



August 6, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso, MD
Chairman
Environment & Public Works Committee
US Senate
410 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso,

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) appreciates the opportunity to review the discussion draft of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018. RMEF participated in the Western Governors' Association Species Conservation and Endangered Species Act Initiative and consistently conveyed support for measures to remove recovered species from the threatened and endangered list.

We support modernization of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including provisions to increase state consultation and participation in species recovery. RMEF strongly believes state wildlife agencies are fully capable of managing threatened and endangered species—particularly gray wolves and grizzly bears.

ESA listing decisions should be based on best available science and commercial data. Yet, reasonable limits should be established to post-listing reviews when new information becomes available. RMEF also has significant concerns about the alarming number of ESA lawsuits brought by organizations seeking to obstruct forest management projects—especially those designed to improve wildlife habitat. Public notification of ESA settlements and awards and reasonable limits to attorney fees for ESA challenges should be established.

We look forward to working with you and members of the Committee on the discussion draft and encourage you to contact me or my staff should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Kyle Weaver
President & CEO