



Dear Senator Carper,

We are the National Tigers for Tigers Coalition - a collaboration of student-led organizations from colleges across the nation with the tiger as our mascot. We are 14 schools strong and growing, and our goal is to increase awareness of tiger conservation, and protect tigers around the globe. To help us in our efforts, **we urge you to support the re-authorization of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp – known as the Save Vanishing Species Stamp.**

Globalization and economic growth have fueled an explosion in wildlife trafficking that poses an immediate threat to biodiversity. Asian rhino populations are at an all-time low, elephant populations are declining despite the ban on ivory trade, and tiger populations have been reduced to only 3,200 left in the wild. These species are being ravaged by poachers, and face extinction in the wild.

Wildlife trafficking is also a threat to national security, as the tremendous profits, estimated at \$20 billion annually, and weak enforcement have drawn sophisticated criminal networks into the trade. They use the revenues from this trade to support illegal trafficking of humans and drugs, and to fund terrorist activities. It is unclear whether the wildlife trade has been used to fund terrorist activities against the United States, but this possibility should not be taken lightly. Therefore, reducing the demand for wildlife parts would not only benefit conservation efforts, but also decrease the funds available to these crime networks.

The National Tigers for Tigers Coalition seeks your support to re-authorize the **Save Vanishing Species Semipostal Stamp** to address the wildlife trafficking crisis and to save our mascot. As you know, the stamp program is fighting for re-authorization for another 4 years.

The Save Vanishing Species Stamp provides **crucial funding** to support endangered species, **without any impact to the federal budget.** Instead, citizens have voluntarily purchased more than **25 million stamps** in less than 2 years, providing almost \$2.5M to support projects by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for tigers, elephants, rhinos, great apes, and marine turtles. These funds finance the hiring and training of anti-poaching units, provide logistical and technical aid to protected area managers, and educate targeted groups on natural resource extraction and prevention of wildlife crimes. Why would we want to cut that success short?

Since the stamp launched in 2011, wildlife conservation groups around the country have rallied together and have put significant marketing support behind the stamp. At Clemson University we have a Jumbotron video promoting the stamp to 81,000 fans each home game, and the Detroit Tigers have even pitched in with their own PSA videos to support the stamp. Those are just two examples - and **we're just getting started!** Point is, we have so much traction, we don't require any Post Office marketing support - we just need it to be available!

The public support this stamp has received so far serves as a testament to just how much Americans care about saving species threatened with extinction. Additionally, this bill is bipartisan, does NOT utilize any tax dollars, and puts much-needed funds in the hands of those who are best qualified to address this crisis. On top of all of that, close to **75 million stamps have already been printed – why let those stamps go to waste due to government inaction?**

Please join the National Tigers for Tigers Coalition in bringing the plight of tigers to the forefront of public awareness to rally financial support for their conservation. By endorsing the re-authorization of the Save Vanishing Species Stamp, you would be doing just that.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

National Tigers for Tigers Coalition

www.t4tcoalition.org