

August 6, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment & Public
Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment & Public
Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

We are writing in response to the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works hearing titled, "*Legislative Hearing on a Discussion Draft Bill, S. __, the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018.*" As the trade association representing the agricultural retail sector in America, we would like to express support for the amendments introduced in Chairman Barrasso's important legislation. The Endangered Species Act is an important piece of legislation and to ensure it meets its original intent, while also evolving its protections as strides are made to this end. We believe these amendments are a fitting first step in the right direction and applaud your efforts.

As you look to elevate collaboration between the federal government and state lead agencies, we stand ready to play a role in the function of improving the Endangered Species Act. It is our sincere hope that we can work together to bring about a much-needed resolution to this issue.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association