

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 26, 2009

Co-sponsor the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009
Don't let the "Top Dog" Disappear

Dear Colleague:

In the next week we will be reintroducing the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, to address the threats facing 15 species of imperiled great cats and rare canids outside of North America. This bipartisan legislation continues our tradition of protecting threatened and endangered species around the world and comes at a critical time in the survival of these animals.

Habitat conversion, loss of food sources, illegal trade, and disease threaten the health and stability of these iconic species, but with your support we can help these magnificent animals. The great cats and rare canids included in this bill are umbrella species that, if conserved appropriately, protect their corresponding landscapes and other species dependent on those ecosystems. These species include the majestic jaguar of South and Central America, the elusive snow leopard, the cheetah, the African wild dog, and other rare carnivore species.

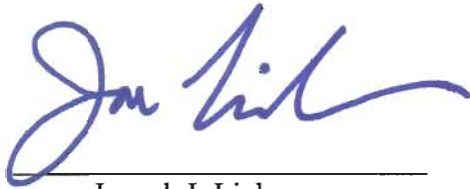
This legislation would create the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund and builds on the success of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF), which presently provides funding to protect tigers, rhinoceroses, Asian and African elephants, great apes, and marine turtles in their native habitats. Typical activities supported by the MSCF include new educational programs for local populations to increase awareness of these species and prevent interactions that could be harmful to people and animals, as well as increased monitoring and law enforcement activities to prevent poaching and illegal animal trafficking.

The Great Cats and Rare Canids Act is authorized at \$5 million annually to sustain current conservation efforts and expand strategic measures to restore at-risk populations of great cats and rare canines. Historically, for each dollar we invest in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, at least \$3 of private funding is also directed towards these species.

Help ensure that the world's most magnificent predators continue to inspire awe and wonder in our children for generations to come. For more information, or to become an original co-sponsor of the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, please contact Ellen Cohen in Senator Lieberman's office (ellen_cohen@lieberman.senate.gov, 4-9849), Jeanette Lyman in Senator Tom Udall's office (jeanette_lyman@tomudall.senate.gov, 4-6621), or

Darin Guries in Senator Brownback's office (darin_guries@brownback.senate.gov, 4-6521) by March 4, 2009.

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator



Sam Brownback
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator