

**Statement by the American Public Power Association for the
Congressional Western Caucus Endangered Species Act Modernization Member and
Stakeholder Roundtable
September 24, 2019**

Members of the Western Caucus and invited guests, my name is Corry Marshall and I am here on behalf of the American Public Power Association (APPA). APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. The Association represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. APPA advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. The Association and its members have a vested history of participating in legislative and regulatory matters around the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including events like this.

APPA supports the goals of the ESA and the recovery of threatened and endangered species. A few years back, our membership adopted a policy resolution that states, “it is important to identify and enact improvements that support the recovery of threatened and endangered fish, plant, and wildlife populations while ensuring responsible land, resource, and water management through actions such as voluntarily creating and supporting healthy habitats and working cooperatively with public and private partners at the local, state, and federal levels.”

As you are hearing today from some of our members, public power utilities have direct experience with the administration of the ESA, and firmly believe it can be reformed to more closely adhere to its initial goals and objectives. These problems undermine the credibility, effectiveness, and public support for the ESA and need to be addressed. Several bills in recent Congresses have been introduced and APPA is encouraged by renewed efforts and interest in both the House of Representatives and Senate to enact permanent improvements and updates to the ESA.

It has been nearly three decades since the last major changes were made to the Act. APPA supports efforts to increase state and local involvement, improve the critical habitat designation process by excluding areas that are being addressed through voluntary efforts, and improve the interagency consultation process so that it is not burdensome and uncertain. APPA urges policymakers to continue to make efforts to update and improve the ESA that make it more workable for all stakeholders.

Commented [DW1]: Huge pet peeve – going between the third person and first person. I know this is how IMC wrote the boilerplate.

Commented [DW2]: You don't need to read the entire boilerplate. It's a bit much.

Commented [DW3]: I think you need to add more to this statement that expresses the areas we believe need improvement. Can't you pull that from Bryson's one-pager?