



Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

500 West Washington Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: (208) 342-2688 Fax: (208) 342-8585

July 11, 2018

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

Re: Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

I am contacting you today to express the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's (IFBF) support of the *Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018*. IFBF is Idaho's largest agriculture organization, representing 78,800 member families throughout our state. Many of these families have been directly affected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). American Farm Bureau Federation policy no. 565.3 - Endangered and Threatened Species says ***"The Endangered Species Act should not be reauthorized in its current form. The current federal ESA must be amended and updated to accommodate the needs of both endangered and threatened species and humans with complete respect for private property rights within the framework of the United States Constitution."***

IFBF greatly appreciates your work on this issue as well as the earlier work of the Western Governors Conference. *ESA Amendments of 2018* eliminates the current law's top-down approach by granting states and local governments more involvement in the decision making process and recognizes unique conditions, landscapes and needs. It allows those with firsthand knowledge and understanding to participate in recovery plans.

Farmers and ranchers are the initial land and water managers. Their input is critically needed in the recovery of any threatened or endangered species. As your bill advances in the process, IFBF looks forward to assisting your staff and you in making a good bill even better.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express IFBF's support for the *Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018*.

Sincerely,

Bryan Searle, President
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation