



CREDA
Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

ARIZONA

Arizona Municipal Power Users Association

Arizona Power Authority

Arizona Power Pooling Association

Irrigation and Electrical Districts Association

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
 (also New Mexico, Utah)

Salt River Project

COLORADO

Colorado Springs Utilities

Intermountain Rural Electric Association

Platte River Power Authority

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.
 (also Nebraska, Wyoming, New Mexico)

Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc

NEVADA

Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Silver State Power Association

NEW MEXICO

Farrington Electric Utility System

Los Alamos County

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Cooperative

City of Truth or Consequences

UTAH

City of Provo

Strawberry Electric Service District

Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems

Utah Municipal Power Agency

WYOMING

Wyoming Municipal Power Agency

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April 28, 2003

VIA FAX: 202-225-5774

The Honorable Greg Walden
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1401 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

On behalf of the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA) members, I would like to thank you for introducing H.R. 1662, the "Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2003." This legislation will provide welcome improvements to the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

H.R. 1662 improves the original ESA in several ways. First, a Secretary must include "sound science" in determining which species to list. The requirement that sound science be used in the decision-making process will help mitigate past problems caused by using questionable science in the listing of species. Requiring that greater weight be given to scientific and commercial data used in listing species that has been "field-tested or peer-reviewed" will be another assurance that facts drive the ESA process.

The legislation also requires independent peer review of data collection – another much-needed measure that CREDA supports. Peer review would be required for a variety of federal initiatives, including species listing, recovery plan development, development of recommendations for endangered species habitat (including flow recommendations), and designation of critical habitat. These modifications to the ESA will help to ensure balance in the listing and protection of endangered species.

CREDA supports swift enactment of this legislation to modify and improve the Endangered Species Act. Please let me know if CREDA can be of any help in building additional support for this important legislation.

Regards,

Leslie James
 Executive Director