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)
Alabama Representative Jeremy Gray (AL-083)
Alabama Representative Neil Rafferty (AL-054)
Alabama Representative Zack Fields (AK-020)
Alabama Representative Andy Josephson (AK-017)

Alaska Senator Scott Kawasaki (AK-000A)
Alaska Representative Geran Tarr (AK-019)
Arizona Representative Andrea Dalessandro (AZ-002)
Arizona Senator Rosanna Gabaldon (AZ-002)
Arizona Senator Sally Ann Gonzales (AZ-003)
Arkansas Representative Vivian Flowers (AR-017)
Arkansas Representative David Whitaker (AR-085)
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Colorado Representative Jennifer Bacon (CO-007)
Colorado Representative Tracey Bernett (CO-012)
Colorado Representative Andrew Boesenecker (CO-053)
Colorado Representative Lisa Cutter (CO-025)
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Colorado Representative Karen McCormick (CO-011)
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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)
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Connecticut Senator Christine Cohen (CT-012)
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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)
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Delaware Representative Debra Heffernan (DE-006)
Delaware Representative Madinah Wilson-Anton (DE-026)
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Florida Representative Anna Eskamani (FL-047)
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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)
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Hawaii Senator Stanley Chang (HI-009)
Hawaii Senator Mike Gabbard (HI-020)
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| Hawaii Representative Lisa Marten (HI-051) | Illinois Representative Will Guzzardi (IL-039) |
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| Illinois Representative Kam Buckner (IL-026) | Indiana Representative Patricia (Pat) Boy (IN-009) |
| Illinois Senator Melinda Bush (IL-031) | Indiana Representative Chris Campbell (IN-026) |
| Illinois Senator Cristina Castro (IL-022) | Indiana Representative Sue Errington (IN-034) |
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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 Isenhart (IA-100)
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Maine Representative Lydia Blume (ME-003)
Maine Representative Mark Bryant (ME-024)
Maine Representative Jan Dodge (ME-097)
Maine Representative Vicki Doudera (ME-094)
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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)
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Maryland Delegate Mary Lehman (MD-021)
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Maryland Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti (MD-034A)
Maryland Delegate Sara Love (MD-016)
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Maryland Delegate Dana Stein (MD-011)
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Massachusetts Representative Mike Connolly (MA-085)
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Massachusetts Senator Patricia Jehlen (MA-005)
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 Representative Chuck Wiger (MN-043)

Minnesota Senator Melissa H. Wiklund (MD-050)
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<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Senator Hillman Frazier</td>
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<td>Representative Kay Bounkeua</td>
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<td>Senator Harold Pope Jr.</td>
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New Mexico Representative Andrea Romero (NM-046)
New Mexico Representative Angelica Rubio (NM-035)
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New Mexico Senator Antoinette Sedillo López (NM-016)
New Mexico State Senator Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (NM-039)
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North Carolina Representative Terry Brown (NC-092)
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Utah Representative Angela Romero (TA-026)
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Vermont Representative Martin LaLonde (VT-032)
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Vermont Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale (VT-005)
Vermont Representative Larry Satcowitz (VT-060)
Vermont Representative Robin Schuen (VT-001)
Vermont Representative Laura Sibilia (VT-093)
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Vermont Representative Gabrielle Stebbins (VT-029)
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Vermont Representative Amy Sheldon (VT-001)
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Wisconsin Representative Supreme Moore Omokunde (WI-017)
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Wisconsin Representative Don Vruwink (WI-043)