

## United States Senate

November 16, 2021

Senator Tom Carper  
Chairman  
Environment & Public Works Committee  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Shelley Capito  
Ranking Member  
Environment & Public Works Committee  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senators Carper and Capito,

Wildlife conservation is integral to Montanans way of life and outdoor economy. Having spent the majority of her career at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and as a fellow Montana sportsman, Ms. Martha Williams knows that first hand. I believe Montana and the country would be well-served with her at the helm of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and write to you in support of advancing her nomination quickly.

As you know, Ms. Williams has dedicated her career to public service, serving as legal counsel for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for over twenty years and eventually being appointed Director from 2017 to 2020 and working for several years at the University of Montana in Missoula. Given her experience, Ms. Williams understands the importance of coordinating with state wildlife agencies in wildlife management and policy decisions. She also understands Montanans' concerns with top-down, over-reaching policies and frustrations with bureaucratic regulatory challenges like those posed by the *Cottonwood* decision, has witnessed and even helped facilitate tremendous, state-led, wildlife conservation successes such as the sage grouse, gray wolf, and grizzly bear recovery in Montana. I'm hopeful that under her leadership the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to rely on data and science to ensure Montana can continue managing these species and resume primary management responsibility of the grizzly bear.

I believe Ms. Williams will bring a pragmatic, balanced approach to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator