



Since 1894

July 11, 2018

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 Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) strongly supports the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018. Formed in 1894, KLA is a trade association representing over 5,400 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seedstock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, swine production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is long overdue for common sense reform. With a reported success rate of two percent of listed species being recovered, the ESA could more accurately be described as a tool for litigation for activist groups intent to negatively impact property rights of private landowners and change the traditional multi-use management approach for federal lands.

The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 would shift more decision-making authority to the local level. This approach is reflective of the Western Governors Association resolution on this subject. Their bipartisan resolution is the result of years of collaboration among impacted stakeholders.

In Kansas, the lesser prairie chicken is a perfect example of how the ESA, as currently structured, inhibits species recovery. Local efforts to preserve and enhance lesser prairie chicken habitat have been hindered by the contemplated listing under the ESA.

The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 would provide much needed reform. We ask for your support and swift passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration. Don't hesitate to contact the KLA office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Teagarden".

Matt Teagarden
Chief Executive Officer