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July 23, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), thank you for crafting the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Amendments of 2018. This discussion draft will jumpstart important ESA reform discussions that will benefit species, landowners and the federal agencies charged with enforcing the law.

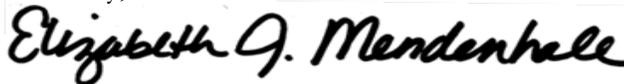
NAR is pleased this discussion draft addresses the following broad issues:

- Shift more ESA implementation responsibility to state and local governments where appropriate;
- Reduce ESA administrative and regulatory burdens;
- Make the regulatory process more transparent and accountable;
- Emphasize the use of sound science in the regulatory process; and
- Incentivize more private sector engagement to protect species and preserve habitat.

It is time for Congress to make changes to the ESA, and the Association commends you for starting this important conversation. The ESA is a story of success and failure: although the ESA has been successful at preventing the extinction of species in the U.S., it is estimated that only three percent of species have been recovered and delisted under ESA.

NAR stands ready to work with you to promote balanced, locally supported solutions to species conservation challenges that protect property rights and encourage smart development. REALTORS® urge you to continue your dialogue with all interested parties as you create the best possible ESA modernization package.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Mendenhall
2018 President, National Association of REALTORS®

