



September 20, 2005

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), I am writing to express support for H.R. 3824, "The Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act" (TESRA), introduced by Chairman Richard Pombo and a bi-partisan group of members. This bill is a bold step in addressing the unintended consequences of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that have developed over the 30 plus years since Congress enacted this law. These consequences have caused a significant amount of confusion and cost for landowners and have made it difficult to establish effective conservation efforts for endangered species.

H.R. 3824 would improve the prospects for controlling the administrative gridlock and would allow the agencies to focus on the purpose behind this law, which is to recover endangered species. Endangered species benefit from habitat conservation plans. However, most landowners are reluctant to enter into these agreements without some certainty that the government won't unilaterally change the terms and conditions. The bill provides "No Surprises" protection, thus giving landowners needed assurances for entering into these agreements. Another helpful provision would reallocate funds saved by fixing the critical habitat gridlock to the various state and landowner conservation grant programs.

I applaud Chairman Pombo and his bi-partisan supporters for their hard work in taking on the need for updating this three-decade old law. The goal of strengthening this Act by focusing on a results-oriented process should be shared by all who care about endangered species. We look forward to working with Congress to ensure successful passage of this most important legislation.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Henson Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

W. Henson Moore
President and Chief Executive Officer