

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Harriet Hageman  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife,  
and Fisheries  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1127 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyle  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife,  
and Fisheries  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1620 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chair Hageman and Ranking Member Hoyle,

On behalf of our organizations and our combined millions of members and supporters we write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act of 2025,” and H.R. 845, the so-called “Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025”. H.R. 1897 would gut the critical protections that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for thousands of imperiled species, and H.R. 845 would delist gray wolves in the lower 48. These damaging bills will be the subject of a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries hearing on March 25, 2025. We request this letter be included in the hearing record.

The planet is facing an alarming and catastrophic biodiversity crisis, largely driven by humankind. Unmitigated development, habitat loss, exploitation, pollution, invasive species, and climate change now threaten as many as one million species with extinction. It is our responsibility to confront this crisis to prevent America’s imperiled wildlife – such as the Florida manatee, gray wolf, loggerhead sea turtle, black-footed ferret, and more – from disappearing forever.

The ESA is America’s most effective law to protect biodiversity and prevent the extinction of our most vulnerable animals, fish, and plants. Nearly all species listed under the ESA have been saved from extinction and hundreds are on the path to recovery today. H.R. 1897 and H.R. 845, which will be considered by the Subcommittee on March 25, would destroy the ability of the ESA to conserve imperiled species. At a time when we should be redoubling our commitment to protect biodiversity and stop extinction, these bills would instead make many of the ESA’s most important protections virtually meaningless and set the precedent of using politics, rather than science, for conservation decision-making. The passage of H.R. 1897 and H.R. 845 would result in significant harm to at-risk species and their habitats, further exacerbating the environmental challenges we face today.

**H.R. 1897, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Westerman**, contains numerous provisions that would drastically weaken the ESA and decrease protections for threatened and endangered species, ultimately condemning them to continued declines and challenges. It would significantly rewrite key portions of the ESA to prioritize politics over science and inappropriately shift responsibility for key implementation decisions from the federal government to the states, many of which do not have sufficient resources or legal mechanisms in place to take the lead in conserving listed species. It would place significant new administrative burdens on already over-burdened agencies. It would turn the current process for listing and recovering threatened and endangered species into a far lengthier process that precludes judicial review of key decisions.

More specifically, among other things, this disastrous bill would:

- Upend the consultation process—the cornerstone of American species protection for 50 years;
- Slow listings to a crawl and fast-track delistings;
- Gut review of permits that allow ESA-listed species to be harmed or killed;
- Treat those permits as though exempted from review by the “God Squad,” even if the permits pave the path to extinction;
- Allow much more take of threatened species and shift their management out of federal hands, even while they are still federally listed;
- Substitute politics for science-based decisionmaking;
- Increase the role of ineffective voluntary conservation measures;
- Erode public accountability in wildlife management; and
- Attack rules intended to protect threatened and endangered species.

**H.R. 845, sponsored by Rep. Lauren Boebert**, directs the Secretary of the Interior to reissue the final rule published on November 3, 2020, delisting the gray wolf within 60 days of enactment. The bill bars judicial review of the Secretary’s action delisting the wolf.

The gray wolf is an iconic keystone species that plays a vital role in keeping America’s ecosystems healthy. Gray wolf populations in the United States were decimated by decades of predator control programs, as well as loss of habitat and prey. Since receiving protection under the ESA in the 1970s, the gray wolf has begun a comeback but remains far from recovered.

The rule that H.R. 845 would reinstate was hastily issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the end of the first Trump administration to delist gray wolves in 44 states. The rule was challenged by conservation organizations, and in February 2022 a federal district court found that the delisting decision was unlawful, including because it delisted wolves across much of

the lower-48 based on the status of core populations without proper consideration for wolves' more precarious status elsewhere.

H.R. 845 undermines the integrity of the ESA by forcing the reinstatement of the scientifically indefensible delisting rule and precluding judicial review, undermining the rule of law that holds government officials accountable in the courts.

We strongly urge you to oppose both H.R. 1897 and H.R. 845, which are damaging bills that would dramatically weaken the ESA and make it harder, if not impossible, to achieve the progress we must make to address the alarming rate of extinction our planet now faces.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Animal Legal Defense Fund  
Animal Welfare Institute  
Attorneys for Animals  
Born Free USA  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
CalWild  
Cascadia Wildlands  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Climate Justice Alliance  
Colorado Wild Public Lands  
ColoradoWild  
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthjustice  
Environmental Protection Information Center - EPIC  
FOUR PAWS USA  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the Sonoran Desert  
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Humane World Action Fund  
Humane World for Animals  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Large Carnivore Fund

Latino Outdoors  
League of Conservation Voters  
Legal Rights for the Salish Sea  
Living with Wolves  
Lobos of the Southwest  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
Micah Six Eight Mission  
Michigan Wolf Coalition  
National Wolfwatcher Coalition  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment  
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness  
NYC Plover Project  
Oregon Wild  
Partnership for Policy Integrity  
People and Carnivores  
Physicians for Social Responsibility PA  
Project Coyote  
Public Interest Coalition  
Roaring Fork Audubon  
Sage Steppe Wild  
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council  
Save Animals Facing Extinction  
Sawtooth Science Institute  
Sierra Club  
Species Unite  
Team Wolf  
The 06 Legacy  
The Western Environmental Law Center  
Western Watersheds Project  
WildEarth Guardians  
Wilderness Watch  
Wilderness Workshop  
Wildlife for All  
Wolf and Wildlife Advocates  
Wolf Conservation Center  
Wolf Hollow  
Wyoming Coalition for Animal Protection

Wyoming Wildlife Advocates  
Yaak Valley Forest Council  
Yellowstone to Uintas Connection