



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

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Contact: Anne Lupardus

Phone: 202-225-5506

Kind Praises Declassification of Bald Eagle as Victory for Endangered Species Act, Conservation Efforts

Stresses Importance of Continued Protections for our National Symbol

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind today praised the decision of the U.S. Department of the Interior to remove the American Bald Eagle from the list of endangered species as a victory for the Endangered Species Act and other cooperative conservation efforts that have brought the bird back from near extinction.

“This bird is so much more than just an important part of our nation’s ecosystem – it represents our identity as a nation,” Rep. Kind said. “The declassification of the American Bald Eagle as an endangered species is a testament to the hard work of many, and the crucial protections provided to it by the Endangered Species Act. While this day marks a great accomplishment, it is also important to maintain high protections for this bird so it can continue to flourish across the nation for future generations to enjoy.”

In the 1960s, the American Bald Eagle faced near extinction due primarily to widespread use of the pesticide DDT after World War II, which accumulated in eagles and caused them to lay eggs with weakened shells. In 1963 there were just about 400 nesting pairs in the entire lower 48 states. The American Bald Eagle was one of the first species protected under the Endangered Species Act when it was enacted in 1973, and after decades of conservation efforts, the lower 48 states today are home to nearly 10,000 nesting pairs, a 25-fold increase over the last 40 years.

Following the delisting, existing statutes like the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act will remain in place to protect the bird. Rep. Kind has been personally involved in ensuring that these statutes are adequate, petitioning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be forward-looking in their protections to prevent habitat destruction or other actions that could endanger the Bald Eagle over the long term.

“There is nothing I enjoy more than counting the eagles with my two little boys as we travel up the Mississippi River,” Rep. Kind said. “With the success of the cooperative conservation efforts and a strong commitment to protecting these birds at every level of government, I am confident I will be counting eagles with my grandchildren as well.”

For more information and to read the USFWS release on the declassification, go to: <http://www.fws.gov>.