



July 27, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Dear Chairman,

The wood manufacturing members of the Montana Wood Products Association appreciate the work that you and the EPW committee members have put in to the discussion draft's proposed amendments to the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Over sixty percent of Montana's timberlands are under the management of the U.S. Forest Service. The Northern Region continues to be ground zero for litigation including complaints involving threatened or endangered species. Any measures that help streamline the ESA & NEPA review processes and provide litigation relief are direly needed in the western regions of the U.S. Forest Service.

We look forward to seeing the discussion draft progress and would like to offer any feedback that may be helpful to inform the work of committee.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Altemus".

Julia Altemus
Executive Director
Montana Wood Products Association