The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito Chair Senate Environment and Public Works Committee 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse Ranking Member Senate Environment and Public Works Committee 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

On behalf of the millions of hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, natural resource professionals, state fish and wildlife agencies, and other outdoor enthusiasts our organizations represent, we write in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Brian Nesvik to serve as the next Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Mr. Nesvik is a dedicated public servant with a distinguished career in both state government and the U.S. military, and as such, we feel strongly that he is immensely qualified to serve and lead FWS as the next Director.

After graduating from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management, Mr. Nesvik began his career as a game warden and spent 29 years with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WYGFD). Most recently, he served as the Director of WYGFD from 2019 until his retirement in 2024. During this time, Mr. Nesvik demonstrated a unique ability to manage complex challenges with fish and wildlife, private landowners, businesses and industries, and importantly, sportsmen and women. We believe that he will be able to leverage his educational and professional science backgrounds and his experience leading a state fish and wildlife agency to deliver on-the-ground, collaborative and durable conservation across the country.

Beyond his time as Director of the WYGFD, Mr. Nesvik served in the Wyoming Army National Guard for 35 years and retired as a Brigadier General, a rank that demonstrates his strong leadership, sound decision-making, and the respect of his peers in our nation's military. Mr. Nesvik is not only a leader in conservation but is a leader in all aspects of his life. Further, his experience and impressive leadership in the Wyoming National Guard demonstrates his ability to collaborate, communicate, and importantly, to be adaptable and resilient.

In closing, FWS needs a strong leader to guide its able staff as they address the many challenges facing our nation's wildlife resources. Consequently, we would like to reiterate our strong support for the nomination of Mr. Brian Nesvik to serve as the next Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The importance of the FWS to sportsmen and women, fish and wildlife, private landowners, state fish and wildlife agencies, among others, is difficult to overstate, and that is why we are pleased to see Mr. Nesvik being considered for this critical position. We thank the Committee for holding a hearing on this key nomination, and we look forward to working with Mr. Nesvik once confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

## Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association

**Archery Trade Association** 

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Bass Anglers Sportsman Society

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

Boone and Crockett Club

California Waterfowl Association

Catch A Dream Foundation

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Conservation Force

Delta Waterfowl

**Ducks Unlimited** 

Houston Safari Club

International Game Fish Association

Major League Fishing

Mule Deer Foundation

National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative

Foundation

National Deer Association

National Professional Anglers Association

National Rifle Association

National Wild Turkey Federation National Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Refuge Association North American Grouse Partnership

Orion: The Hunters Institute

Pheasants Forever

Pope and Young Club

Professional Outfitters and Guides of America

Quail Forever

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Safari Club International

Safari Club International Foundation

Sportsmen's Alliance

The Bass Federation

The Conservation Fund

The Walleye Federation

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Wild Sheep Foundation

Wildlife Forever

Wildlife Management Institute

Wildlife Mississippi