

National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition

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NESARC Applauds House Resources Subcommittee Hearing on ESA Impacts

The National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC) expressed its strong support for today's House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee hearing focusing on the impact of the Endangered Species Act on supplying power to rural communities. NESARC Chairman Mac McLennan testified today on behalf of the Coalition and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, where he called for updates and improvements to the Act.

"I have a deep appreciation and respect for our land and water resources, and I believe we can and must find ways to do a better job of recovering endangered species while protecting the economic viability of rural communities," said McLennan. "We need to make sure that our efforts are focused on truly updating and improving the ESA."

NESARC is supporting an unprecedented bicameral effort by the House Resources and the Senate Environment and Public Works committees, as they pursue legislative changes to the 31-year old law. House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA) held a full Committee field hearing on April 30th in Jackson, MS that focused on lessons learned in protecting and restoring wildlife in the Southern United States.

In his remarks, McLennan highlighted the establishment of recovery objectives, the increased role of State and local governments, improving critical habitat, and providing additional landowner incentives as issues that should be addressed by Congress as they consider legislative improvements to the Act.

"We applaud the leadership of Subcommittee Chairman Radanovich, full Committee Chairman Pombo and the Resources Committee for raising the profile of this issue," said McLennan. "The hearing is a great opportunity to learn more about the impacts of the ESA on rural communities, and the need for improvements to the Act."

NESARC is a non-profit organization of member organizations representing millions of individuals across the U.S. dedicated to improving and updating the ESA. Members come from groups acutely affected by ESA implementation, such as farmers and ranchers, cities and counties, rural irrigators, electric utilities, forest and paper interests, agricultural interests, mining interests, and others.

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