



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Director

July 16, 2018

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

Dear Senator Barrasso:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 discussion draft.

San Bernardino County is home to a large number of federally listed threatened and endangered species, from the iconic desert tortoise to fish, such as the Santa Ana sucker fish, a number of plants and even insects, notably the endemic Delhi Sands flower-loving fly.

As the largest geographic county in the contiguous U.S., our environmental and biological diversity is one of our greatest assets. Our formal County Vision states: *"We envision a sustainable system...in which development complements our natural resources and environment."*

Protecting the environment is a top priority but the ESA as currently administered is often burdensome and misused while affording marginal, if any, benefits to the species it purports to protect. San Bernardino County is also a member of the Quadstate Local Governments Authority, a joint powers authority comprising a number of counties across four western states, which for nearly 20 years has advocated for effective, science-based recovery efforts for the desert tortoise, while maintaining sustainable multiple use on our public lands.

Strengthening state and local involvement would bring into play the expertise of those most familiar with species and conditions on the ground, allowing for management decisions that lead to actual recovery, without unnecessary and ineffective actions that hamper economic activities and development to the detriment of our citizens.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support the ESA Amendments of 2018 discussion draft. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Lovingood".

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD  
First District Supervisor  
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

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