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July 11, 2018

The Honorable 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:

The Montana Petroleum Association (MPA) is a non-profit trade association representing the nearly two hundred businesses which work to facilitate energy production in Montana. These include integrated and independent producers; lease operators; service providers; pipeline companies; refineries; as well as professional entities providing legal, financial, and additional regulatory support to the oil and natural gas industry.

We thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed Endangered Species Act (ESA) Amendments of 2018. On behalf of our diverse spectrum of revenue and job creators working to support Montana production, transportation, and refining of crude oil and natural gas, MPA respectfully submits the following comments regarding the ESA as we work to continue domestic production of vital petroleum resources.

MPA strongly supports the proposed Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018. Through the added emphasis on recovery, the establishment of reasonable timeframes to deter delays and ensure the process proceeds, and the elevated role of states in the process, the ESA Amendments of 2018 will provide for meaningful modernization of the Endangered Species Act that will not only increase benefits to species recovery, but will also provide added regulatory certainty to industry.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review this important legislation and we look forward to working with you as it moves through the legislative process.

Regards,

Alan Olson
Executive Director
Montana Petroleum Association

cc: U.S. Senator Steve Daines
U.S. Senator Jon Tester
Congressman Greg Gianforte