



## *Arizona Farm Bureau Federation*

325 S. Higley Rd, Suite 210  
Gilbert, AZ 85296

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
Chairman, Congressional Western Caucus  
United States House of Representatives  
2057 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gosar:

The Arizona Farm Bureau Federation has long supported updating and modernizing the Endangered Species Act (ESA). After nearly four decades in existence, species recovery under the ESA has been dismal. In fact, only 3 percent of identified species have been successfully delisted in that time. Furthermore, the protections for 1,661 domestic species come at a cost of \$1.47 billion annually (FY 2016). These statistics indicate the critical need for meaningful reforms the ESA.

Arizona is currently home to 37 animal species listed as threatened or endangered. Given the nature of farming and ranching, many of these species impact working lands. Farmers and ranchers want to do their part to help preserve listed species and have a vested interest in implementing sustainable conservation efforts on their land. However, the ESA in its current form fails to provide meaningful land owner incentives for species conservation and instead imposes regulatory burdens that result in land use restrictions.

We are encouraged by the efforts of Western Caucus to modify and improve the ESA and urge enactment of the following legislative proposals:

- LIST Act – Less Imprecision in Species Treatment Act
- PREDICTS Act - Permit Reassurances Enabling Direct Improvements for Conservation, Tenants, and Species Act
- EMPOWERS Act – Ensuring Meaningful Petition Outreach While Enhancing Rights of States Act
- STORAGE Act – Stop Takings on Reserves Antithetical to Germane Encapsulation Act
- WHOLE Act – Weigh Habitats Offsetting Locational Effects Act
- LOCAL Act – Land Ownership Collaboration Accelerates Life Act
- LAMP Act – Localizing Authority of Management Plans Act

- PETITION Act – “Permitting ESA Timing Improvements That Increase Opportunities for Non-listing Act.
- Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act

The Arizona Farm Bureau Federation supports these bills and looks forward to working with you to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stefanie A. Smallhouse". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Stefanie Smallhouse, President  
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation