



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION[®]

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VIA FACSIMILE

202-225-5774

May 1, 2003

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walden:

The American Farm Bureau Federation thanks you for sponsoring H.R. 1662, the Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2003. The Endangered Species Act (ESA), 30 years old this year, has not been amended for over two decades. Reform is needed to make the Act function more effectively for all stakeholders involved. The time to make these much-needed reforms is now.

The proposed legislation will clarify, through sound science, which species receive listing and therefore prioritization for assistance under the ESA. In addition, H.R. 1662 will improve the effectiveness of the threatened or endangered species recovery planning process through enhanced consultation with state wildlife agencies and through stakeholder and landowner participation. This legislation will improve the overall effectiveness of the ESA in protecting threatened and endangered species in the United States.

Sincerely,

Bob Stallman
President