



June 8, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) writes to express its support for the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018. IPAA believes both exploration and development of America's oil and natural gas resources and conservation can coexist through reasonable and balanced wildlife policy. Your legislation would aid in the modernization of the 1973 Endangered Species Act to benefit not only species recovery, but also the regulated community.

IPAA represents thousands of independent oil and gas explorers and producers that want to ensure species and their ecosystems are preserved for future generations. IPAA's members are active participants in federal, state, and private efforts to protect and conserve endangered and threatened species. More specifically, IPAA's members have enrolled millions of acres in conservation plans and committed tens of millions of dollars to fund habitat conservation and restoration programs.

The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 will allow agency resources to better focus efforts on the original congressional intent of the ESA, to recover imperiled wildlife. IPAA believes the legislation is rightly focused on some key areas of improvement including: improving transparency and the federal state partnership, enhancing regulatory certainty, and optimizing and encouraging conservation.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation and IPAA looks forward to working with you as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Barry Russell
President & CEO