June 26, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20150

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Calvert, Representative McCollum, Senator Murkowski, and Senator Udall:

On behalf of the dozens of organizations and individuals listed below and our millions of members and supporters, we are writing to urge you to support funding at the FY17 enacted level ($26.4 M) for the Department of the Interior’s National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs), which are within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Land Resources account. The President’s FY18 budget proposes a 34% decrease in overall funding for this program and would result in elimination of half of the eight regional centers. These cuts would dramatically undermine the ability of the Department of the Interior (DOI) to support federal,
state, tribal, and private sector wildlife and land managers as they seek to sustain the nation’s natural resources and reduce risks from climatic and land use changes.

This science-based program was established by Congress during the Bush Administration in response to challenges faced by fish and wildlife managers in maintaining the ecological viability and economic vitality of our natural resources in the face of a changing climate. These challenges have only grown more acute as managers face increasing climate-related threats, such as long-term droughts, massive wildfires, extreme precipitation and flooding events, spreading invasive species, and rising sea levels.

The Climate Adaptation Science Centers respond to these challenges by conducting research on the impacts and risks a changing environment poses to wildlife, fish and other natural resources. CASCs work with managers and decision-makers to help them apply this science in crafting management strategies that are capable of adapting to changing conditions and reducing climate-related risks and vulnerabilities. This is accomplished through the combined efforts of a national center (formerly known as the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center), housed at USGS, and a network of eight regional centers (previously known as DOI Climate Science Centers), which are partnerships between USGS and leading research universities. These university-based collaborations ensure that the regional centers leverage and are well coordinated with other research and outreach capabilities in the region, as well as leverage significant nonfederal funding.

The National and Regional CASCs provide rigorous, peer-reviewed science and tools to help fish and wildlife managers, federal and state land management agencies, tribal and indigenous communities, and others to develop and execute climate-resilient management strategies. The centers focus on delivering sound and actionable science that address priority stakeholder needs, including:

- Helping Department of the Interior and other resource managers protect and sustain our nation’s fish and wildlife, public lands, and water resources;
- Assisting state fish and wildlife agencies in assessing climate risks to their species and habitats, and identifying priority conservation and management actions;
- Aiding tribes and indigenous communities to help them understand, prepare for, and adapt to climate risks to tribal lands and resources; and
- Educating and training the next generation of climate adaptation scientists, and building capacity in the broader resource management community for the appropriate application of climate science.

The most recent National Climate Assessment documents that climate-related disasters and economic disruptions are on the rise, affecting every region and impacting communities across the country. Ensuring the vitality of the nation’s $877 billion outdoor economy, which provides more than 7.8 million jobs, will rely on our capacity to prepare and appropriately manage for increasing climate-related risks and impacts. The ability of federal, state, tribal, and private managers and decision-makers to successfully minimize the economic and ecological risks of a
changing climate depends on the continued availability of the sound and rigorous climate adaptation science that the National and Regional CASCs provide.

Given the critical importance of these programs for ensuring the health of the nation’s fish and wildlife resources, for promoting responsible and forward-looking stewardship of public and private lands, and for ensuring the continued vitality of the nation’s outdoor economy, we urge you to provide FY18 funding comparable to the FY17 enacted levels ($26.4 M) for the Department of the Interior’s National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers.

Sincerely,

National Wildlife Federation
Bruce A. Stein, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President, Conservation Science & Climate Adaptation
202-797-6602, steinb@nwf.org

The Wildlife Society
Bruce Thompson, Ph.D., CWB®
President
301-870-9770 x308, cmurphy@wildlife.org

Defenders of Wildlife
Mark Salvo
Vice President for Landscape Conservation
202-772-0229, msalvo@defenders.org

Union of Concerned Scientists
Peter Frumhoff, Ph.D.
Director of Science and Policy
617-301-8035, pfrumhoff@ucsusa.org

Adaptation International
Sascha Petersen
Founder

American Fisheries Society
Joe Margraff, Ph.D.
President

American Ornithological Society
Steven R. Beissinger, Ph.D.
President

American Society of Civil Engineers
Brian Pallasch
Managing Director of Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives

Archbold Biological Station
Eric Menges, Ph.D.
Program Director

Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Ellen McNulty
President

Audubon Society of New Hampshire
Douglas Bechtel
President

Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions (University of Arizona)
Katharine Jacobs, Ph.D.
Director

Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Gary M. Tabor MES VMD
Executive Director

Colorado Natural Heritage Program
David G. Anderson, Ph.D.
Director & Chief Scientist
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Brandon Butler
Executive Director

Conservation Northwest
Dave Werntz
Science and Conservation Director

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
John W. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.
Executive Director

EcoAdapt
Lara Hansen, Ph.D.
President & Chief Scientist

Ecological Society of America
David M. Lodge, Ph.D.
President

Geos Institute
Tonya Graham
Executive Director

Ho'okele Strategies LLC
Neil J. Hannahs
Founder & CEO

Kunak Wildlife Studies
Alex Krevitz
Biologist

Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Bob Stewart Ph.D.
President

Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Laura Berube
Secretary/Treasurer

Michigan Technological University
Nancy H. F. French, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, Michigan Tech Research Institute

Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Laurie Fairchild
President

Montana Wildlife Federation
Dave Chadwick
Executive Director

National Council for Science and the Environment
Michelle Wyman
Executive Director

National Parks Conservation Association
Mark Wenzler
Senior Vice President, Conservation Programs

National Recreation and Park Association
Kevin O’Hara
Vice President for Urban and Government Affairs

Open Space Institute
Christopher J. Elliman
President & CEO

Oregon Freshwater Simulations
David R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Principal

Otter Ridge Consulting
Laura Farrell, Ph.D.
Wildlife Biologist
In addition to the above organizations, the following individual scientists have signed onto this letter in support of the National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers.

Karen F. Beazley, Ph.D.
Professor, School for Resource and Environmental Studies
Dalhousie University

Paul Beier, Ph.D.
Regents Professor of Conservation Biology, School of Forestry
Northern Arizona University
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James L. Buizer, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Dombeck, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Chief Emeritus, USDA Forest Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Ferraro, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, Johns Hopkins University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Jordan, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Seattle University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Lovejoy, Ph.D.</td>
<td>University Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, George Mason University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Mull, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Professor of Zoology, Weber State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D.</td>
<td>University Research Professor Emeritus, Harvard University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>