



American Road
& Transportation
Builders Association

250 E Street, S.W.
Suite 900
Washington D.C. 20024

P 202.289.4434
F 202.289.4435
W artba.org



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Dear Senator Barrasso:

On behalf of the more than 8,000 members of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), I would like to thank you for introducing the “Endangered Species Act (ESA) Amendments of 2018.” We applaud this legislative measure aimed at constructively updating the ESA in a manner which achieves both species protection and an efficient regulatory structure. Specifically, the bill would add predictability to ESA regulations by inserting additional deadlines into the review process. The goal of an ESA designation should be to protect the threatened or endangered species and restore them to a healthy and thriving existence. This common-sense approach would be achieved by the measure’s requirement of recovery goals and habitat objectives.

ARTBA has consistently advocated for a standard to define the “best available” scientific data in decisions concerning endangered or threatened species. Your proposed legislation will help to achieve this goal by giving greater weight to data that is empirical or has been field tested or independently peer reviewed during the ESA decision making process. Additionally, ARTBA also appreciates the legislation’s goal of increasing transparency in ESA litigation by requiring publication of all filed ESA complaints within 30 days and notification to any affected state or county of a proposed ESA settlement.

ARTBA looks forward to continuing to help you more forward with this common sense legislative reform to the ESA.

Sincerely,

T. Peter Ruane
President & C.E.O