

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF POLICY OFFICER

1615 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20062
(202) 463-5310

December 12, 2019

The Honorable Paul Gosar
Chair
Congressional Western Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Gosar:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce applauds the Western Caucus for prioritizing the reformation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (“ESA”) and the package of bills introduced by members of the caucus.

The Chamber believes it is necessary to protect species in the United States that are threatened with extinction. Efforts to protect endangered species should be carried out in a reasonable and science-based manner that considers the impact of the methods of protection for endangered species. The Western Caucus’ legislative package accomplishes just that, and builds upon recent important regulatory efforts advanced by the Administration.

For example, some of the bills would remedy issues related to the process for listing, delisting, and reclassifying species under the ESA. Under this often-abused process, petitioners have missed deadlines and have submitted misleading or insufficient data for the determination process. Other bills would address the issue of “sue and settle,” a tactic outside groups have used in recent years to drive the ESA regulatory agenda in a direction that fails to appropriately consider certain issues.

The Chamber believes that each of these bills could improve the ESA by increasing transparency, empowering states, enhancing regulatory certainty, or encouraging conservation through resource prioritization.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley

cc: Members of the Congressional Western Caucus