



July 9, 2018

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Blooming Grove, Texas

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Jay Tanner
Grouse Creek, Utah

Reese Thompson
Vidalia, Georgia

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

Dear Chairman Barrasso,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Partners for Conservation, I write in support of the proposed language to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Our organization appreciates the leadership of Chairman Barrasso and the members of the committee in efforts to return to the original intent of a more collaborative approach to the conservation of species covered by the Act.

Partners for Conservation is a landowner-led organization that supports collaborative conservation of our national working landscapes through public-private partnership for the benefit of both people and nature. It is our belief, and experience, that collaboration and partnership is the only way to build solutions to conservation issues we face as a nation. We are committed to doing all we can to make partnership and collaboration our first choice instead of an approach of last resort.

The principles included in the proposed language reflect the collaborative process undertaken by the Western Governors' Association (WGA) launched in 2015 by Wyoming Governor Matt Mead that brought together diverse public and private perspectives that all have a stake in endangered species conservation. The concepts of transparency, increased coordination, more effective communication, regulatory certainty and a more collaborative approach between stakeholders are all attributes that we know to be important when facing any challenge on the landscape.

The proposed language seeks to provide practical improvements that if adopted should result in more effective outcomes on-the-ground for, species, landscapes, landowners and communities across the country.

Sincerely,

Steve Jester
Executive Director