



The Honorable Senator John Cornyn
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Cornyn:

We write to express our support for (bill number), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

As you may know, in the summer of 2011, the Fish and Wildlife Service entered into settlement agreements with the Center for Biological Diversity and Wild Earth Guardians that forced ESA final listing decisions for more than 250 candidate species. The agreement also established a work plan that covered actions on listing, critical habitat petitions and other actions for more than 1,000 species. As trade associations that represent companies who drill for oil and natural gas, we are greatly concerned about how these listing decisions would affect American production.

Your legislation would require a federal register posting to alert local and state governments to settlement negotiations and would prevent a judge from approving the settlement if states and counties in the areas to be regulated object. This legislation is a common sense effort; it increases transparency and accountability during settlement negotiations on the Endangered Species Act.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation, and we look forward to working with you to support its enactment.

Sincerely,

Dan Naatz
 IPAA

Bruce Thompson
 AXPC

Khaury Cauthen
 API

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 Western Energy Alliance

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