



HAL QUINN  
*President & CEO*

September 26, 2018

The Honorable Paul Gosar, D.D.S.  
Chairman  
Congressional Western Caucus  
2057 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gosar:

Thank you for your efforts to modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA) through reforms that improve outcomes and create workable solutions for multiple-use land users. The ESA Modernization Package before the House Committee on Natural Resources would significantly improve species recovery while balancing the need for land access and responsible resource development.

These common-sense bills would refocus the ESA on recovering species to healthy levels by moving beyond the current framework which perpetuates threatened or endangered status for species. They would improve the quality of listing decisions and recovery planning through better integration of the expertise of state and local governments where species are located.

State and local officials often possess the in-depth knowledge about threats to species and the conservation measures needed for successful protection and recovery. The requirements to notify states of listing petitions, solicit the views of state, local and tribal officials and the integration of states as leading contributors in recovery planning are strong measures for ensuring the ESA meets its core objective of species recovery. Greater transparency with respect to the science used in making listing decisions will also enhance the integrity of decisions.

State and local officials are also keenly aware of the need to balance species conservation and recovery with the economic needs of those who live and work in the area. The ESA Modernization Package would improve the prospects of achieving both objectives.

Sincerely,

Hal Quinn