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September 25, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), thank you for moving forward an innovative slate of legislation to reform the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This package will jumpstart important ESA reform discussions that will benefit species, landowners and the federal agencies charged with enforcing the law. NAR urges passage of these bills out of the Natural Resources Committee when they come to a vote.

Taken together, these bills will:

- Shift more ESA implementation responsibility to state and local governments where appropriate,
- Reduce ESA administrative and regulatory burdens by streamlining the permitting process,
- Make the regulatory process more transparent and accountable; and
- Incentivize more voluntary action by the private sector to protect species and preserve habitat.

It is time for Congress to make changes to the ESA, and NAR commends you for starting this important conversation. The ESA is a story of success and failure: although the ESA has been successful at preventing the extinction of species in the U.S., it is estimated that only three percent of species have been recovered and delisted under ESA.

Passage of these bills would be an important step toward providing critical economic and environmental benefits to the nation. NAR stands ready to work with you to promote balanced, locally supported solutions to species conservation challenges that protect property rights and encourage robust economic development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth G. Mendenhall'.

Elizabeth Mendenhall  
2018 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: House Committee on Natural Resources



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