To whom it may concern

 With this letter, a group of experts in Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation from different range countries want to express their support for theLesser White-fronted Goose re-introduction program in Sweden.

 We would like to state the following:

1) The Lesser White-fronted Goose reintroduction program in Sweden managed by Dr. Lambart von Essen and his colleagues is one of the greatest achievements in the species conservation worldwide and also a great experience, which can be very useful for conservation of other globally threatened species of waterfowl. We are aware of the problems with the re-introduction. New technology and our increased knowledge in genetics will ensure that all precautions are considered and future programs base on the best practices available.

2) In the current situation, when the wild population of LWFG in Fennoscandia has declined below 100 pairs and is completely extinct in Sweden, we consider it extremely important to continue the re-introduction program using either with traditional methods or using ultra-light method, which have shown its efficiency in USA and Russia with reintroduction of different threatened bird species. We will be glad if our scientific knowledge and conservation expertise can be of any help within future projects

3) The genetic material for a re-introduction should be carefully selected but in the situation with extremely low population numbers of wild birds, we suggest that Lesser White-fronted Geese from any European farm (after a genotype test) or wild birds from European Russia can be used for re-introduction.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

**Mr. Shigeki Iwabuchi (Japan)**

Japanese Association for Wild Geese protection – coordinator of Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation project. Member of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Task Force of Wetlands International

**Prof. Anatoliy Korzyukov (Ukraine)**

Odessa National University; President of Azov-Black Sea Ornithological Union;

Vice-chairman of the Ukrainian Society for the protection of Birds/Birdlife International Partner;

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**Dr. K.Litvin (Russia)**

Russian Bird Ringing Center of Russian Academy of Sciences. Member of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Task Force of Wetlands International; Scientific-secretary of Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia.

**Dr. Vladimir Morozov (Russia)**

Russian Research Institute of Nature Protection of Ministry of Natural Resources of Russian Federation. The Member of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Task Force of Wetlands International

**Dr. Marina Kholodova (Russia)**

Institute for Ecology and Evolution Russian Academy of Sciences. Russian expert in Lesser White-fronted Goose Genetics

**Dr. Elena Kreuzberg-Mukhina (Uzbekistan)**

IUCN National Committee, Uzbekistan - Executive Secretary;
IUCN/SSC Regional Vice-Chair for Central Asia; Member of IUCN/SSC Threatened Waterfowl Research Group; Member of CMS/AEWA Technical Committee; Institute of Zoology, Uzbek Academy of Sciences – Senior Researcher

**Dr Ivan Rusev (Ukraine)**

Member of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Task Force of Wetlands International;

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Executive director of the Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia.

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Vise-president of the Migratory Bird Commission of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC); Russian Bird Conservation Union (RBCU) Board member; Russian Association of Hunters and Fishermen (Rosokhotrybolovsoiuz) Scientific Advisory Council Member

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Member of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Task Force of Wetlands International;

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