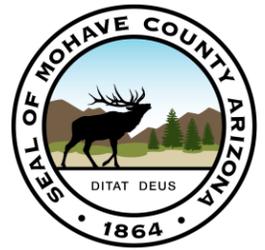


MOHAVE COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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Supervisor Jean Bishop Mohave County Supervisor District 4

July 12, 2018

Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

I am writing this letter in support of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 discussion draft. As the District 4 Supervisor for Mohave County, Arizona, I feel that rural counties in southwestern Arizona, Nevada, Utah and California will drastically benefit from this discussion draft. I feel that the protection of our most endangered species in this Country is crucial and amendments and revisions to the Endangered Species Act have been a long time coming. Overall, this discussion draft is a positive step and should move ahead.

While the Act has always had language that required State and local government involvement, there have been many incidents in which those promises of collaboration have fallen through. It is vitally important that we ensure that state and local governments have a voice at the table when it comes to species listing, delisting and species recovery. The emphasis on greater State involvement in this draft is a positive step in that states often have more detailed information of conditions and population status than do the federal wildlife and land management agencies.

I applaud your emphasis on the key aspects of the proposed amendments in providing states with more time. Often, species are listed not because they are endangered, but because of court cases. Environmental groups are suing to have these species listed and the Service is given unrealistic time frames to determine if they are truly endangered. By giving states more time, I am hopeful that this problem will eliminate itself. Listing a species that is not truly endangered can be very burdensome on local government and economic development opportunity.

I want to thank the Western Governors Association for all of its help in drafting the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 and for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jean Bishop'.

Jean Bishop
Mohave County Supervisor, District 4