

July 12, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

I write today on behalf of the members and the board of directors of the National Water Resources Association to express our gratitude for your efforts to improve the Endangered Species Act (ESA) through the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 discussion draft. This is an important step in the process to improve and reauthorize the ESA. This legislation builds on the principles developed by the Western Governors Association through a bipartisan multi year effort. Your leadership in this matter is to be applauded and NWRA looks forward to working with you to further perfect this legislation.

The NWRA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit federation of state water resources associations, agricultural and municipal water providers, and water professionals dedicated to the promotion of the development, conservation, and beneficial use of the water resources of the United States. Our members provide water to more than 50 million people, providing a critical resource to both families and farms. For more than eighty years the NWRA has partnered with federal partners to help meet many of our nation's most pressing water supply needs. We are responsible members of the regulated community and often deal with the direct on the ground implementation of the ESA and species recovery efforts.

Like you, NWRA members recognize the importance of the ESA and also recognize that improvements to the Act that benefit species and the regulated community are necessary, achievable, and should be pursued. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the ESA is implemented in an open and transparent manner that focuses on species recovery and the engagement of water providers.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue and please know that NWRA stands ready to work with you on this important effort.

Sincerely,



Ron Thompson
President
National Water Resources Association