

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &
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September 26, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chair
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce applauds the Committee for reexamining the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and for considering the package of nine bills introduced by members of the Western Caucus.

The Chamber believes we need to protect species in the United States that are threatened with extinction. Efforts to protect endangered species should be carried out in a reasonable and science-based manner that considers the impact of the methods of protection for endangered species. The Western Caucus' package of bills accomplishes just that.

For example, some of the bills would remedy issues related to the process for listing, delisting, and reclassifying species under the ESA. Under this often-abused process, petitioners have missed deadlines and have submitted misleading or insufficient data for the determination process. Other bills would address the issue of "sue and settle," a tactic outside groups have used in recent years to drive the ESA regulatory agenda in a direction that fails to appropriately consider certain issues.

The Chamber believes that each of these bills could improve the ESA by increasing transparency, empowering states, enhancing regulatory certainty, or encouraging conservation through resource prioritization.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley

Cc: Members of the Committee on Natural Resources