

March 14, 2018

Dear Leaders McConnell, Schumer, Pelosi, and Speaker Ryan:

As American business owners, we encourage you to strongly support the Endangered Species Act. The Act has been successful in protecting the bald eagle, American alligator, Pacific salmon, humpback whale, brown pelican, as well as many other species. It also works to protect endangered species' habitat, such as the mountains, river valleys, grasslands, wetlands, deserts, coastal beaches and other open spaces that we enjoy.

In addition to helping to prevent threatened and endangered species from extinction, the Endangered Species Act generates economic benefits. In fact, the Endangered Species Act provides national economic benefits by boosting wildlife-related tourism, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching. Numbers released in April 2017 from the Outdoor Industry Association on the size and impact of our recreational economy demonstrate the impact of the outdoors: \$887 billion in consumer spending, 7.6 million jobs, \$65.3 billion in federal tax revenue, and \$59.2 billion in state & local tax revenue. Visitors to national parks and other public lands spend \$28 billion per year on outdoor recreation, leading to more than 400,000 private and public sector jobs.

Protecting endangered species, specifically, can also be crucial for local economies. For example, in protecting endangered mussels on the Apalachicola River, we are also protecting the nursery for shrimp, crabs, and bass, and a fishery worth more than \$200 million per year. And the reintroduction of the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park in 1995 due to the Endangered Species Act has boosted revenues in local communities by \$10 million annually and total benefits are expected to reach \$23 million per year. In the Pacific Northwest, tourism income generated by the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale adds a minimum of \$65 to \$70 million per year to the state of Washington's economy.

In addition, states with the most listed species have achieved tremendous economic growth. California, Florida, and Hawaii have among the highest numbers of federally listed species and were ranked in 2005 as among the states with the 15 highest economic growth rates. The Act's flexibility allows economies to thrive while protecting species at the same time.

Please support the Endangered Species Act and oppose any bill that would weaken protections for endangered species and habitat. The Endangered Species Act stands for fundamental

principles that we all believe in and cannot allow to be weakened or removed. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to be good stewards of the environment and leave behind a legacy of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home.

Thank you,

Lisa Pike  
Patagonia  
Ventura, CA

James McMurtry  
Jim's Framing  
Carmichael, CA

Eric Williams  
Future Antiques  
Valley Center, CA

Renee Owens  
Wild Zone Conservation League  
El Cajon, CA

Michael McGuire  
The Mountain Lab  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

John Caletti  
Caletti Cycles  
Santa Cruz, CA

Michelle Stevens  
The Refill Shoppe  
Ventura, CA

Clint Dillard

EVO Rock + Fitness Louisville  
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Blake Jones  
Namaste Solar  
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Darcy Gaechter  
Small World Adventures  
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Seth Haber  
Trek Light Gear  
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Stephanie Carter  
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Boulder, CO

Scott Baker  
Dohm-Icebox, LLC  
Longmont, CO

Brandon Beatty  
Bluebird Botanicals  
Louisville, CO

Erin Brosterhous  
Inside Out PR LLC  
Steamboat Springs, CO

Stuart Swineford  
Relish Studio  
Blackhawk, CO

Marianne Walter  
Augustina's Winery  
Nederland, CO

Terry Brown  
Altitude Snacks  
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Timberline Events LLC  
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Seek Outside  
Ridgeway, CO

Ryan Mayo  
Last Exit Goods  
Broomfield, CO

Kathleen Martin  
BOCO Gear  
Boulder, CO

Jennifer Vierling  
Tailwind Nutrition  
Durango, CO

Bruce Gordon  
EcoFlight  
Aspen, CO

Brock Webster  
Orange Peel Bikes  
Steamboat Springs, CO

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Pablo's Pizza  
Grand Junction, CO

Mcshan Walker  
Elkins Distilling Co.

Estes Park, CO

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Verde Brand Communications, Inc  
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Jeri Rafter  
International Wildlife Film Festival

Missoula, MT

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Ten Spoon Vineyard & Winery  
Missoula, MT

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Stevensville, MT

Todd Scott  
Bozeman Brewing Co.  
Bozeman, MT

Casey Folley  
Beehive Basin Brewery  
Big Sky, MT

Greg Howard  
Great Burn Brewing  
Missoula, MT

Robert Rivers & Fernanda Krum  
Imagine Nation Brewing  
Missoula, MT

Greg Johnston  
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Bigfork, MT

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Little Big Bay LLC  
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Ronald Fitzpatrick S.C.  
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Sugar Shack Records  
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My Momma's  
Turtle Lake, WI