

RICHARD W. POMBO, CA
Chairman
DON YOUNG, AK
JIM SAXTON, NJ
ELTON GALLEGLY, CA
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN
WAYNE T. GILCHREST, MD
KEN CALVERT, CA
BARBARA CUBIN, WY
GEORGE P. RADANOVICH, CA
WALTER B. JONES, NC
CHRIS CANNON, UT
JOHN E. PETERSON, PA
JIM GIBBONS, NV
GREG WALDEN, OR
THOMAS G. TANCREDO, CO
J.D. HAYWORTH, AZ
JEFF FLAKE, AZ
RICK RENZI, AZ
STEVAN PEARCE, NM
DEVIN NUNES, CA
HENRY BROWN, JR., SC
THELMA DRAKE, VA
LUIS G. FORTUÑO, PR
CATHY McMORRIS, WA
BOBBY JINDAL, LA
LOUIE GOHMERT, TX
MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE, CO



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Resources
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2005

NICK J. RAHALL II, WV
Ranking Democrat Member
DALE E. KILDEE, MI
ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AS
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HI
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TX
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NJ
DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN, VI
RON KIND, WI
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, CA
TOM UDALL, NM
RAÚL GRIJALVA, AZ
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GU
JIM COSTA, CA
CHARLIE MELANCON, LA
DAN BOREN, OK
GEORGE MILLER, CA
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA
PETER DEFazio, OR
JAY INSLEE, WA
MARK UDALL, CO
DENNIS CARDOZA, CA
STEPHANIE HERSETH, SD

JAMES H. ZOIA
Democratic Staff Director

STEVEN J. DING
Chief of Staff

The Honorable MEMBER
BUILDING House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman NAME,

Updating the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a top priority for the Committee on Resources. We are now presented with an opportunity to address the ESA and it is my intention to do so this summer. The ESA was passed in 1973 with the intent to conserve and recover species identified as threatened or endangered. However, since enactment, outdated enforcement mechanisms, poor scientific standards, hair trigger deadlines, and a host of other problems have resulted in an Act that has not worked for wildlife or people. According to government data, of the 1,300 domestic species listed, less than one percent has been recovered and only two percent are considered to have met 76% or more of their recovery objectives.

We have an obligation to reauthorize the ESA, and I am working to have legislation ready for consideration on the floor of the House as soon as possible. This legislation will improve species conservation goals and reduce the level of conflict and burden that currently occur. Clearly, through this process, I hope to improve the ESA for both our wildlife and our constituents for generations to come.

I appreciate your attention to this very important issue and look forward to working with you and our colleagues in a bipartisan fashion as this legislation is brought to the floor. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff on the Committee (Todd Willens or Rob Gordon at x5-2761) if we can provide you with further information on this issue.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO
Chairman