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AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA

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Arizona's Representative to the National Water Resources Association

July 10, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman, Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

On behalf of the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona (ABWC), I am writing in support of the "Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018" legislation being considered at this time. Our membership is very supportive of increasing transparency, addressing regulatory overkill and most certainly reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act! It is long overdue! We are very appreciative of you and your committee's leadership on this important issue of ESA reform and are desirous to help in every way we can.

The Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona is a non-profit trade association established in 1978 to focus on irrigated agriculture and agribusiness related issues in Arizona. We also serve as the state affiliate to the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) and are also actively involved as members of the Family Farm Alliance.

Our members want nothing more than to see endangered species recovered and delisted or protected in advance of any listing. We feel this can be done without negatively impacting our economy and putting people out of business. Our members desire transparency, regulatory certainty, local input and ability to manage at the local level; most importantly, they want to see the 800-pound litigation gorilla taken out of the driver's seat. We feel the proposed bill addresses many of our concerns and desires and brings the law into the 21st Century. We certainly hope the process will also be bipartisan so we can solve some of these lingering issues and differences once and for all. Unfortunately, there is too much political talk and not enough action.

Again, thank you for your leadership and efforts to address such a critical issue to our nation's producers and consumers.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

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