

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. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025, a bill supported by American Farm Bureau and the many state Farm Bureaus listed below. The purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to recover species that are threatened with extinction. The gray wolf has exceeded recovery goals and should be celebrated as an Endangered Species Act success story.

Delisting recovered species is a critical part of the ESA process, and it removes stringent restrictions placed on habitat and land use activities that occur by virtue of a species being listed. One of the reasons that the ESA is so contentious is the onerous nature of prohibitions and restrictions on land use activities, whether on public or private land. It is important that these restrictions be removed when a species no longer needs that protection or where the species is not present. This is especially true in the present context where livestock and pet losses to wolves have been extensive and are increasing. ESA restrictions prevent ranchers from protecting their livestock and pet owners their pets. Farmers and ranchers who shoot at, injure or kill protected wolves that are stalking sheep or cattle could be subject to the stiff penalties imposed under the act.

We commend the sponsors and cosponsors of this legislation for their leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
California Farm Bureau
Colorado Farm Bureau
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation
Michigan Farm Bureau
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
Oregon Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Utah Farm Bureau Federation
Washington Farm Bureau
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation