

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
Chairman  
Congressional Western Caucus  
2057 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gosar:

On behalf of the over 400-members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to express our strong support for the 18 bills recently introduced that bring needed and common-sense reforms to the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

NSSGA is the leading voice and advocate for the aggregates industry, with member companies representing more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. Our members are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge and public works project, employing over 100,000 working men and women and found in every Congressional district.

Our members care deeply about the environment and often establish critical habitats and other enhancements on their sites that benefit local species and promote biodiversity. However, the ESA permitting process often hampers many aggregates operations as they are tied up in bureaucratic red tape -- that many times does not lead to improving outcomes for the species.

That is why we appreciate each member who has worked diligently to draft this legislative package which clarifies ESA goals to ensure species are removed from the list when desired population levels are met. Further, we are pleased these bills will require decisions that are based on actual science that is standardized, transparent and publicly available and will increased consultation with local communities and stakeholders on the economic impact of designations.

These reforms build upon recent administrative action to further increase transparency and the effectiveness of the ESA and reduce overly-burdensome regulations faced by aggregates producers. NSSGA supports these efforts to cut ineffective red tape and allow aggregates producers to focus on supplying critical construction materials to infrastructure projects instead of spending years tied up in permitting that does not advance critical conservation efforts.

We greatly appreciate each member's attention to this important issue and their work to modernize the ESA to better protect our nation's wildlife. Thank you for your consideration of our views and please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Johnson  
President and CEO  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association