

AMERICAN SUGARBEET GROWERS ASSOCIATION

September 12, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

The ASGA represents all the family farmers who grow sugarbeets in all the sugarbeet producing states (California, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming). Sugarbeets are grown on over 1.1 million acres in the United States annually and all twenty-two sugarbeet processing factories are owned by our farmers. The sugar extracted from sugarbeets is an essential ingredient in the U.S. food supply. Fifty-eight percent of all sugar produced in the United States is from sugarbeets. Byproducts of sugarbeets, pulp and molasses, are used primarily to make animal feed.

On behalf of the American Sugarbeet Growers Association, and the 10,000 family farmers we represent, I commend you for your leadership in the development of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018.

Our farmers are committed to protecting endangered and threatened species. However, we believe that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) must strike an appropriate balance between the needs plants and animals and the needs of people. We appreciate that your discussion draft that elevates the role of state conservation agencies in species management; increases transparency associated with carrying out conservation under the ESA; prioritizes available resources for species recovery; provides greater regulatory certainty; requires the use of the best scientific and commercial data available; and gives states and stakeholders a greater role in the process.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in this process.

Sincerely,



Richard Gerstenberger
President
American Sugarbeet Growers Association