

[From the Congressional Record, Jan. 11, 1973]

#### A BILL TO STRENGTHEN THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I introduced a bill on January 3 in the 93d Congress to strengthen the Endangered Species Act of 1966 and 1969.

Before discussing this legislation, I want to report that I am pleased the U.S. State Department has scheduled an international conference, as called for in the 1969 act, on fish and wildlife resources threatened with extinction. This coincides with the movement in the House of Representatives to enact the stronger Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Mr. Speaker, I have been pressing the State Department for this international conference upon many occasions and while it has been postponed by the State Department several previous times, I certainly hope this will be a successful gathering of nations this year.

I am also requesting that I be appointed as a delegate from the House to the conference to be held February 12 through March 2, 1973, in Washington, D.C. This conference will seek to establish a worldwide treaty regarding the cooperative protection of endangered species among countries.

Mr. Speaker, over 70 members of the House are cosponsoring H.R. 37, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and related bills which have been referred to the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation, I will urge early hearings to be held prior to full committee action.

This is one of the most important pieces of legislation in the new Congress and I am satisfied it will enable us to thoroughly strengthen the existing acts. Further action on the existing law is necessary if we are to conserve, protect, and propagate our threatened fish and wildlife resources which I feel are diminishing too rapidly.

Major provisions of the new bill provide for the administration of the endangered species program jointly by the Departments of Interior and Commerce, removes the distinction now existing between native and worldwide endangered species and extends present controls to teach species or subspecies not only threatened with extinction, but also those which are likely to be threatened within the near future.

The measure extends existing prohibitions to include export as well as import of listed endangered species and provides for civil and criminal penalties for violations of the act.

In some other specific points, the bill would provide additional protection to such species as the eastern timber wolf, found in Minnesota; and the Texas red wolf, found in Texas and Louisiana areas; along with the wolverine, found in Minnesota and Idaho.

It would enable better consideration to be given to the kangaroo, found in Australia, and to the Asiatic elephant. These two species, along with the wolverine, are being heavily exploited and are in trouble, but are not yet on the brink of extinction, according to the Department of the Interior.

Protective help also would be given to the eastern cougar which is found on the eastern seaboard and which ranges from Maryland to the Carolinas and Georgia.

The Department of the Interior would have the authority to control exports of native endangered species, just as it now controls the imports of foreign endangered species. This allows us to do as much for our own animals as we are doing for foreign endangered species.

Other sections of the endangered species bill would require an annual review of the endangered species list, allow States to adopt their own programs, authorize a study of State and Federal roles, restrict importation for zoos and educational purposes, and establish a separate restriction section for other importers.

Mr. Speaker, a list of the cosponsors of the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1973 follows:

#### LIST OF COSPONSORS

Frank M. Clark, William S. Malliard, Charles A. Mosher, Thomas N. Downing, Philip E. Ruppe, George A. Goodling, William G. Bray, Frank A. Stubblefield, John M. Murphy, Walter B. Jones.  
 Mario Biaggi, Glenn M. Anderson, Peter N. Kyros, Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., Robert H. Steele, Pierre S. du Pont, Robert O. Therman, James V. Stanton, Ralph H. Metcalfe, Lucien N. Nedzi.  
 James G. O'Hara, William D. Ford, Martha W. Griffiths, John E. Moss, James R. Grover, Robert L. Laggett, Edwin B. Forsythe, Ben B. Blackburn, Joseph P. Vigorito, Charles E. Bennett;  
 Jerome R. Waldie, Morris K. Udall, John Ware, Louis C. Wyman, Ken Hechler, David Owey, Gus Yatron, Clarence D. Long, Frank Annunzio, Edward I. Koch, Don Edwards, Fred B. Rooney;  
 Donald M. Fraser, James C. Gorman, Charles J. Carney, John J. Rhodes, Jerry L. Pettis, Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Hamilton Fish, Jr., Joseph P. Addabbo, Bill Alexander, Robert H. Mollohan;  
 Romano L. Mazzoli, Norman F. Lent, William L. Hungate, Thaddeus J. Dulacki, Joseph E. Karth, Silvio O. Conte, Mark Andrews, Bertram L. Podell, Marvin L. Esch, Henry Helstoski;  
 Richardson Preyer, Thomas L. Ashley, Jonathan B. Bingham, James C. Cleveland, Edward R. Roybal, Bill Frenzel, Robert H. Michel, Bella S. Abzug, Edward G. Blister, Jr., John F. Seiberling.