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September 22, 2020

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Committee on the Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and its more than 27,000 construction contractor firms, suppliers and service providers across the nation, I am writing to express our support for S. 4859, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Amendments of 2020. Thank you for your continued leadership and effort to focus the ESA on the recovery of species, building partnerships, and finding solutions that work in the real world.

The current administration has taken bold steps to update the rules implementing the ESA related to consultations, critical habitat, and threatened species. AGC supports the ESA Amendments of 2020 because it builds on those improvements by empowering States and Tribes in the recovery of species, permitting the prioritization of resources, promoting recovery and delisting, and incentivizing engagement in voluntary conservation efforts. AGC also supports studying the administrative and litigation expenses associated with the ESA. AGC hopes the bill's focus on recovery planning and stakeholder involvement will garner bipartisan support.

Again, AGC appreciates your leadership on this important issue. ESA Amendments Act of 2020 would help protect species while enabling critical infrastructure projects to continue. AGC looks forward to working with the Committee to modernize the ESA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jimmy Christianson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jimmy Christianson  
Vice President, Government Relations  
The Associated General Contractors of America