

June 25, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso,

Thank you for your diligence in finding practical solutions to roadblocks that delay or prevent critical land and resource management actions. Although the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was enacted with the best of intentions, it has been reshaped through time into a law that has lost sight of the original intent and now serves as a tool to block necessary forest management actions. Actions that often benefit species the ESA proposes to protect.

Budgets, staffing, and petitions by the thousands to list species under the ESA have hamstrung the Fish and Wildlife Service. Far too often, the FWS workplan is dictated by lawsuits and settlements which reduces transparency and results in questionable decisions. That process, ultimately, further reduces resources.

Additionally, states have a vested interest in the thoughtful management of natural and wildlife resources within their borders. However, a common issue heard throughout discussions regarding the ESA is a lack of involvement from individual states. States often desire to play a more integrated role in the species listing process and subsequent recovery plans for protected species. Unfortunately, their opportunities to provide scientific input and expertise are limited.

Congress can, and should, take action to remedy the deficiencies in the implementation of the ESA. Neiman Enterprises supports amendments to the ESA that would 1) Enhance the federal-state partnership 2) Encourage conservation activities through regulatory certainty 3) Strengthen conservation decision making through increased transparency 4) Optimize conservation through resource prioritization and 5) Conduct further studies to improve conservation.

I appreciate the efforts to amend the ESA back into a functioning law with regulations that benefit species while encouraging vital forest management activities.

Thank you,



Jim D. Neiman
President/CEO
Neiman Enterprises, Inc.