



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

4301 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22203-1860
Telephone: (703) 907-5500
TT-(703) 907-5957
www.nreca.org

May 13, 2003

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

On behalf of the 36 million member-owners of the nation's rural electric cooperatives, I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 1662 - *The Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2003*. NRECA enthusiastically supports your common sense approach to reforming the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

As you are well aware, the ESA listing process clearly is in need of reform. The trend toward listing as many plants and animal species as possible without considering the impact on the surrounding community and economy needs to be examined. Your common sense legislation is a giant step forward to bring some much-needed reform to the ESA.

We stand in agreement with the goals of your legislation. Injecting the use of "sound science" and "peer review" by qualified, objective experts are goals that the NRECA supports. Further, we appreciate the expansion of state and local involvement in the Consultation phase of the ESA.

NRECA and our member cooperatives look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure that meaningful ESA reforms are passed this year. We appreciate your leadership on this issue during your congressional career. You truly have been a national champion on ESA reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn English".

Glenn English
Chief Executive Officer