



December 11, 2014

Director Dan Ashe  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street NW, Room 3331  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

**RE: Request for disclosure of listing petitions**

Dear Director Ashe,

Thank you for meeting with me last week to discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ongoing deliberations on the greater sage grouse listing decision. IPAA members will continue to work with the Service and individual states in the hopes that a "not warranted" decision can be achieved on the greater sage grouse.

As we mentioned in our meeting, compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has become a top regulatory issue for IPAA members due to the sheer volume of listing decisions. One of the specific areas our members believe more light could be shed on non-work plan species is by providing more transparency over the listing petition process.

As you know, petitions to list a species as endangered or threatened under the ESA are initiated from a myriad of sources and only disclosed in the Federal Register once the Service determines which petitions are worthy of serious consideration to move forward with 90-day and, if applicable, an eventual 12-month finding. A number of our members believe that it would be helpful if they were able to track species earlier, prior to being published in the Federal Register and, if possible immediately following the receipt of a petition by the Service. The Service could do this within its current authority under the Endangered Species Act without supplemental appropriations. We would appreciate your consideration of whether this objective of immediate disclosure might be achieved.

Once again, thank you for meeting with IPAA. I hope that we can continue to work together to simultaneously conserve and recover these precious species while building American energy production. If you need any further information feel free to have your staff contact Samantha McDonald ([smcdonald@ipaa.org](mailto:smcdonald@ipaa.org)/ (202)857-4722) in my office to coordinate.

Sincerely,

Barry Russell  
President & CEO