



September 20, 2005

The Honorable Richard Pombo  
Chairman  
House Resources Committee  
1334 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pombo:

On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance (Alliance), I would like to thank you for introducing HR 3824, The Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TESRA) of 2005.

The Alliance advocates for family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and allied industries in seventeen Western states. The Alliance is focused on one mission - To ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers.

Family farmers and ranchers believe TESRA is a positive step toward improving a 30-year old law that is seen by many landowners as more "stick" than "carrot". In the past 31 years, more than 1,300 species were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Only 10 have actually been recovered. The ESA must be modified to actually recover threatened and endangered species.

The Family Farm Alliance strongly affirms the goals of the ESA. However, this 30-year old law could stand some targeted reforms, including common-sense changes to make it work better, minimize confusion, and discourage litigation. TESRA is a much needed and long-overdue legislative effort to begin the process of updating the ESA.

TESRA comes at the right time and is a step in the right direction towards meeting these necessary improvements. We are pleased that Congress is going to take a hard look at how to make the Endangered Species Act work better for all concerned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Keppen".

Dan Keppen  
Executive Director