

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Harriet Hageman  
Chair  
House Natural Resources Subcommittee on  
Water, Wildlife and Fisheries  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyle  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Subcommittee on  
Water, Wildlife and Fisheries  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Hageman and Ranking Member Hoyle:

Thank you for holding a hearing on H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act of 2025,” legislation introduced by Chairman Westerman and supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF represents nearly six million farm and ranch members in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. We are farm and ranch families working together to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and the world.

The ESA Amendments Act of 2025 modernizes a law that has not been updated in decades. Farmers, ranchers and foresters have been subjected to regulatory uncertainty due to shifting interpretations of key aspects of the Endangered Species Act by successive administrations. Chairman Westerman’s amendments aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of voluntary conservation efforts, provide greater certainty regarding definitions that affect listing decisions and streamline the Section 7 consultation process.

Farmers and ranchers play an important role in conservation, and Farm Bureau has long advocated for a modernized ESA which promotes voluntary programs that focus on species recovery and recognize landowners as essential partners in conservation. We appreciate Chairman Westerman’s work on the Endangered Species Act of 2025, which balances endangered and threatened species protection with landowner needs.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall  
President