



The Forum for Commercial Real Estate

April 23, 2003

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States House of Representatives
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walden:

On behalf of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP), I am writing to express our strong support of H.R. 1662, the *Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2003*.

As you know, NAIOP is a national trade association comprised of more than 10,500 members in 48 North American chapters that represents the interest of developers, owners, investors in industrial, office and related commercial real estate.

NAIOP supports the goals of protecting our nation's treasured species that are on the brink of extinction. However, we feel that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is in need of reform. Currently, there is a lack of reliable data analysis in the decision making process for endangered species. H.R. 1662 mirrors our members concerns that there is a great need to establish a mandatory independent scientific review requirement for all ESA listing and de-listing proposals to ensure the use of sound science and to provide a mechanism for resolving scientific disputes. Additionally, we believe that the Secretary of the Interior should be required to solicit and obtain additional data from landowners and others that would assist in the development of recovery plans, including the recovery goals.

Thank you for your strong support and for your leadership on issues related to the Endangered Species Act. We look forward to working with your office to help pass this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Bisacchino
President