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ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 18, 2015

Wendi Weber
Regional Director, Northeast Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9587

Dear Director Weber:

It was truly a pleasure to meet with you recently to discuss the priorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in West Virginia and the Northeast Region. I enjoyed our conversation, particularly the information you shared with me regarding the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge (CVNWR) facilities located in Tucker County, West Virginia. During our discussion, you noted your concerns for the poor conditions of the current refuge visitor center and headquarters in Davis, West Virginia. I share your concerns about the facility and write to formally request detailed information regarding the current status of the refuge property and the USFWS plan of action for a new facility to serve the CVNWR.

As you know, the refuge is an important resource to those in the surrounding area and provides opportunities for those visiting West Virginia to experience the state's natural beauty. CVNWR supports key conservation, education, and volunteer initiatives vital to the sustainable protection of the land in Canaan Valley. However, the current condition of the CVNWR facility does not provide a suitable foundation to support the USFWS long-term plan and growing presence in the Valley. For these reasons, it is imperative we work together in the pursuit of a state-of-the-art facility that better suits the mission of the refuge. I pledge to work with you, community leaders in Tucker County, and my colleagues in Congress, so that together we can bring forth a permanent solution for the CVNWR facility in Canaan Valley.

Please feel free to contact Lance West, a member of my staff, if you have any questions. He can be reached at 202-224-3954 or lance_west@manchin.senate.gov. Thank you so much for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

With warmest regards,

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator