September 24, 2018

The Honorable Paul A. Gosar, Chairman
Congressional Western Caucus
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Endangered Species Act Modernization Package

Dear Chairman Gosar:

On behalf of the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA), I am writing to express support for the Western Caucus Endangered Species Act (ESA) Modernization Package. The nine bills that are included in the modernization package are scheduled to be considered by the House Natural Resources Committee on September 26, and CREDA would like to see swift adoption and passage of these bills.

CREDA is a non-profit organization representing consumer-owned electric systems that purchase federal hydropower and resources of the Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSP). Collectively, CREDA members, all non-profit entities, serve over 4.1 million customers in the States of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Federal hydropower is a valuable clean, renewable resource, but there are many challenges associated with keeping hydropower affordable and reliable. One of those challenges is the cost of compliance with environmental laws like the ESA. While CREDA supports the intent of the ESA, we also believe it is time to update the decades old Act. The nine ESA bills championed by the Congressional Western Caucus will take meaningful steps to modernize the Act, which will help keep hydropower affordable for our members.

CREDA is grateful for the work you and the Congressional Western Caucus have done to advance this important package of bills. We look forwarding to working with you as these bills move through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Leslie James
Executive Director