

March 24, 2025

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