

“It is time for Congress to work on making important changes to the ESA. There have been very few meaningful changes to the ESA since its enactment in 1973, consequently, most species have failed to recover. It is estimated that only three percent of species have recovered under ESA, which indicates that the law isn’t working and improvements need to be made,” Courtney Briggs, Federal Legislative Director, National Association of Home Builders

9/24/19 Statement of Courtney Briggs, Federal Legislative Director,
National Association of Home Builders

NAHB supports the work of the Western Caucus and is pleased to be one of the many stakeholders represented at today’s roundtable. The need to improve and modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is long overdue. We desire a more effective and efficient ESA that provides clarity and certainty for the regulated community while continuing to protect our nation’s most vulnerable species.

NAHB is very supportive of the recent work by the Administration to improve the overall efficiency of the ESA’s permitting process and make compliance less onerous for the regulated community. These regulatory changes should help eliminate some of the uncertainties and time-consuming permitting delays that have plagued the Section 7 consultation process since its inception. These modifications are a great first step towards improving the functionality of the ESA however, more needs to be done.

It is time for Congress to work on making important changes to the ESA. There have been very few meaningful changes to the ESA since its enactment in 1973, consequently, most species have failed to recover. It is estimated that only three percent of species have recovered under ESA, which indicates that the law isn’t working and improvements need to be made. We understand that the Western Caucus members have been working on a package of ESA bills that would accomplish this goal. As these bills work their way through the legislative process, we look forward to working with Congress to ensure that more sensible protections are provided while also continuing to allow our businesses to thrive.