



Matthew H. Mead  
Governor

# WYOMING Department of Transportation

"Providing a safe, high quality, and efficient transportation system"

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William T. Panos  
Director

August 8, 2018

Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Wyoming Department of Transportation Support for the  
Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 (Discussion Draft)

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

Thank you for the opportunity to support the discussion draft amendments to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) now being considered in the Senate by the Environment and Public Works Committee. Though ESA issues do not touch a large number of Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) projects, ESA concerns can significantly affect projects when they do occur. WYDOT supports the bill's efforts to improve project delivery so that WYDOT can deliver a safe and efficient transportation system to the people of Wyoming.

Provisions of the draft bill work to accomplish the following improvements:

- Elevate the role of state conservation agencies in species management,
- Increase transparency associated with carrying out species conservation,
- Provide regulatory certainty for states to facilitate participation in conservation and recovery activities, and
- Give great weight to evidence and information provided on behalf of state governments.

Taken together, the amendments to the current ESA found in the bill move helpfully in the direction of creating clarity and certainty for states, including state departments of transportation, as they work to meet ESA requirements.

We hope that these elements of the discussion draft can be retained as the bill progresses and look forward to working with you and the rest of the Congress on successful reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,

William T. Panos,  
Director