

Pahrump Office
Nye County Government Center
2100 E. Walt Williams Drive
Suite 100
Pahrump, NV 89048
Phone (775) 751-7075
Fax (775) 751-7093



**Board of County
Commissioners
Nye County, Nevada**

Tonopah Office
Nye County Courthouse
William P. Beko Justice Facility
PO Box 153
Tonopah, NV 89049
Phone (775) 482-8191
Fax (775) 482-8198

July 11, 2018

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

Subject: Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018

Dear: Chairman Barrasso

I am writing this letter in support of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 discussion draft. As the Chairman of the Nye County Board of County Commissioners, I feel that rural counties in southwestern Nevada, Arizona, Utah and California will drastically benefit from this discussion draft.

I have been a County Commissioner for 1 ½ years but previously a member of the Regional Planning Commission for six years and the Chairman for three years. While I feel that the protection of our most endangered species in this Country is crucial, 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.

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. If nothing else, the explicit input will provide broader confirmation on conditions or better identify gaps where adequate data does not exist.

Frequently, policies and plans are put into place by leaders and individuals well over two thousand miles away in Washington D.C., when they should be made by those locally on the ground and those who interact with these species daily. I feel this draft discussion is a step in that direction, so we can finally help these species recover and not simply put them on some list.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Koeng".

John Koeng,
Chairman, Nye County Commissioner District 2

JK/jr