



**National Association of Home Builders**

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**Government Affairs**

James W. Tobin III  
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July 11, 2018

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
United States House of Representatives  
2057 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gosar:

On behalf of the 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I am writing to express NAHB's support for the work the House Western Caucus has done to improve and modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This legislative package makes important strides in creating a more effective and efficient ESA.

These bills would make needed improvements to the ESA that would benefit species, landowners and the federal agencies charged with enforcing the law. We are pleased that these bills make positive changes to the listing and delisting process, address the backlog of species petitions, encourage consultation with the states and codify voluntary conservation programs. It would also create programs that would provide more flexibility and reduce costs for landowners. These modifications are a great first step towards improving the functionality of the ESA because it provides clarity and certainty for the regulated community while continuing to protect our nation's most vulnerable species.

It is time for Congress to make these important changes to the ESA. There have been very few meaningful changes to the ESA since its enactment in 1973, consequently, most species have failed to recover. It is estimated that only three percent of species have recovered under ESA, which indicates that the law isn't working and improvements need to be made. As these bills work their way through the legislative process, we look forward to working with Congress to ensure that more sensible protections are provided while also continuing to allow our businesses to thrive.

NAHB supports this package of ESA bills and we appreciate the Western Caucus' leadership in making needed improvements to the ESA. We encourage other Members of Congress to lend their support to this effort. Thank you for giving consideration to our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James W. Tobin III', written in a cursive style.

James W. Tobin III