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Congress of the United States  
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COMMITTEE ON  
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ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

July 24, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman:

I am writing to accept your invitation to join the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Working Group in partnership with the Congressional Western Caucus and Chairman Dan Newhouse.

During the Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries Subcommittee Hearing on the “ESA at 50: Destructive Cost of the ESA” on July 18, 2023, I appreciated your promise to include “any Democrat that wants to join” the ESA Working Group. As Ranking Member of the Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries Subcommittee and with many years of experience working on wildlife conservation issues as a legislator and an environmental attorney, I know that I can lend a wealth of knowledge and perspective to the Working Group’s efforts to “develop policy proposals to modernize and renew the ESA for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” Your stated intent to make the Working Group a “bipartisan effort” – especially if it includes Democrats with substantive knowledge and expertise on ESA issues – is laudable, and I am happy to correct your assumption that no Democrats “want to be part of the group.” Indeed, I am eager to work across the aisle to improve the ESA which for 50 years has been the legal cornerstone for recovering iconic species like the Bald Eagle and preventing countless other species from going extinct.

I take you at your word that the Working Group is dedicated to a truly bipartisan, good faith review of the ESA and I look forward to collaborating on ideas to improve the effectiveness of the ESA. Now that I have accepted your invitation to participate, I trust that you will fully include me and my staff in all meetings, correspondence, and activities of the ESA Working Group going forward. Let’s get to work.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN

Member of Congress

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