



April 16, 2026

Dear Members of Congress,

As Coloradans, wildlife and our public lands are a core value and a defining part of who we are. We write to express our strong opposition to the ESA Amendments Act of 2025 (H.R. 1897) and the component titles of the bill, some of which have also been introduced as standalone legislation or included in other bills this Congress. This bill would remove the protections that endangered species like the mountain plover, black footed ferret and lynx need to survive. Extinction is forever and that is unacceptable to the people of Colorado. The bill's harmful consequences for Colorado's wildlife would degrade our already fragile ecosystems as they work best when there are as many different species that have co-evolved together as possible to create ecosystems that are resilient to extreme weather, destructive events, and disease.

People from all over the world travel to Colorado to experience its diverse wildlife and breathtaking scenery, which includes forests, mountains, rivers, canyons, and grasslands. This industry generates \$65.8 billion dollars a year to our state economy. The economies of rural towns and cities in Colorado would therefore be significantly harmed if we experience extinction of species and degradation of ecosystems that support our outdoor and tourism industries.

### **Our wildlife and wild places need more support, not less**

The state of Colorado is a leader in the restoration of extirpated species and in the protection of threatened and endangered species. We pioneered the restoration of the Canada lynx in the 1990s, we have had success in protecting and restoring native fish such as the western cutthroat trout, and we have led a tri-state effort to protect the greater sage grouse and Gunnison sage grouse—all because the Endangered Species Act existed and was upheld.

Most recently, Colorado made world history when voters decided to restore gray wolves through the direct democracy of a ballot measure; wolves are once again filling their important ecological niche. In the next few years, the wolverine will be restored to Colorado where we have some of the last best habitat for them.

In direct contrast to this progress fueled by the Colorado public's support for protecting wildlife, the ESA Amendments Act loosens scientific standards making it harder to ensure Colorado wildlife get the protections they need and threatens the gains we have made over the past three decades. The federal Endangered Species Act has worked well for Colorado, providing key legal mechanisms needed to protect and recover species and their habitats.

## **The bill puts mega-industries over Colorado businesses**

This bill would prioritize short-term profits for extractive industries over the sustainable wildlife and outdoor industry we have worked so hard to create. The long-lasting scars from logging, mining, and inappropriate livestock overgrazing are all deeply damaging to our wildlife and outdoor industry, constituting a direct attack on our long-held values and culture as Coloradans.

Who wants to go skiing where the views are blighted by clear cuts and open mines? Or go fishing in waters where the sediment and acid mine drainage kills life in the creeks so prized by anglers? The Endangered Species Act was supported near unanimously by Congress and the Republican President Richard Nixon for a reason.

## **Colorado communities will lose the wildlife and nature that sustain us**

Wildlife and our public lands are intimately connected with our local communities across the state. The elk in Rocky Mountain National Park, the pronghorn on the eastern plains, the trout in our streams, amongst all the other wildlife, create the tapestry of life across our state.

When a thread is pulled from that tapestry it weakens and leaves a hole. Sometimes that can be repaired, but in the case of extinction, the damage is forever. A choice that if made cannot be undone. If enough of those threads are removed, the rich tapestry, built over decades and maintained for just as long, falls apart in moments and with it so does our culture, our way of life, our economies, public health, and the ecosystems that nourish us, and for many people put food on the table.

This bill would allow for the threads of that tapestry to be ripped out without restraint. This can cause irreparable damage faster than most realize. We need the proper management and protections and process of the ESA to ensure that we protect what is so important to us.

We once again reiterate our strong opposition to the ESA Amendments Act of 2025. If this bill is allowed to become law, you will be responsible for irreparable harm to not only our economy and way of life but countless communities across the United States. Please protect our endangered species and stop this bill.

Sincerely,

### **Elected Leaders:**

Cathy Kipp  
Senator, District 14  
Fort Collins, Colorado

Claire Carmelia  
Mayor  
Westminster, Colorado

Tammy Story  
Colorado State Representative, Colorado General Assembly  
Conifer, Colorado

Hollie Rogin  
Mayor  
Lyons, Colorado

John I Clark  
Mayor  
Ridgeway, Colorado

Michael S. Underwood  
Mayor  
Ouray, Colorado

**Faith Leaders:**

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Toni Nading  
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**Conservation Voices:**

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