

# IDAHO CATTLE ASSOCIATION

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*since 1915*



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

Dear Chairman Barrasso,

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) would like to voice our support for the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018. The ICA is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and promoting the Idaho beef industry, and has been representing the cattlemen and women of our great state since 1915.

While the Endangered Species Act set out with an admirable and essential goal, the program has failed to achieve its objectives. Data indicates that fewer than 2% of the species listed under the Act have been recovered since its establishment. Instead of conserving and recovering endangered species as the Act was intended to do, the Act has acted as a tool and a crutch for outside groups and individuals to exert control in the American policy-making process. This overreach has allowed policies to form based on legal settlements rather than the science-based evidence and data relevant to the issues at hand.

The ESA can still achieve its original mission if action is taken, and the Western Governors Association has taken the necessary steps to restore the original goal of the ESA. The Western Governors Association's bipartisan resolution was passed after years of work and collaboration with the groups that the resolution will affect the most—environmental interest groups, industry leaders, and local governments—and calls upon Congress to make the ESA work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Putting real power into the hands of those who interact with protected species most often will allow those locals to lead the way in preserving and recovering the species—effectively accomplishing what the ESA was intended to at its inception.

Empowering local entities to make decisions in the interest of the preservation of endangered species will allow cattlemen and women to join the discussion and find the best solutions to the issues facing the ecosystems they work within. With their intimate knowledge of the specific conditions the species in their areas face, local governments and industry leaders are best equipped to assess and react to changing circumstances in a timely matter.

Idaho beef producers are committed to protecting the ecosystems they interact with and the habitats that so many endangered species reside in. The ICA appreciates the chance to provide input on our member' behalf. We urge the swift passage of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tucker Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tucker Shaw  
ICA President