



NATIONAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
REFORM COALITION
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 6000
Washington, DC 20006
Tel. 202.333.7481
www.nesarc.org

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Endangered Species Act Amendments Act of 2025

Dear Chairman Westerman:

On behalf of the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC), I am writing to express our strong endorsement of the *Endangered Species Act Amendments Act of 2025*.

This important legislation introduces vital reforms to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by instituting clear statutory definitions, concentrating on species recovery, and streamlining the ESA permitting process. The measure also offers incentives for the recovery of listed species, promotes accountability for agency actions, and establishes safeguards against frivolous litigation.

The ESA is now over 50 years old but has remained unauthorized for more than three decades. There are currently more than 1,650 species listed as threatened or endangered within the United States. Regrettably, only three percent of these listed species have achieved recovery.

While the original intent of the ESA was to conserve and protect American plant and wildlife species threatened with extinction, the law has increasingly been utilized to obstruct projects and deter the lawful use of privately-owned land. NESARC and its members are dedicated to advocating for effective and balanced legislative and administrative enhancements to the ESA that will support the protection of fish, wildlife, and plant populations, as well as responsible land, water, and resource management.

Having learned numerous lessons since the law's enactment in 1973, it is imperative that the ESA adapts to encourage innovative and proactive efforts by state and local governments, private landowners, industry, and other stakeholders to recover species. The ESA requires updates and improvements to provide new tools that will benefit species and incorporate pragmatic modifications based on decades of implementation. NESARC firmly believes that the *Endangered Species Act Amendments Act of 2025* will fulfill these objectives.

On behalf of the agricultural interests, cities and counties, commercial real estate developers, conservationists, electric utilities, energy producers, farmers, forest product companies, home builders, landowners, oil and gas companies, ranchers, water and irrigation districts, and other businesses and individuals throughout the United States that NESARC represents, we stand ready to offer our assistance as the *Endangered Species Act Amendments Act of 2025* moves through the legislative process.

We thank you for your continued leadership on advancing long-overdue improvements to the ESA. Please do not hesitate to contact me at shelbyh@fb.org or NESARC Executive Director Jordan Smith at jas@vnf.com if we can provide additional information or be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelby Hagenauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Shelby Hagenauer
NESARC Chair