

August 23, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the Wyoming Department of Transportation's TIGER II Grant Proposal

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As America's leading hunting, fishing and conservation organizations we are writing to register our strong support for the Wyoming Habitat Connectivity Initiative being advanced by the Wyoming Department of Transportation. This innovative highway safety proposal will reduce thousands of accidents involving wildlife and motor vehicles and has the potential to serve as a template for similar highway safety projects across our nation. The TIGER II Grant being sought by the Wyoming Department of Transportation has the strong support of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – which is committed to investing an additional \$3 M toward the completion of this project.

The wildlife migration corridors in west central Wyoming funnel thousands of pronghorn, mule deer and elk across US 191 and US 189 each year. Between 2000 and 2008 the Wyoming Department of Transportation removed 2,195 animal carcasses from the highway segments being targeted in this proposal. Thousands of additional wildlife-vehicle collisions in which animals died off the highway also occurred during this same period. We believe this project represents an extremely cost effective approach to improving highway safety and reducing wildlife – vehicle collisions along one our nation's most import wildlife migration routes. As the Federal Highway Administration noted in a 2007 report to Congress – appropriately positioned wildlife crossing structures and fencing have been shown to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by more than 80 percent.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the Wyoming Habitat Connectivity Initiative and look forward to working with you to make this project a reality. Please do not hesitate to call upon us for further information on this critical project.

Sincerely,

American Wildlands
Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Bear Trust International
Boone and Crockett Club
Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
Mule Deer Foundation
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Forest Foundation
National Rifle Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wild Turkey Federation

North American Grouse Partnership
Pheasants Forever
Pope & Young Club
Public Lands Foundation
Quail Forever
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Texas Wildlife Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Wildlife Society
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute
Wild Sheep Foundation