

## **INVESTING UNPRECEDENTED FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

*Passed: 220-213.*

### **SUMMARY:**

The House passed the Build Back Better Act to invest approximately \$1.8 trillion in climate mitigation and adaptation, the protection of endangered species and forest health and other efforts. *(November 19, 2021, Roll Call No. 385)*

### **BACKGROUND:**

Climate change, and the other drivers of extinction, have created a biodiversity crisis requiring an urgent and substantial national response. If climate warming is not kept well below 2°C, the adaptive capacity of most ecosystems will be exceeded, so time is of the essence to increase the resilience of species, ecosystems and human communities. A core piece of the Biden administration's agenda is the proposal to build back better by attempting to stimulate the economy while addressing climate and social injustices across the country. After months of negotiation, Congress elected to craft the build back better agenda through reconciliation—a legislative process to create laws focused on spending and revenue.

Rep. John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) introduced the Build Back Better Act, H.R. 5376, following the extensive drafting process associated with reconciliation. The \$1.75 trillion legislation included several provisions to address climate change, wildlife recovery and public lands restoration. One of the most significant proposals in the act is the historic repeal of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Oil and Gas Program. This provision bans new oil and gas leasing and buys back all existing leases in the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain of the refuge, lands sacred to indigenous Alaskans and home to incomparable wildlife. H.R. 5376 also includes much-needed funding to protect our nation's lands and waters. Notable investments include billions of dollars to mitigate and adapt to climate change through the Civilian Climate Corps, reconnect wildlife habitat through the Forest Service's Legacy Roads and Trails program, conserve wildlife corridors, protect at-risk species on public lands, and implement the Endangered Species Act, our nation's most effective tool for preventing extinction.

### **OUTCOME:**

On November 19, 2021, the House passed the Build Back Better Act, 220-213. "Yea" was the pro-conservation vote.