

S.15

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 24, 2024

Mr. Anka of Lincoln (for himself) introduced the following bill

A BILL

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535) in order to enhance conservation efforts through mandated minimum funding levels for both animal and plant species.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

SHORT TITLE—This Act may be cited as the "Endangered Species Conservation Funding Enhancement Act of 2024."

SECTION 1. FINDINGS

(a) FINDINGS—Congress finds the following:

- i. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 has been instrumental in protecting and recovering endangered and threatened species in the United States.
- ii. Despite the Act's successes, many endangered plant and animal species currently receive inadequate funding or no funding at all, hindering effective conservation, ecosystem, and biodiversity protection efforts.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

- (a) **FUNDING MANDATE**—Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535) is amended to include the following provisions:
- i. The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall allocate a minimum of \$1,500 annually for each endangered animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act for conservation efforts.
 - ii. The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall allocate a minimum of \$500 annually for each endangered plant species listed under the Endangered Species Act for conservation efforts.
- (b) **ALLOCATION CRITERIA**—The allocation of funds shall prioritize projects and initiatives aimed at conservation, habitat restoration, research, monitoring, and public awareness campaigns for each endangered species.

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION

- (a) **ENFORCEMENT**—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish guidelines and procedures to ensure compliance with the funding mandates specified in Section 2(a).
- (b) **REPORTING**—Each federal agency responsible for administering funds under this Act shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing the allocation and expenditure of funds for endangered species conservation efforts.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

- (a) **APPROPRIATIONS**—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

- (a) **EFFECTIVE DATE**—This Act shall take effect 90 days after its enactment into law.

SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY

SEVERABILITY—If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.
