



HAL QUINN
President & CEO

July 17, 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,

Thank you for your efforts to modernize the Endangered Species Act through reforms that improve outcomes and create workable solutions for multiple-use land users. Your discussion draft, entitled Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018, would significantly improve species recovery while balancing the need for land access and responsible resource development.

This common-sense legislation would refocus the Endangered Species Act on recovering species to healthy levels by moving beyond the current framework which perpetuates threatened or endangered status for species. The draft bill would improve the quality of listing decisions and recovery planning through better integration of the expertise of state and local governments where species are located.

State and local officials often possess the in-depth knowledge about threats to species and the conservation measures needed for successful protection and recovery. The requirements to notify states of listing petitions, solicit the views of state, local and tribal officials and the integration of states as leading contributors in recovery planning are strong measures for ensuring the ESA meets its core objective of species recovery. Greater transparency with respect to the science used in making listing decisions will also enhance the integrity of decisions.

State and local officials are also keenly aware of the need to balance species conservation and recovery with the economic needs of those who live and work in the area. The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 would improve the prospects of achieving both objectives.

Sincerely,

Hal Quinn