***END Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvements Act of 2021***

Association of Zoos & Aquariums:

“Wildlife trafficking of live wildlife, parts, and products continues to threaten thousands of species with extinction around the world. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums and its members are grateful to Senators Coons and Portman and Representatives Meng and Fortenberry for their continued leadership to combat illegal wildlife trade. We strongly urge Congress to act quickly to pass the *Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvements Act of 2021,”* **said Dan Ashe, President and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.**

Humane Society Legislative Fund:

“Wildlife trafficking has menacing implications for animal welfare, conservation, public health, and national security, and to stop this global war on wildlife, we need to place the nation on a wartime footing,” **said Sara Amundson, president of Humane Society Legislative Fund.** “Through their leadership, Senators Coons and Portman, and Representatives Fortenberry and Meng, have added more bite to existing programs, strengthening the government’s emphasis on technology to improve anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts, and confront the increasing reliance of bad actors on digital currency and payment platforms for their illicit commerce.”

Conservation International:

“We commend Senator Coons and Senator Portman for developing a bold whole-of-government approach to tackle the wildlife trafficking crisis.  By permanently reauthorizing the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, this bill ensures the United States develops and maintains a coordinated domestic and international response to combat wildlife trafficking,” **James Roth, Senior VP of Global Policy and Government Affairs at Conservation International said.** “Notably, the bill authorizes the US government to facilitate adoption of game-changing counter-trafficking and poaching technologies, such as automated wildlife detection and artificial intelligence, to dramatically enhance global counter-trafficking capacity. Finally, this bill forms a critical component to an effective One-Health approach to pandemic prevention, complementing other necessary activities such as addressing deforestation and poor biosecurity in animal husbandry.

International Fund for Animal Welfare:

“Since its original passage in 2016, the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act has successfully leveraged a whole-of-government approach to crack down on the trafficking in both wildlife and associated wildlife parts and products, “ **said Kate Wall, Senior Legislative Manager for IFAW.** “Unfortunately, the fight against criminal wildlife traffickers is far from over. Trafficking continues to deeply threaten animal species around the world, with poachers killing untold numbers of animals and live animals experiencing horrendous abuse as a result of the trade. The illegal wildlife trade also destabilizes communities, undermines national security, and spreads pathogens that cause serious diseases. IFAW applauds Senators Coons and Portman for championing the effort to reauthorize the END Wildlife Trafficking Act and continue the battle against global wildlife trafficking.”

International Conservation Caucus Foundation:

"Wildlife trafficking poses grave threats for human health, global security, and sustainable development. I applaud Senator Coons, Senator Portman, Representatives Fortenberry and Meng, and other leaders of the House & Senate International Conservation Caucus for their continued strong leadership on this issue,” **said David H. Barron, Chairman of the ICCF Group.**

African Wildlife Foundation:

“With significant parts of the END Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 set to expire this year, our goal has been to inform the U.S. Senate with respect to improvements contained in the END 2.0 bill, in order to fully ensure that gaps in the system are addressed. AWF applauds Senator Coons and his staff for carefully reviewing and applying input submitted by African experts working on the ground to stop illegal wildlife trade (IWT),” **AWF Director of Counter Wildlife Trafficking, Species Conservation and Science Didi Wamukoya.** “AWF staff was honored to be heard in this process, along with other NGO stakeholders. Our team is convinced that END 2.0 will serve to protect endangered wildlife and wildlands, while improving the socio-economic well-being of African countries and local communities across the continent.”

Natural Resources Defense Council:

“The biodiversity crisis we're currently facing threatens more than a million species with extinction, while also compromising the life support systems we humans depend on. To effectively address this, we must tackle the direct exploitation of species, which is a leading driver of species loss and, resulting, ecosystem collapse,” **Zak Smith, Director, International Wildlife Conservation at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)** Reauthorizing this law—and focusing on the scourge of wildlife trafficking that jeopardizes species around the world and undermines ecosystem health—is an important step for saving species and ourselves.”

World Wildlife Fund:

“The END Wildlife Trafficking Act has played a key role in guiding and enhancing U.S. Government efforts to stop illegal wildlife trade globally. It is also helping to address one of the root causes of the spillover of wildlife-borne diseases that can lead to pandemics, such as COVID-19. Wildlife trafficking not only drives the extinction of species but is also linked to corruption, instability, and financing for transnational criminal networks that threaten local communities and U.S. security interests alike,” **World Wildlife Fund Senior Vice President for Wildlife Conservation Ginette Hemley**. “Reauthorizing and strengthening this law is vitally important, given the critical role that well-coordinated U.S. technical and financial assistance plays in supporting international cooperation to end wildlife trafficking. We thank the champions of this legislation for continuing to demonstrate their leadership on this issue, which has had strong and consistent bipartisan support.”

The Nature Conservancy:

“Thank you to Senators Portman and Coons for their continued leadership in addressing wildlife trafficking, an indicator of the looming ecological crisis, which also directly threatens human health, well-being and security. This bill is an important step which turns its attention to steep declines in nature that risks destabilizing the very systems we depend on for our survival,” **said Kameran Onley, Director, North American Policy and Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy**