

April 20, 2026

**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 considered on the House floor this Wednesday, April 22nd. 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 and fast-track delistings;
- Gut review of permits that allow ESA-listed species to be harmed or killed;
- Expands “God Squad” exemptions to situations where project alternatives that are needed to avoid jeopardizing an imperiled species “may” impair national security or “may” have certain economic consequences—opening the door to overuse of previously extraordinary exemptions
- 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 vote NO on 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,

Ascutney Audubon Society  
 Alameda Creek Alliance  
 Alaska Wilderness League  
 Alberta Wilderness Association  
 American Bird Conservancy  
 American Littoral Society  
 Animal Commons  
 Animal Defenders International  
 Animal Legal Defense Fund  
 Animal Protection Voters  
 Animal Welfare Institute  
 Animal Wonders KC  
 Arkansas Valley Audubon Society  
 Attorneys for Animals  
 Audubon Colorado Council  
 Basin Wildlife Consulting

350 Bay Area Action  
Baltimore Bird Club, Inc.  
Bird Center of Michigan  
Birds Connect Seattle  
Bird Conservation Network  
Bird Safe Nashville  
Born Free USA  
Boulder County Audubon Society  
Brooklyn Bird Club  
California Chaparral Institute  
California Native Plant Society  
California Native Plant Society, Marin Chapter  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
CalWild  
Cascade Forest Conservancy  
Cascadia Wildlands  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Central Lakes College Natural Resources Program  
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center  
Cetaceans.org  
Cetacean Society International  
Clarkston Area Backyard Birders  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Crisis Working Group, IMV  
Climate Justice Alliance  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
Coastal Bend Audubon Society  
Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance  
Coast Range Association  
Colorado Native Plant Society  
Colorado Wild Public Lands  
ColoradoWild  
Conservation Council for Hawai'i  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Conservation Northwest  
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Creation Justice Ministries  
CU Boulder Wildlife Club  
DC Natives  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Delaware Audubon  
Down to Earth Apiaries  
Downeast Salmon Federation  
Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance  
Earthjustice  
Earthjustice Action  
Earthpath Sanctuary  
Endangered Habitats League  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environmental Center of San Diego  
Environmental Defense Center  
Environmental Investigation Agency  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Environmental Protection Information Center - EPIC  
Escondido Neighbors United  
Evergreen Audubon  
FOUR PAWS USA  
Footloose Montana  
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics  
Forest Unlimited  
Fort Worth Audubon Society  
Friends of Blackwater, Inc.  
Friends of the Clearwater  
Friends of Dyke Marsh  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space  
Friends of Hedionda Creek  
Friends of the Inyo  
Friends of the Sonoran Desert  
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
Friends of Rose Canyon  
Friends of Rose Creek  
Ft. Berthold P.O.W.E.R.

Gaviota Coast Conservancy  
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light  
Golden Gate Bird Alliance  
Gotham Whale  
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project  
Grassroots Environmental Education  
Grazing Reform Project  
Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
GreenLatinos  
Guardians of the Wolves  
Havenworth Coastal Conservation  
Heartwood  
Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History  
Hip Hop Caucus  
Howling For Wolves  
Humane World Action Fund  
Humane World for Animals  
Idaho Conservation League  
Indiana Forest Alliance  
International Bird Rescue  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute  
International Wildlife Coexistence Network  
Iowa Audubon  
Izaak Walton League, Rapid City, South Dakota Chapter  
John Muir Project  
Juniata Valley Audubon Society  
Kahtoola, Inc.  
Kalmiopsis Audubon  
Keep the Sespe Wild  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Large Carnivore Fund  
Lassen Forest Preservation Group  
Latino Outdoors  
League of Conservation Voters

Legal Rights for the Salish Sea  
Lehigh Valley Audubon Society  
Linnaean Society of New York  
Living with Wolves  
LLaves: Keys to Bilingual Conservation, LLC  
Lobos of the Southwest  
Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society  
Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center  
Maine Audubon  
Manta Trust  
Marine Mammal Alliance Nantucket  
Mendoza Environmental, LLC  
Micah Six Eight Mission  
Michigan Wolf Coalition  
Missouri River Bird Observatory  
Moab Solutions  
National Wolfwatcher Coalition  
Native Fish Coalition  
Nature for All  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
New Hampshire Audubon  
New Mexico BioPark Society  
Next 100 Coalition  
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment  
Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International  
North Cascades Audubon  
North Cascades Conservation Council  
North Central Washington Audubon Society  
Northcoast Environmental Center  
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness  
Northwood Alliance Inc.  
Northern Virginia Bird Alliance  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
NYC Bird Alliance

NYC Plover Project  
Ocean Conservancy  
Ocean Conservation Research  
Ocean Defense Initiative  
Oceana  
Ocean Vision Legal  
Orca Network  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Oregon Wild  
Origami Whales Project  
Orleans Audubon  
Otter Creek Audubon Society  
Partnership for Policy Integrity  
Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology  
People and Carnivores  
People & Pollinators Action Network  
Pelecanus Inc.  
Penobscot Bay Waterkeeper  
Physicians for Social Responsibility PA  
Pilchuck Audubon Society  
Plan B to Save Wolves  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society of Western South Dakota  
Predator Defense  
Presbyterians for Earth Care  
Presque Isle Audubon  
Project Coyote  
Project Eleven Hundred  
Public Interest Coalition  
Public Land Conservancy  
Queens County Bird Club  
Quiet Use Coalition  
Reintegrating Wildness  
Resource Renewal Institute  
RESTORE: The North Woods  
Roaring Fork Audubon  
Rockbridge Bird Club  
Rocky Mountain Wild  
SAFE Alternatives for our Forest Environment

Sage Steppe Wild  
Salem Audubon Society  
Sanctuary Education Advisory Specialists  
San Diego Bird Alliance  
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council  
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance  
Save Animals Facing Extinction  
Save Our Allegheny Ridges  
Save Our Cabinets  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition  
Save the Manatee Club  
Sawtooth Science Institute  
Sea Turtle Conservancy  
Shark Advocates International  
Shedd Aquarium  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society  
Sierra Forest Legacy  
Silvix Resources  
Skagit Audubon Society  
Snowlands Network  
Southeastern Avian Research  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
South Sound Bird Alliance  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Space Coast Audubon Society  
Species Unite  
Team Wolf  
Tennessee Ornithological Society  
The 06 Legacy  
The Cougar Fund  
The Maine Wolf Coalition  
The Urban Wildlands Group  
The Western Environmental Law Center  
Third Act NYC

Trap Free Montana  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Unite the Parks  
Ventana Wilderness Alliance  
Ventana Wildlife Society  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies  
Vernal Pool Partners  
Voters for Animal Rights  
Washington Wildlife First  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
WaterWatch of Oregon  
Western Nebraska Resources Council  
Western Watersheds Project  
Western Wildlife Conservancy  
Western Wildlife Outreach  
Whale and Dolphin Conservation  
Wild Bird Fund  
Wild Cumberland  
WildEarth Guardians  
Wilderness Watch  
Wilderness Workshop  
Wildlife for All  
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology  
Wolf and Wildlife Advocates  
Wolf Conservation Center  
Wolf Hollow  
Wolves of the Rockies  
World Animal Protection  
Wyoming Coalition for Animal Protection  
Wyoming Untrapped  
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates  
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation  
Yaak Valley Forest Council  
Yellowstone to Uintas Connection