

**Below are three examples among the 146 letters with the same content SVP sent out individually to select members of the U.S. Congress on April 3, 2023.
The end of this document lists all 146 recipients.**



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

SVP Headquarters • 7918 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102, USA
Phone: +1 (301) 634-7024 • Fax: +1 (703) 506-3266
Email: svp@vertpaleo.org • Web: www.vertpaleo.org
FEIN: 06-0906643

April 3, 2023

Senator Patty Murray (c/o Mr. Rishi Sahgal)
Senate Committee on Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Patty Murray,

On behalf of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, we urge you to appropriate earmarked funds for the Department of Interior and USDA to enact the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (**PRPA**).

On August 2, 2022, the Department of the Interior published its final rule for the Act, the final step in the process of protecting and conserving scientifically important paleontological resources on Federal land that began in 1992 with the introduction of Vertebrate Paleontological Resources Protection bill. The new rule and the one implemented several years ago by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have established the standards for operationalizing the mandate given to the land management agencies through PRPA, but paleontological expertise and additional enforcement resources are required for the Act to be effective. The agencies have been tasked with:

- managing paleontological resources using scientific principles and expertise;
- inventorying those resources and classifying them by rarity and scientific importance;
- monitoring the resources, protecting them from illegal activity, and enforcing criminal penalties when illegal activity occurs;
- approving permanent repositories for resources removed from Federal land under permit; and
- establishing programs to increase public awareness about the significance of paleontological resources.

The mandate from PRPA extends to more than 600 million acres of Federal land, most of which are rich in paleontological resources. Yet, the Interior and USDA employ only about 20 paleontologists, a number that has significantly decreased since PRPA was passed, and two of the four agencies, the Department of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service currently do not have even one paleontologist. This is in striking contrast to the well over 700 archaeologists USDA and the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service currently employ to comply with the mandates of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, after which PRPA was modeled.

We urge you to appropriate earmarked funds to the agencies that would allow them to at least double the number of paleontologists, increase the number of law enforcement agents who can handle cases involving paleontological resources, and have a viable and sustainable working budget for inventorying (including contracting external organizations and private companies to assist with inventory), conducting necessary fieldwork (including paleontological protection and mitigation), and enhancing educational programs.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) is a non-profit international scientific organization with about 2,000 members, including researchers, educators, students, and artists. Our mission is to advance the science and education of vertebrate paleontology and to encourage the protection of vertebrate fossils and fossil sites. SVP has a long-established partnership with the agencies that are custodians for U.S. paleontological resources and with legislators in Washington, D.C., and in many states.

Please note that we have sent the same letter to all other relevant members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Questions concerning our letter can be addressed to any one of us or SVP's Government Affairs Committee (c/o Dr. Cary Woodruff, Dr. Allison Stegner, and Dr. Kenshu Shimada) at svp@vertpaleo.org. We look forward to continuing to work toward making the nation's paleontological history valuable to all.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Stuart S. Sumida, Ph.D.

Jessica M. Theodor, Ph.D.



SVP President

SVP Vice President

Past SVP President



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

SVP Headquarters • 7918 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102, USA
Phone: +1 (301) 634-7024 • Fax: +1 (703) 506-3266
Email: svp@vertpaleo.org • Web: www.vertpaleo.org
FEIN: 06-0906643

April 3, 2023

Congresswoman Kay Granger (c/o Mr. Ryan Hamilton)
House Committee on Appropriations
2308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kay Granger,

On behalf of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, we urge you to appropriate earmarked funds for the Department of Interior and USDA to enact the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (**PRPA**).

On August 2, 2022, the Department of the Interior published its final rule for the Act, the final step in the process of protecting and conserving scientifically important paleontological resources on Federal land that began in 1992 with the introduction of Vertebrate Paleontological Resources Protection bill. The new rule and the one implemented several years ago by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have established the standards for operationalizing the mandate given to the land management agencies through PRPA, but paleontological expertise and additional enforcement resources are required for the Act to be effective. The agencies have been tasked with:

- managing paleontological resources using scientific principles and expertise;
- inventorying those resources and classifying them by rarity and scientific importance;
- monitoring the resources, protecting them from illegal activity, and enforcing criminal penalties when illegal activity occurs;
- approving permanent repositories for resources removed from Federal land under permit; and
- establishing programs to increase public awareness about the significance of paleontological resources.

The mandate from PRPA extends to more than 600 million acres of Federal land, most of which are rich in paleontological resources. Yet, the Interior and USDA employ only about 20 paleontologists, a number that has significantly decreased since PRPA was passed, and two of the four agencies, the Department of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service currently do not have even one paleontologist. This is in striking contrast to the well over 700 archaeologists USDA and the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service currently employ to comply with the mandates of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, after which PRPA was modeled.

We urge you to appropriate earmarked funds to the agencies that would allow them to at least double the number of paleontologists, increase the number of law enforcement agents who can handle cases involving paleontological resources, and have a viable and sustainable working budget for inventorying (including contracting external organizations and private companies to assist with inventory), conducting necessary fieldwork (including paleontological protection and mitigation), and enhancing educational programs.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) is a non-profit international scientific organization with about 2,000 members, including researchers, educators, students, and artists. Our mission is to advance the science and education of vertebrate paleontology and to encourage the protection of vertebrate fossils and fossil sites. SVP has a long-established partnership with the agencies that are custodians for U.S. paleontological resources and with legislators in Washington, D.C., and in many states.

Please note that we have sent the same letter to all other relevant members of the House Committee on Appropriations. Questions concerning our letter can be addressed to any one of us or SVP's Government Affairs Committee (c/o Dr. Cary Woodruff, Dr. Allison Stegner, and Dr. Kenshu Shimada) at svp@vertpaleo.org. We look forward to continuing to work toward making the nation's paleontological history valuable to all.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Stuart S. Sumida, Ph.D.

Jessica M. Theodor, Ph.D.



SVP President

SVP Vice President

Past SVP President



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

SVP Headquarters • 7918 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102, USA
Phone: +1 (301) 634-7024 • Fax: +1 (703) 506-3266
Email: svp@vertpaleo.org • Web: www.vertpaleo.org
FEIN: 06-0906643

April 3, 2023

Representative Raúl Grijalva (c/o Mr. Glenn Miller)
House Natural Resources - Parks Subcommittee
1203 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Raúl Grijalva,

On behalf of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, we urge you to appropriate earmarked funds for the Department of Interior and USDA to enact the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (**PRPA**).

On August 2, 2022, the Department of the Interior published its final rule for the Act, the final step in the process of protecting and conserving scientifically important paleontological resources on Federal land that began in 1992 with the introduction of Vertebrate Paleontological Resources Protection bill. The new rule and the one implemented several years ago by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have established the standards for operationalizing the mandate given to the land management agencies through PRPA, but paleontological expertise and additional enforcement resources are required for the Act to be effective. The agencies have been tasked with:

- managing paleontological resources using scientific principles and expertise;
- inventorying those resources and classifying them by rarity and scientific importance;
- monitoring the resources, protecting them from illegal activity, and enforcing criminal penalties when illegal activity occurs;
- approving permanent repositories for resources removed from Federal land under permit; and
- establishing programs to increase public awareness about the significance of paleontological resources.

The mandate from PRPA extends to more than 600 million acres of Federal land, most of which are rich in paleontological resources. Yet, the Interior and USDA employ only about 20 paleontologists, a number that has significantly decreased since PRPA was passed, and two of the four agencies, the Department of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service currently do not have even one paleontologist. This is in striking contrast to the well over 700 archaeologists USDA and the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service currently employ to comply with the mandates of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, after which PRPA was modeled.

We urge you to appropriate earmarked funds to the agencies that would allow them to at least double the number of paleontologists, increase the number of law enforcement agents who can handle cases involving paleontological resources, and have a viable and sustainable working budget for inventorying (including contracting external organizations and private companies to assist with inventory), conducting necessary fieldwork (including paleontological protection and mitigation), and enhancing educational programs.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) is a non-profit international scientific organization with about 2,000 members, including researchers, educators, students, and artists. Our mission is to advance the science and education of vertebrate paleontology and to encourage the protection of vertebrate fossils and fossil sites. SVP has a long-established partnership with the agencies that are custodians for U.S. paleontological resources and with legislators in Washington, D.C., and in many states.

Please note that we have sent the same letter to all other relevant members of the House Natural Resources - Parks Subcommittee. Questions concerning our letter can be addressed to any one of us or SVP's Government Affairs Committee (c/o Dr. Cary Woodruff, Dr. Allison Stegner, and Dr. Kenshu Shimada) at svp@vertpaleo.org. We look forward to continuing to work toward making the nation's paleontological history valuable to all.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Stuart S. Sumida, Ph.D.

Jessica M. Theodor, Ph.D.



SVP President

SVP Vice President

Past SVP President

Senate Interior Appropriations

Sen. Britt
Sen. Murkowski
Sen. Feinstein
Sen. McConnell
Sen. Collins
Sen. Van Hollen
Sen. Peters
Sen. Tester
Sen. Fischer
Sen. Heinrich
Sen. Hoeven
Sen. Merkley
Sen. Reed
Sen. Murray
Sen. Capito

Senate Energy and Natural Resources - Parks Subcommittee

Sen. Kelly
Sen. Sanders
Sen. Murkowski
Sen. King
Sen. Hirono
Sen. Hoeven
Sen. Heinrich
Sen. Daines
Sen. Lee

House Interior Appropriations

Rep. Frankel
Rep. Bishop
Rep. Carl
Rep. Ellzey
Rep. Watson Coleman
Rep. Ciscomani
Rep. Gonzales
Rep. Wasserman Schultz
Rep. Pocan
Rep. Hinson
Rep. Amodei
Rep. Moolenaar
Rep. Ruppertsberger
Rep. Cartwright
Rep. Lee
Rep. Cole
Rep. Joyce

Rep. Reschenthaler
Rep. Diaz-Balart
Rep. Clyde
Rep. Wexton
Rep. Harris
Rep. Hoyer
Rep. Valadao
Rep. Granger
Rep. Rutherford
Rep. Fleischmann
Rep. Espaillat
Rep. Simpson
Rep. Calvert
Rep. Trone
Rep. Morelle
Rep. Letlow
Rep. Stewart
Rep. Cline
Rep. Kaptur
Rep. Newhouse
Rep. Guest
Rep. Cloud
Rep. Quigley
Rep. McCollum
Rep. Case
Rep. Cuellar
Rep. Meng
Rep. Pingree
Rep. Bice
Rep. DeLauro
Rep. Harder
Rep. LaTurner
Rep. Kilmer
Rep. Torres
Rep. Lee
Rep. Franklin
Rep. Aguilar
Rep. Rogers
Rep. Aderholt
Rep. Carter
Rep. Zinke
Rep. Womack
Rep. Garcia
Rep. Underwood

House Natural Resources - Parks Subcommittee

Rep. Fulcher
Rep. Tiffany
Rep. Peltola
Rep. Curtis
Rep. Neguse
Rep. McClintock
Rep. Bentz
Rep. Leger Fernandez
Rep. Porter
Rep. Grijalva
Rep. Westerman
Rep. Case
Rep. Kiggans
Rep. Stauber
Rep. Dingell
Rep. Gallego
Rep. Moylan
Rep. Lamborn

NPS Units

Senator Deb Fischer
Senator Pete Ricketts
Congressman Adrian M. Smith
Senator Lisa A. Murkowski
Congresswoman Mary Sattler Peltola
Senator Daniel Sullivan
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Alex Padilla
Congressman Salud O. Carbajal
Congressman John Garamendi
Senator Michael Bennet
Senator John Hickenlooper
Congresswoman Lauren Boebert
Senator Michael Lee
Senator Mitt Romney
Congressman Blake Moore
Congressman Doug Lamborn
Senator John A. Barrasso
Congresswoman Harriet Hageman
Senator Cynthia Lummis
Congressman Paul A. Gosar
Senator Mark Kelly
Senator Kyrsten Sinema
Senator Michael D. Crapo
Senator James E. Risch

Congressman Michael K. Simpson
Congressman Cliff Bentz
Senator Jeffrey Merkley
Senator Ron Wyden
Congressman Robert Garcia
Senator Susan M. Collins
Congressman Jared Golden
Senator Angus King
Congressman David Schweikert
Congresswoman Suzanne Lee
Senator Jacklyn Rosen
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Ted Cruz
Congressman Pete Sessions
Senator Ben Ray Luján
Senator Martin T. Heinrich
Congressman Gabe Vasquez
Congressman John R. Curtis