



September 26, 2018

The Honorable Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
House Natural Resources Committee
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gosar:

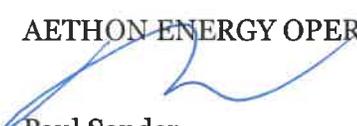
Aethon Energy supports the Congressional Western Caucus's efforts to modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. These improvements establish a structured regulatory framework that aligns efforts with achieving the primary objective of improved species conservation.

As you and many stakeholders recognize, the ESA has become cumbersome and prohibitive of responsible natural resource development while being ineffective at protecting and recovering species. These bills defer to state and local plans to promote reliable voluntary conservation agreements rather than imposing species listings that harm communities and obstruct on-the-ground conservation efforts.

Responsible development can continue to coexist with species conservation and this draft legislation strengthens engagement at the local levels where there is a vested interest in the search for practicable conservation solutions. These bills will strengthen and codify the roles of states and local governments, empower those most affected by listing decisions, and provide additional regulatory certainty for our industry by encouraging voluntary conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

AETHON ENERGY OPERATING LLC



Paul Sander
Chief Operating Officer and Partner