



NATIONAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
REFORM COALITION

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NESARC Commends ESA Congressional Working Group for Recommending Pragmatic and Balanced ESA Improvements

(WASHINGTON, DC) —The National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC) commends House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA), Representative Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), and the entire Endangered Species Act (ESA) Congressional Working Group for its report released today recommending much needed updates to the ESA.

The report is the product of an eight-month effort by lawmakers to examine the ESA, and years of information gathering from Congressional hearings and through written comments submitted by a diverse set of individuals and organizations knowledgeable about the law and its implementation.

“Policymakers and stakeholders involved in the protection of threatened and endangered species have learned many lessons since the ESA was enacted over forty years ago,” said NESARC Chairman Leslie James. “The findings of the Working Group are a reasonable and balanced assessment of those lessons, and an important starting point in identifying pragmatic, targeted improvements to the Act that can benefit species and people alike.”

It is anticipated that lawmakers will use these findings as a starting point to build support around advancing targeted ESA improvement legislation in the coming months.

“Under the leadership of Chairman Hastings and Representative Lummis, the Working Group has presented a set of ideas that could help the ESA better achieve its intended goals,” said James. “With this report, lawmakers have provided a solid starting point from which consensus-driven improvements to the Act can be pursued.”

NESARC is the country’s oldest broad-based, national coalition dedicated solely to achieving improvements to the ESA and its implementation. The Coalition represents farmers, ranchers, cities and counties, conservationists, rural irrigators, electric utilities, energy producers, forest product companies, homebuilders, agricultural interests, mining companies, and other businesses and individuals throughout the United States. NESARC and its members are committed to promoting effective and balanced legislative and administrative improvements to the ESA that support the protection of fish, wildlife, and plant populations as well as responsible land, water, and resource management.

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