

April 16, 2026

Dear Members of Congress,

As New Yorkers, we fiercely value the preservation and protection of healthy ecosystems, clean water, and diverse wildlife. We write to express the strongest possible opposition, as any good New Yorker could do, to the ESA Amendments Act of 2025 (H.R. 1897) and its component titles, some of which have also been introduced as standalone legislation or included in other bills this Congress. This legislation would effectively destroy the Endangered Species Act (ESA)—a law that has protected America’s most vulnerable wildlife for over half a century with broad, bipartisan support since its passage.

New York’s natural heritage depends on the ESA’s strong, science-based protections. From the Piping Plover along our Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes beaches, to the North Atlantic Right Whales that swim off our coastline, and the Indiana Bat in our forests, many species that enrich our state’s ecosystems rely on the ESA as their last line of defense. Removing the law’s core safeguards would certainly jeopardize decades of recovery progress and undermine the ESA’s very purpose: preventing extinction.

The ESA Amendments Act would take decision-making away from scientific expertise, greatly limit the ability to list species in urgent need of protection, and enact unnecessary barriers to habitat conservation. These changes would dismantle the ESA as we know it. At a time when biodiversity loss is accelerating globally, and in our state, severely weakening our most effective conservation tool is the wrong direction for our country to take.

From our beautiful protected areas, such as the Adirondacks and Catskills, to our breathtaking beaches along Long Island and Queens, the ESA has helped ensure the protections of these natural areas, at minimal cost and with substantial long-term benefits. Protecting endangered species is not only our responsibility and legal obligation, but also an economic driver, supporting outdoor recreation, tourism, and the resilient natural systems on which our communities depend.

I respectfully ask you to stand with scientists, conservationists, and the majority of Americans who support the ESA by voting against the ESA Amendments Act. This is not an update, but instead a wholesale rewrite of a monumental environmental law that works. Please defend the integrity of this landmark law and uphold our nation’s commitment to safeguarding irreplaceable species for future generations.

We trust that we can count on you to support some of the most fragile species in our midst and preserve and protect them for years to come.

Sincerely,

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