

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



DNR

Alvin A. Taylor
Director

August 2, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso, M.D.
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Endangered Species Act – Proposed 2018 Amendments

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed 2018 amendments to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA has been a vital management tool for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) as we strive to fulfill our mission to be the steward of our state's natural resources. We work tirelessly providing the USFWS with scientific data to affect good decisions in the management, monitoring and surveying of species which are listed and proposed for listing in SC.

We believe the proposed amendments will provide additional clarification on many aspects of the ESA and implementation steps utilized by the USFWS. We are also pleased to see that it provides a strong basis for state involvement with all listing and management decisions. As I am sure you know, state agencies play a critical role in the on the ground protection, management, and recovery of these species.

We are excited about the opportunity for additional funding through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647 and S.B.3223) and see this as a very crucial part of helping states achieve goals established under the ESA.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts to enhance the ESA and for allowing us the opportunity to be a true partner.

Sincerely,

Alvin A. Taylor
Director