

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman,

Thank you for introducing the Endangered Species Act Amendments Act of 2025 (H.R. 1897) and your continued commitment to improving the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by clarifying provisions that have created significant challenges for Farmers, Ranchers, Irrigation Districts across the West without corresponding outcomes for species. [Add your entity] fully supports this bill and looks forward to working with the Committee to advance this important reform legislation.

I am with the Heart Mt. Irrigation District. We are less than 50 miles from Yellowstone National Park. We have Grizzly bears and Wolves coming down into the farmland more frequently every year. I have friends that live on the west edge of the project and he has seen Grizzly bears many times. He doesn't allow his wife to walk around the farm anymore because of the danger. The Grizzly and Wolf populations have recovered very well.

The ESA was an important and historic piece of legislation intended to preserve and recover species and there are instances where we have seen this promise fulfilled. For example, successful programs, such as the Colorado River Basin Recovery Programs and the Little Snake River Watershed initiatives, demonstrate how collaborative efforts between federal agencies, states, landowners, and local stakeholders can lead to effective species conservation while balancing human needs like water use and agriculture.

Unfortunately, over the 50 years since its enactment the norm is not these success stories but instead frequent overreach by federal agencies and abuse by litigators that have severe impacts to communities with little or negative progress recovering species. It is clear that meaningful changes are necessary, and this legislation is a major step in the right direction.

- Prioritizes species recovery by setting measurable goals and enhancing collaboration.
- Provides flexibility for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in listing decisions.
- Reforms voluntary conservation agreements, incidental take permits, and critical habitat designations to encourage private landowner participation.

- Empowers states to develop recovery strategies for more localized and effective conservation efforts.
- Requires federal agencies to establish measurable recovery goals for better conservation outcomes.
- Prevents frivolous litigation and increases transparency in ESA-related lawsuits to ensure resources are focused on species recovery.

WE cannot jeopardize our food supply for our Country. WE need the ability to feed the persons of the United States. WE must consider this when listing some minuscule animal or fish. We cannot destroy our food growing capabilities.

Your efforts to modernize the ESA and make it a more effective tool for conservation are greatly appreciated. I strongly support the ESA Amendments Act of 2025 and encourage its swift passage to improve the balance between species protection and economic and land-use considerations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Duyck". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Duyck, President, Heart Mt. Irrigation District