



# National Association of Conservation Districts

October 11, 2023

**The Honorable Tom Carper**

Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito**

Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

Thank you for your commitment to protecting the environment and supporting conservation. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents America's 3,000 conservation districts, their respective state and territory associations, and more than 17,000 individuals who serve on their governing boards. Conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level and work with landowners and operators in every part of the country to help manage and conserve land and water resources on private and public lands. To support conservation efforts and mitigate the spread of harmful invasive species across the United States, NACD requests that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) markup the *Lacey Act Amendments of 2023 (S. 1614)* this year.

Invasive species threaten native wildlife, destroy ecosystems, and cause significant harm to local economies. Monetary damages caused by invasive species are estimated to be as high as \$138 billion per year. The *Lacey Act Amendments of 2023* would help to mitigate the spread of invasive species by limiting the importation of newly traded species before they have been assessed for invasiveness and restricting the interstate transport of known invasive species.

Thank you for your attention to our request. NACD looks forward to continuing working with you to protect our environment and support conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim LaFleur". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim LaFleur  
NACD President