



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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June 7, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

I write to convey my support for your efforts to consider and debate important legislation for much needed reform of the Endangered Species Act (ESA or the Act). The current draft bill addresses many of the concerns we have in our state regarding the application of the Act in listing, recovery, and delisting of species. Specific provisions of particular interest to our state are summarized below.

Wyoming has been a leader in conserving and recovering imperiled species for many decades. Black Footed Ferret and Grizzly Bear Recovery are hallmarks of our success and commitment to responsibly and collaboratively recover those native species that become threatened or endangered. We are also proud of our proactive work to avert ESA listing in our conservation of the Greater Sage Grouse. Wyoming's engagement in these and other endangered species initiatives places our leaders on firm ground to speak with authority and credibility on ESA issues.

The language in the bill providing requirements for additional state involvement early in ESA processes is particularly important from our perspective. Provisions that include the addition of specific measures and standards required of a recovery team are useful in ensuring all involved are accountable to the goals of the Act and the citizens of the state and nation. These additions also provide equal importance on actions and scientific data used to inform listing *and* delisting decisions. Likewise, the portions of this draft that include specific timelines for ESA related actions and decisions are clearly focused on improving the efficiency and accountability of those implementing the Act. Lastly, the added flexibility included in this draft bill address some of our biggest concerns with how the Act has been applied. Additional flexibility allows federal and state decision makers the ability to address changes in the science or information available with more agility.

In conclusion, I greatly respect your clear interest in making the Act a better tool for wildlife conservation. We are committed to working cooperatively with Federal Agencies and all of our partners in executing new legislation.

Sincerely,

Scott Talbott  
Director

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