



September 24, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Gosar:

It is our pleasure, on behalf of our 650 members that employ 20,000 area residents, to offer our full support for the Endangered Species Act Modernization Package of nine bills that will receive a hearing this week in the House Committee on Natural Resources. We know you have worked hard on these bills, and understand that these important pieces of legislation will update the Act so that it will function as it should in the 21st century.

We are especially pleased that the bill package provides more state and local government control. We live, work and play in an area where more than 80 percent of public land is owned by the government. This makes it difficult enough when it comes to economic development and the recreational activities that drive our local economy as it is; the current regulations in the Endangered Species Act add additional levels of bureaucracy that can make improvements to our communities next to impossible.

We are also pleased the bills encourage collaboration between agencies, municipalities, and the private sector. This kind of cooperation leads to transparency and gives those of us in rural Arizona more opportunity to be involved in government process when it comes to endangered species and the environment. We also appreciate the bipartisan cooperation to make this happen.

Thank you for your dedicated and diligent work on the Modernization Package. As always, we are grateful for all you do for your fellow Arizonans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Krueger".

Lisa J. Krueger, IOM, ACE, CTA
President & CEO

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