

December 16, 2025

RE: Please Vote NO on H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act of 2025”

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our organizations and our combined millions of members and supporters we are writing to urge you to vote NO on H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act of 2025,” which is expected to be marked up in the House Natural Resources Committee tomorrow morning. H.R. 1897 would gut the critical protections that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for thousands of threatened and endangered species.

The planet is facing an alarming and catastrophic biodiversity crisis, largely driven by humankind. Unmitigated development, habitat loss, exploitation, pollution, invasive species, and climate change now threaten as many as one million species with extinction. It is our responsibility to confront this crisis to prevent America’s imperiled wildlife – such as the Florida manatee, gray wolf, loggerhead sea turtle, black-footed ferret, and more – from disappearing forever.

The ESA is America’s most effective law to protect biodiversity and prevent the extinction of our most vulnerable animals, fish, and plants. Nearly all species listed under the ESA have been saved from extinction and hundreds are on the path to recovery today. H.R. 1897 would destroy the ability of the ESA to conserve imperiled species. At a time when we should be redoubling our commitment to protect biodiversity and stop extinction, this bill would instead make many of the ESA’s most important protections virtually meaningless and set the precedent of using politics, rather than science, for conservation decision-making. The passage of H.R. 1897 would result in significant harm to at-risk species and their habitats, further exacerbating the environmental challenges we face today.

H.R. 1897, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Westerman, contains numerous provisions that would drastically weaken the ESA and decrease protections for threatened and endangered species, ultimately condemning them to continued declines and challenges. It would significantly rewrite key portions of the ESA to prioritize politics over science and inappropriately shift responsibility for key implementation decisions from the federal government to the states, many of which do not have sufficient resources or legal mechanisms in place to take the lead in conserving listed species. It would place significant new administrative burdens on already overburdened agencies. It would turn the current process for listing and recovering threatened and endangered species into a far lengthier process that precludes judicial review of key decisions.

More specifically, among other things, this disastrous bill would:

- Upend the consultation process—the cornerstone of American species protection for 50 years;
- Slow listings to a crawl (even overwriting existing court deadlines for listing decisions) and fast-track delistings;
- Gut review of permits that allow ESA-listed species to be harmed or killed;
- Treat those permits as though exempted from review under the ESA and NEPA, even if the permits pave the path to extinction;
- Allow much more take of threatened species and shift their management out of federal hands, even while they are still federally listed;
- Substitute politics for science-based decision-making;
- Increase the role of ineffective voluntary conservation measures;
- Erode public accountability in wildlife management; and
- Attack rules intended to protect threatened and endangered species.

Again, we strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 1897, which is a damaging bill that would dramatically weaken the ESA and make it harder, if not impossible, to achieve the progress we must make to address the alarming rate of extinction our planet now faces.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Animal Welfare Institute
Animal Wonders KC
Attorneys for Animals
350 Bay Area Action
Born Free USA
Californians for Western Wilderness
CalWild
Cascadia Wildlands
Center for Biological Diversity
Climate Justice Alliance
Colorado Wild Public Lands
ColoradoWild
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship

Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Protection Information Center - EPIC
FOUR PAWS USA
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Sonoran Desert
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project
Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Heartwood
Howling For Wolves
Humane World Action Fund
Humane World for Animals
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
Izaak Walton League, Rapid City, South Dakota Chapter
John Muir Project
Kahtoola, Inc.
Kettle Range Conservation Group
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Large Carnivore Fund
Latino Outdoors
League of Conservation Voters
Legal Rights for the Salish Sea
Living with Wolves
Lobos of the Southwest
Los Angeles Audubon Society
Los Padres ForestWatch
Maine Audubon
Micah Six Eight Mission
Michigan Wolf Coalition
National Wolfwatcher Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
North Cascades Conservation Council

North Central Washington Audubon Society
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
NYC Plover Project
Ocean Conservation Research
Ocean Defense Initiative
Oceana
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
Orleans Audubon
Partnership for Policy Integrity
People and Carnivores
Physicians for Social Responsibility PA
Project Coyote
Public Interest Coalition
Reintegrating Wildness
Resource Renewal Institute
Roaring Fork Audubon
Sage Steppe Wild
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Save Animals Facing Extinction
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition
Save the Manatee Club
Sawtooth Science Institute
Sea Turtle Conservancy
Shedd Aquarium
Sierra Club
Silvix Resources
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Species Unite
Team Wolf
The 06 Legacy
The Maine Wolf Coalition
The Urban Wildlands Group
The Western Environmental Law Center
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Waterkeeper Alliance
Western Watersheds Project

Wild Cumberland
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Watch
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlife for All
Wolf and Wildlife Advocates
Wolf Conservation Center
Wolf Hollow
Wolves of the Rockies
Wyoming Coalition for Animal Protection
Wyoming Untrapped
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates
Yaak Valley Forest Council
Yellowstone to Uintas Connection