



June 15, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Barrasso,

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) thanks you for your leadership in advancing meaningful reforms to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This legislative package presents an opportunity to elevate the state voice in the important work of protecting endangered species. NASDA supports the efforts to modernize the ESA and advance a federal-state partnership on species conservation. Further, we look forward to working with the committee in a bipartisan fashion to advance policies that protect endangered species while working with agriculture producers through the listing, delisting and conservation processes.

NASDA represents the Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of the state departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. State departments of agriculture are responsible for a wide range of programs including combating the spread of disease, conserving natural resources, wildlife management and fostering economic vitality in rural communities.

After listing decisions are made, states feel the greatest impact and currently work to mobilize action plans to conserve species. NASDA members are on-the-ground resources that work with agriculture producers, landowners and local game and fish agencies throughout the listing, delisting, exemption and recovery processes. NASDA members partner with these entities to gather habitat and wildlife data and provide feedback from landowners. We would like to thank the committee for including provisions that support state departments of agriculture and local wildlife agencies throughout the process and in state recovery teams while maintaining venues for public input.

We look forward to working with you to effectively modernize the ESA. If you have any questions, please contact Britt Aasmundstad, Associate Director, Policy (britt@nasda.org).

Sincerely,


Nathan Bowen
Director, Public Policy