

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Martha Williams
Director
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Williams,

We are deeply troubled following the killing of a North American Bald Eagle in Nebraska's First Congressional District last week. We request your immediate attention on this important matter.

On February 28th, 2023, the Stanton County Nebraska Shariff's Office responded to a call in reference to two men acting suspiciously near the Wood Duck Recreation Area just Southwest of Stanton, Nebraska. Further investigation revealed that two Honduran nationals were in possession of a dead Bald Eagle. Even more troubling was the intent of these individuals to cook, eat, dismember, and to use the bird's talons as ornaments. Let us be clear, the actions of these men are deeply alarming and highly concerning to Nebraskans and Americans across the nation. We commend the efforts of both local and federal law enforcement agencies as they continue to investigate this disturbing case.

The Bald Eagle is the national bird of the United States. It was chosen as a national emblem by the Continental Congress of 1782 and serves as an important symbol of our national identity. There are few images that resonate more with the American ethos than the American Bald Eagle. President John F. Kennedy fittingly stated that "The Founding Fathers made an appropriate choice when they selected the bald eagle as the emblem of the nation. The fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolizes the strength and freedom of America."

Our nation has historically taken significant steps to protect this important species. The Golden and Bald Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d) imposed federal penalties for any persons who "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle....alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof."

We are troubled that these two men are foreign nationals who are suspected to have entered this country illegally. We have repeatedly demanded that President Biden address the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis at our Southern Border and the crimes committed by these two men only highlight the disastrous effects of the Biden Administration's inaction. Just as these two individuals must be held accountable for their egregious actions, the Biden Administration must be held accountable for its perpetuation of the crisis at our Southern Border and the skyrocketing rates of illegal immigration.

As this investigation continues to unfold, we request that you continue to update relevant federal and local law enforcement agencies, members of Congress, and the general public of the actions your agency is taking to bring these individuals to justice. Please know, we view this matter with utmost importance, and we will continue to monitor this investigation. Thank you for your active work on this investigation and we look forward to your prompt response to this matter.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Flood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Flood" clearly legible.

Mike Flood
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kat Cammack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kat" and last name "Cammack" clearly legible.

Kat Cammack
Member of Congress

cc: Tim McCoy, Director, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
W. Bert Lammli, Attorney, Stanton County, Nebraska
Mike Unger, Sheriff, Stanton County, Nebraska