biodiversity presents a direct threat to our security, economy, health, and well-being. As species decline and habitats degrade, we lose critical ecosystem services that provide us with clean water, fertile soils, food, and the very air we breathe. Over-exploitation of nature is at the root of the growing number of zoonotic diseases, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of nature and biodiversity also disproportionately impacts communities of color, low-income communities, tribal communities, and others that have historically faced environmental injustice.

Biodiversity loss has clear economic impacts. In 2020, a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that the annual value of terrestrial ecosystem services is roughly equivalent to the annual global gross domestic product. Additionally, the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report identified biodiversity loss as the third most severe risk to the global economy over the next decade. In 2022, the most recent IPCC report found, with "very high confidence," that climate change has contributed to the mass mortality events of plants and animals.

Your administration has already laid a strong foundation for tackling the biodiversity crisis. The America the Beautiful initiative directly addresses two of the key drivers of biodiversity loss: habitat destruction and climate change. While habitat destruction is a primary driver of global biodiversity loss, there are three other drivers making significant contributions to the current crisis: over-exploitation of wildlife, pollution, and invasive species. A National Biodiversity Strategy would build on existing policy initiatives while providing the strategic, comprehensive, and whole-of-government approach urgently needed to secure our nation's rich biodiversity.

A National Biodiversity Strategy should address all five drivers of biodiversity loss, as well as secure and restore critical ecosystem services, promote social equity and environmental justice, and coordinate a strong national response to tackling the biodiversity crisis both at home and abroad. The Strategy should direct federal agencies to pursue actions within existing laws and policies and identify where new ones may need to be developed to protect biodiversity. It should also involve a collaborative and inclusive approach with extensive public input from various stakeholders, much like the approach taken in America the Beautiful. States, Tribes and non-governmental organizations should all be engaged. A National Biodiversity Strategy would also further elevate America's role in advancing biodiversity conservation globally through enhanced U.S. leadership, diplomatic engagement, and investment.

This year presents critical opportunities for taking action to reverse nature loss. Countries are convening for the United Nations 15th Conference of the Parties to set 2030 goals under the Convention for Biological Diversity. The U.S. has a key opportunity to demonstrate its global leadership on biodiversity conservation and work with states across the country to address the biodiversity crisis. We urge that you take advantage of this pivotal moment with the creation of a National Biodiversity Strategy, which 193 other countries have, in some form, already developed. Only through a strategic and comprehensive approach can the U.S. government meet the scope and scale of the biodiversity crisis and help lead the world in protecting and beginning to restore nature over the coming decade.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

CC: Chair Brenda Mallory, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Secretary Debra Haaland, United States Department of Interior
Acting Director Dr. Alondra Nelson, White House Office of Science and Technology

Sincerely,

Alabama Representative Merika Coleman
(AL-057)

Alaska Senator Scott Kawasaki
(AK-000A)

Alabama Representative Jeremy Gray
(AL-083)

Alaska Representative Geran Tarr
(AK-019)

Alabama Representative Neil Rafferty
(AL-054)

Arizona Representative Andrea
Dalessandro
(AZ-002)

Alaska Representative Zack Fields
(AK-020)

Arizona Senator Rosanna Gabaldon
(AZ-002)

Alaska Representative Andy Josephson
(AK-017)

Arizona Senator Sally Ann Gonzales
(AZ-003)

Arkansas Representative Vivian Flowers
(AR-017)

Arkansas Representative David Whitaker
(AR-085)

California Assemblywoman Luz Rivas
(CA-039)

Colorado Representative Judy Amabile
(CO-013)

Colorado Representative Jennifer Bacon
(CO-007)

Colorado Representative Tracey Bernett
(CO-012)

Colorado Representative Andrew
Boesenecker
(CO-053)

Colorado Representative Lisa Cutter
(CO-025)

Colorado Representative Meg Froelich
(CO-003)

Colorado Representative Serena
Gonzales-Gutierrez
(CO-004)

Colorado Representative Edie Hooton
(CO-010)

Colorado Senator Pete Lee
(CO-011)

Colorado Representative Susan Lontine
(CO-001)

Colorado Representative Karen
McCormick
(CO-011)

Colorado Representative Dafna
Michaelson Jenet
(CO-030)

Colorado Senator Dominick Moreno
(CO-021)

Colorado Representative Emily Sirota
(CO-009)

Colorado Representative Brianna Titone
(CO-027)

Colorado Representative Alex Valdez
(CO-005)

Colorado Representative Mike Weissman
(CO-036)

Colorado Representative Steven
Woodrow
(CO-006)

Colorado Representative Chris Kennedy
(CO-023)

Colorado Representative Cathy Kipp
(CO-052)

Colorado Representative Marc Snyder
(CO-018)

Colorado Senator Tammy Story
(CO-016)

Connecticut Representative Devin Carney
(CT-023)

Connecticut Senator Christine Cohen
(CT-012)

Connecticut Senate Majority Leader Bob
Duff
(CT-25)

Connecticut Representative Brandon
Chafee
(CT-33)

Connecticut Representative Lucy Dathan
(CT-142)

Connecticut Representative Kenneth
Gucker
(CT-138)

Connecticut Representative Jack
Hennessy
(CT-127)

Connecticut Representative Anne Hughes
(CT-135)

Connecticut Representative Susan
Johnson
(CT-49)

Connecticut Senator Julie Kushner
(CT-024)

Connecticut Representative David Michel
(CT-146)

Connecticut Representative Mary
Mushinsky
(CT-85)

Connecticut Representative Kevin Ryan
(CT-139)

DC Councilmember Elissa Silverman
(DC-000)

Delaware Senator Stephanie Hansen
(DE-010)

Delaware Representative Debra
Heffernan
(DE-006)

Delaware Representative Madinah
Wilson-Anton
(DE-026)

Florida Senator Lori Berman
(FL-031)

Florida Representative Anna Eskamani
(FL-047)

Georgia Representative Becky Evans
(GA-083)

Georgia Representative Scott Holcomb
(GA-081)

Georgia Senator Kim Jackson
(GA-041)

Georgia Representative Marvin Lim
(GA-099)

Georgia Senator Nan Orrock
(GA-036)

Georgia Representative Sam Park
(GA-101)

Georgia Representative Shea Roberts
(GA-052)

Georgia Representative Kim Schofield
(GA-060)

Hawaii Senator Laura Acasio
(HI-001)

Hawaii Senator Stanley Chang
(HI-009)

Hawaii Senator Mike Gabbard
(HI-020)

Hawaii Representative Jeanné Kapela
(HI-005)

Hawaii Senator Michelle Kidani
(HI-018)

Hawaii Senator Chris Lee
(HI-025)

Hawaii Representative Nicole Lowen
(HI-006)

Hawaii Representative Lisa Marten
(HI-051)

Hawaii Senator Bennette Misalucha
(HI-016)

Hawaii Representative Amy Perruso
(HI-046)

Hawaii Representative Roy Takumi
(HI-035)

Hawaii Representative David Tarnas
(HI-007)

Hawaii Representative Tina Wildberger
(HI-011)

Idaho Representative John McCrostie
(ID-019)

Idaho Senator Melissa Wintrow
(ID-019)

Illinois Representative Kam Buckner
(IL-026)

Illinois Senator Melinda Bush
(IL-031)

Illinois Senator Cristina Castro
(IL-022)

Illinois Senator Laura Fine
(IL-009)

Illinois Representative La Shawn Ford
(IL-008)

Illinois Representative Robyn Gabel
(IL-018)

Illinois Representative Edgar Gonzalez
(IL-021)

Illinois Representative Will Guzzardi
(IL-039)

Illinois Representative Rita Mayfield
(IL-060)

Illinois Senator Julie Morrison
(IL-029)

Illinois Senator Laura Murphy
(IL-028)

Illinois Representative Maurice West
(IL-067)

Illinois Representative Ann Williams
(IL-011)

Illinois Senator David Koehler
(IL-046)

Indiana Representative Maureen Bauer
(IN-006)

Indiana Representative Patricia (Pat) Boy
(IN-009)

Indiana Representative Chris Campbell
(IN-026)

Indiana Representative Sue Errington
(IN-034)

Indiana Senator Shelli Yoder
(IN-040)

Indiana Representative Matt Pierce
(IN-061)

Iowa Senator Joe Bolckom
(IA-043)

Iowa Senator Claire Celsi
(IA-021)

Iowa Senator Bill Dotzler
(IA-031)

Iowa Senator Eric Giddens
(IA-030)

Iowa Representative Chris Hall
(IA-013)

Iowa Senator Rob Hogg
(IA-033)

Iowa Representative Chuck Isenhardt
(IA-100)

Iowa Representative Bob Kressig
(IA-059)

Iowa Representative Monica Kurth
(IA-089)

Iowa Senator Janet Petersen
(IA-018)

Iowa Representative Art Staed
(IA-066)

Kansas Representative Annie Kuether
(KS-055)

Kentucky Representative Nima Kulkarni
(KY-040)

Kentucky Representative Mary Lou
Marzian
(KY-034)

Maine Representative Poppy Arford
(ME-049)

Maine Representative Seth Berry
(ME-055)

Maine Representative Lydia Blume
(ME-003)

Maine Representative Mark Bryant
(ME-024)

Maine Representative Jan Dodge
(ME-097)

Maine Representative Vicki Doudera
(ME-094)

Maine Representative Valli Geiger
(ME-093)

Maine Representative Patricia Hymanson
(ME-004)

Maine Representative Grayson Lookner
(ME-037)

Maine Representative Maggie O'Neil
(ME-015)

Maine Representative Laurie Osher
(ME-123)

Maine Representative Sophie Warren
(ME-029)

Maine Representative Lynne Williams
(ME-135)

Maryland Delegate Kumar Barve
(MD-017)

Maryland Delegate Lorig Charkoudian
(MD-020)

Maryland Senator Brian Feldman
(MD-015)

Maryland Delegate Jessica Feldmark
(MD-012)

Maryland Delegate Anne Healey
(ME-022)

Maryland Delegate Ken Kerr
(MD-003B)

Maryland Delegate Marc Korman
(MD-016)

Maryland Senator Ben Kramer
(MD-019)

Maryland Senator Susan Lee
(MD-016)

Maryland Delegate Mary Lehman
(MD-021)

Maryland Delegate Karen Lewis Young
(MD-003A)

Maryland Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti
(MD-034A)

Maryland Delegate Sara Love
(MD-016)

Maryland Majority Leader Eric Luedtke
(MD-014)

Maryland Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr
(MD-017)

Maryland Delegate Sheila Ruth
(MD-044B)

Maryland Delegate Dana Stein
(MD-011)

Maryland Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
(MD-018)

Maryland Senator Mary Washington
(MD-043)

Massachusetts Representative Michelle
Ciccolo
(MA-074)

Massachusetts Representative Mike
Connolly
(MA-085)

Massachusetts Representative Josh Cutler
(MA-117)

Massachusetts Senator Julian Cyr
(MA-005)

Massachusetts Senator Patricia Jehlen
(MA-016)

Massachusetts Representative Jay
Livingstone
(MA-131)

Massachusetts Senator Michael Moore
(MA-038)

Massachusetts Senator Patrick O'Connor
(MA-027)

Massachusetts Representative Steven
Owens
(MA-088)

Massachusetts Representative Angelo
Puppolo
(MA-056)

Massachusetts Representative Lindsay Sabadosa
(MA-057)

Massachusetts Representative Tom Stanley
(MA-068)

MD Senator Clarence Lam
(MD-012)

Michigan Representative Rachel Hood
(MI-076)

Michigan Senator Jeff Irwin
(MI-018)

Michigan Representative Padma Kuppa
(MI-041)

Michigan Representative Yousef Rabhi
(MI-053)

Minnesota Representative Patty Acomb
(MN-044B)

Minnesota Representative Robert Bierman
(MN-057A)

Minnesota Representative Andrew Carlson
(MN-050B)

Minnesota Representative Jim Davnie
(MN-063A)

Minnesota Representative Sandra Feist
(MN-41B)

Minnesota Representative Mike Freiberg
(MN-045B)

Minnesota Representative Alice Hausman
(MN-066A)

Minnesota Representative Kaohly Her
(MN-064A)

Minnesota Representative Athena Hollins
(MN-006B)

Minnesota Representative Sydney Jordan
(MN-060A)

Minnesota Representative Todd Lippert
(MN-20B)

Minnesota Representative Jamie Long
(MN-61B)

Minnesota Representative Kelly Moller
(MN-042A)

Minnesota Senator Jerry Newton
(MN-037)

Minnesota Senator Sandy Pappas
(MN-065)

Minnesota Representative Dave Pinto
(MN-64B)

Minnesota Representative Laurie Pryor
(MN-48A)

Minnesota Senator Ann Rest
(MN-045B)

Minnesota Senator Patricia Torres Ray
(MN-063A)

Minnesota Representative Samantha Vang
(MN-40B)

Minnesota Senator Chuck Wiger
(MN-043)

Minnesota Senator Melissa H. Wiklund
(MD-050)

Mississippi Senator Hillman Frazier
(MS-027)

Mississippi Senator Robert L Jackson
(MS-011)

Missouri Representative Trish Gunby
(MO-099)

Montana Representative Mary Ann
Dunwell
(MT-084)

Montana Senator Janet Ellis
(MT-041)

Montana Representative Connie Keogh
(MT-091)

Montana Senator Mary McNally
(MT-024)

Montana Senator Shannon O'Brien
(MT-046)

Montana Representative Andrea Olsen
(MT-100)

Montana Representative Tom France
(MT-094)

Nebraska State Senator Megan Hunt
(NE-008)

Nevada Assemblymember Howard Watts
(NV-015)

Nevada Assemblymember Steve Yeager
(NV-009)

New Hampshire Representative Mark
King
(NH-078)

New Hampshire Representative Lee
Oxenham
(NH-046)

New Hampshire Representative Marjorie
Porter
(NH-046)

New Hampshire Representative Kris
Schultz
(NH-100)

New Hampshire Senator David Watters
(NH-004)

New Hampshire Representative Joyce
Weston
(NH-040)

New Jersey Assemblymember Clinton
Calabrese
(NJ-036)

New Jersey Assemblywoman Carol
Murphy
(NJ-007)

New Jersey Senator Bob Smith
(NJ-017)

New Mexico Representative Kay
Bounkeua
(NM-019)

New Mexico Representative Gail Chasey
(NM-018)

New Mexico Senator Linda M. Lopez
(NM-011)

New Mexico Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino
(NM-012)

New Mexico Senator Harold Pope Jr.
(NM-023)

New Mexico Representative Andrea
Romero
(NM-046)

New Mexico Representative Angelica
Rubio
(NM-035)

New Mexico Representative Debbie
Sarinana
(NM-021)

New Mexico Senator Antoinette Sedillo
López
(NM-016)

New Mexico State Senator Elizabeth "Liz"
Stefanics
(NM-039)

New Mexico Senate President Pro Tem
Mimi Stewart
(NM-017)

New Mexico Senator Bill Tallman
(NM-018)

New Mexico Senate Majority Leader Peter
Wirth
(NM-025)

New Mexico Senator Carrie Hamblen
(NM-038)

New York Assemblymember Jeffrey
Dinowitz
(NY-081)

New York Assemblyman Steve
Englebright
(NY-004)

New York Assemblymember Deborah
Glick
(NY-066)

New York Senator Brian Kavanagh
(NY-026)

New York Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
(NY-038)

New York Senator J. Rivera
(NY-033)

New York Assemblymember Linda
Rosenthal
(NY-067)

New York Assemblymember Jo Anne
Simon
(NY-052)

New York Assemblyman Fred Thiele
(NY-001)

New York Senator Alessandra Biaggi
(NY-034)

New York Senator James Skoufis
(NY-039)

North Carolina Representative John Ager
(NC-115)

North Carolina Senator Ernestine
Bazemore
(NC-003)

North Carolina Representative Terry
Brown
(NC-092)

North Carolina Representative Deb Butler
(NC-018)

North Carolina Representative Linda
Cooper-Suggs
(NC-024)

North Carolina Senator Sarah Crawford
(NC-018)

North Carolina Representative Brian Farkas
(NC-009)

North Carolina Senator Valerie Foushee
(NC-023)

North Carolina Representative Ricky Hurtado
(NC-063)

North Carolina Senator Natasha Marcus
(NC-041)

North Carolina Senator Julie Mayfield
(NC-049)

North Carolina Representative Graig Meyer
(NC-050)

North Carolina Representative Marcia Morey
(NC-030)

North Carolina Senator Natalie Murdock
(NC-020)

North Carolina Senator Wiley Nickel
(NC-016)

North Carolina Representative Amos Quick
(NC-058)

North Carolina Representative James Roberson
(NC-039)

North Carolina Representative Caleb Rudow
(NC-114)

North Carolina Representative Julie von Haefen
(NC-036)

North Carolina Representative John Autry
(NC-100)

North Carolina Representative Pricey Harrison
(NC-061)

North Carolina Representative Verla Insko
(NC-056)

North Dakota Representative Ruth Anna Buffalo
(ND-027)

North Dakota Senator Tim Mathern
(ND-011)

Ohio Senator Nickie Antonio
(OH-023)

Ohio Representative Sedrick Denson
(OH-033)

Ohio Representative Mary Lightbody
(OH-019)

Ohio Representative Michael Skindell
(OH-013)

Ohio Representative Casey Weinstein
(OH-037)

Oregon Senator Michael Dembrow
(OR-023)

Oregon Representative Julie Fahey
(OR-014)

Oregon Senator Jeff Golden
(OR-003)

Oregon Representative David Gomberg
(OR-010)

Oregon Representative Zach Hudson
(OR-049)

Oregon Representative Pam Marsh
(OR-005)

Oregon Senator Janeen Sollman
(OR-015)

Oregon Representative Marty Wilde
(OR-011)

Oregon Representative Dacia Grayber
(OR-035)

Oregon Representative Sheri Schouten
(OR-027)

Pennsylvania Representative Chris Rabb
(PA-200)

Pennsylvania Senator Amanda Cappelletti
(PA-017)

Pennsylvania Representative Mary Jo
Daley
(PA-148)

Pennsylvania Representative Pamela A.
DeLissio
(PA-194)

Pennsylvania Representative Danielle
Friel Otten
(PA-155)

Pennsylvania Representative Patrick J
Harkins
(PA-001)

Pennsylvania Representative Joseph
Hohenstein
(PA -177)

Pennsylvania Representative Rick
Krajewski
(PA-188)

Pennsylvania Senator Katie Muth
(PA-044)

Pennsylvania Representative Napoleon
Nelson
(PA-154)

Pennsylvania Representative Michael
Schlossberg
(PA-132)

Pennsylvania Representative Greg Vitali
(PA-166)

Pennsylvania Representative Joe Webster
(PA-150)

Puerto Rico Senator William Villafane
(PR-000)

Rhode Island Senator Alana DiMario
(RI-036)

Rhode Island Representative Teresa
Tanzi
(RI-034)

Rhode Island Senator Samuel Zurier
(RI-003)

Rhode Island Senator Dawn Euer
(RI-013)

South Dakota Senator Reynold Nesiba
(SD-015)

Tennessee Senator Brenda Gilmore
(TN-019)

Texas Representative Vikki Goodwin
(TX-047)

Texas Representative Penny Morales-Shaw
(TX-148)

Texas Representative Erin Zwiener
(TX-045)

Utah Representative Gay Lynn Bennion
(UT-046)

Utah Senator Jani Iwamoto
(UT-004)

Utah Representative Karen Kwan
(UT-034)

Utah Representative Rosemary Lesser
(UT-010)

Utah Representative Mark Wheatley
(UT-035)

Utah Representative Angela Romero
(TA-026)

Vermont Representative Jessica Brumsted
(VT-024)

Vermont Representative Sara Coffey
(VT-085)

Vermont Representative Kari Dolan
(VT-083)

Vermont Representative Kathleen James
(VT-011)

Vermont Representative Martin LaLonde
(VT-032)

Vermont Representative Mike Mrowicki
(VT-090)

Vermont Representative Logan Nicoll
(VT-076)

Vermont Representative Carol Ode
(VT-025)

Vermont Senator Chris Pearson
(VT-005)

Vermont Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale
(VT-005)

Vermont Representative Larry Satcowitz
(VT-060)

Vermont Representative Robin Scheu
(VT-001)

Vermont Representative Laura Sibia
(VT-093)

Vermont Representative Taylor Small
(VT-031)

Vermont Representative Gabrielle Stebbins
(VT-029)

Vermont Representative Michael Yantachka
(VT-021)

Vermont Representative Amy Sheldon
(VT-001)

Virginia Senator John Bell
(VA-013)

Virginia Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
(VA-045)

Virginia Senator Ghazala Hashmi
(VA-010)

Virginia Delegate Sally Hudson
(VA-057)

Virginia Delegate Mark Keam
(VA-035)

Virginia Delegate Kaye Kory
(VA-038)

Virginia Delegate Paul Krizek
(VA-044)

Virginia Delegate Sam Rasoul
(VA-011)

Virginia Senator Jennifer Boysko
(VA-033)

Washington Senator Reuven Carlyle
(WA-036)

Washington Senator Mona Das
(WA-047)

Washington Representative Davina Duerr
(WA-001)

Washington Representative Joe
Fitzgibbon
(WA-034)

Washington Representative Roger
Goodman
(WA-045)

Washington Representative Debra
Lekanoff
(WA-040)

Washington Senator Marko Liias
(WA-021)

Washington Senator Liz Lovelett
(WA-040)

Washington Senator Jamie Pedersen
(WA-043)

Washington Representative Gerry Pollet
(WA-046)

Washington Senator Christine Rolfes
(WA-023)

Washington Representative Cindy Ryu
(WA-032)

Washington Representative Sharon
Tomiko Santos
(WA-037)

Washington Representative Sharon
Shewmake
(WA-042)

Washington Representative Mia
Gregerson
(WA-033)

West Virginia Delegate John Doyle
(WV-067)

Wisconsin Senator Melissa Agard
(WI-016)

Wisconsin Representative Jimmy
Anderson
(WI-047)

Wisconsin Representative Deb Andraca
(WI-023)

Wisconsin Representative Samba Baldeh
(WI-048)

Wisconsin Senator Janet Bewley
(WI-025)

Wisconsin Representative Jill Billings
(WI-095)

Wisconsin Representative Jonathan
Brostoff
(WI-019)

Wisconsin Representative Dave Considine
(WI-081)

Wisconsin Representative Jodi Emerson
(WI-091)

Wisconsin Representative Gary Hebl
(WI-046)

Wisconsin Representative Dianne
Hesselbein
(WI-079)

Wisconsin Senator Chris Larson
(WI-007)

Wisconsin Representative Nick Milroy
(WI-073)

Wisconsin Representative Supreme
Moore Omokunde
(WI-017)

Wisconsin Representative Greta
Neubauer
(WI-066)

Wisconsin Representative Sody Pope
(WI-080)

Wisconsin Senator Kelda Roys
(WI-026)

Wisconsin Representative Katrina
Shankland
(WI-071)

Wisconsin Representative Kristina
Shelton
(WI-090)

Wisconsin Representative Christine
Sinicki
(WI-020)

Wisconsin Representative Mark Spreitzer
(WI-045)

Wisconsin Representative Shelia Stubbs
(WI-077)

Wisconsin Representative Lisa Subeck
(WI-078)

Wisconsin Senator Lena Taylor
(WI-004)

Wisconsin Representative Robyn Vining
(WI-014)

Wisconsin Representative Don Vruwink
(WI-043)