



WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Guardian of Wyoming's Cow Country since 1872

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December 19, 2019

Senator John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate EPW Committee
Washington, DC

Senator Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Senate EPW Committee
Washington, DC

RE: ACE Act

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA) commends you for your efforts in introducing and passing out of your committee the "America's Conservation Enhancement Act". The inclusion of key provisions critical to sustaining the viability of the ranching industry demonstrates your recognition that ranching is a key component of conservation of our nation's natural resources.

Predation by federally protected species on livestock, in particular young calves and lambs, has taken a major toll on our industry. The reintroduction of wolves into Wyoming and the vibrant recovery of grizzly bears have resulted in the loss of multi-generational ranching operations in Western Wyoming. While state-funded damage payment programs have enabled other ranching operations to survive, they are today inadequate to fully compensate for losses to these species. The granting of additional federal dollars provided for in the ACE Act will significantly assist livestock producers while sharing the burden that has unfairly been placed on our Wyoming Game & Fish Department and our sportsmen and women.

Across Wyoming predatory avian species, ranging from the fully recovered Bald and Golden Eagles to ravens have taken an annual toll on calves and lambs. The inclusion of these species in the grant program will provide a significant economic benefit to impacted ranchers.

For the past several years has worked with USDA, Wildlife Services, and the Wyoming Game & Fish in an attempt to strengthen the ability of both livestock producers and wildlife agencies to remove ravens that are causing significant impacts on both newly born livestock and wildlife including sage-grouse. The authorization provided for in Section 103 of the Ace Act will provide an important tool for livestock producers provided that the USFWS proceeds to develop a mechanism that allows for timely issuance of permits.

As has been made clear to you in the recent testimony of Wyoming Game & Fish Director Brian Nesvik, Chronic Wasting Disease is rapidly advancing in deer populations across Wyoming. This

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disease, by affecting both the harvest and movement of wildlife populations, has an indirect impact on our livestock producers. We are, in general, proud of the habitat that our lands provide for healthy wildlife populations and commend you for bringing federal resources to addressing this issue.

Overall, the ACE Act addresses key issues in wildlife management while recognizing and responding to the interrelationships and, at time, conflicts that exist between certain wildlife species and our ranching operations. We hope that your Senate colleagues will be receptive to moving this legislation forward in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Magagna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Magagna
Executive Vice President

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