Simplot

J.R. Simplot Company
P.O. Box 27, Boise, Idaho
83707 0027

208 780 7318 Business
208 985 4672 Cell

June 11, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso, MD
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Barrasso,

On behalf of the J.R. Simplot Company, I am writing to offer our full support for the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018.

Simplot is Idaho's largest privately-held agribusiness company with more than 10,000 employees and operations throughout much of the Western United States and the world.

Simplot is involved in almost every aspect of agriculture from farming and ranching and food processing to mining and fertilizer production. We have operations throughout the United States that operate on Company private land, state endowment lands, and on public lands.

Achieving our Company mission of "Bringing Earth's Resources to Life" requires us to operate our Company in a truly sustainable manner that allows for continued and predictable use of the valuable resources available to us. Because of the scope of our operations, we are often directly affected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

We work closely with federal and state regulators to guarantee our operations have the least amount of impact as possible on the natural environment. While we recognize the importance of the ESA in protecting listed species, the Company like many others across the West has become increasingly concerned that the Act is being used by some groups to eliminate multiple-uses of public lands.

We are also very aware that in most cases those who know how to best manage species are state wildlife managers who have first-hand knowledge, rather than a dictated one-size-fits-all federal solution. Accordingly, we applaud the effort to further improve relationships and consultation with the states in achieving the cooperative partnership goals outlined by the ESA.

At Simplot, we also look for opportunities to actively pursue innovative conservation activities in our operations to conserve listed species. Unfortunately, companies are sometimes reluctant to make these conservation investments due to a lack of regulatory certainty defining when and how a company may receive credit for entering into conservation agreements. The proposed

amendments to the ESA outlined in Section 201, are an important step to assuring regulatory certainty and the proper recognition of state and private party efforts toward species conservation.

We are also pleased to see that the effort to amend the ESA is based on the principles of the Western Governors Association (WGA) Species Conservation and Endangered Species Act Initiative. Through that effort, which included a number of stakeholder discussions, it was determined that amendments to the ESA should focus on identifying efforts to incentivize voluntary conservation while elevating the role of states to true partners with the federal government in species conservation.

The end-goal in any amendments to the ESA should be to improve species conservation by identifying areas where the effectiveness of the ESA can be improved. We understand that the effort to amend the ESA has the potential to create controversy. The WGA initiative put a great deal of focus on building a broad consensus from a diverse slate of stakeholders, which allowed for a bi-partisan resolution to adopt the WGA's principles for amending the ESA.

As this Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 works its way through the legislative process, we encourage you to follow the lead of Western governors.

Thank you for allowing Simplot to offer support for amending the Endangered Species Act, which we believe will better meet the needs of all the parties effected by the ESA. If you have any additional questions, or if we can offer any further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to Ken Dey, Simplot Director of Government Affairs, at (208) 780-7318 or ken.dey@simplot.com

Sincerely,

Garrett Lofto
Incoming President & CEO and current AgriBusiness President