

June 22, 2017

Senator Tom Carper
United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

As leaders in the Delaware faith community, we affirm that the beauty, joy and health of human life on God's earth depends upon the wide variety and great richness of plant and animal life God has provided.

Our Scriptures are filled with messages about taking good care of creation. They remind us that the world belongs to God and that we are to instructed to be stewards of God's earth. The story of Noah sets forth an example for us to follow, where God commands Noah to protect all species.

Using these scriptures as our guide, we write in support of protecting God's creation and urge you to oppose any efforts that undermine the Endangered Species Act. Noah's ark safeguarded all of God's creatures in the same way that the Endangered Species Act prevents species from disappearing.

The Endangered Species Act is an effective model of conserving endangered species in the US. Passed in 1973 and signed into law by President Nixon, it recognizes that providing for living creatures requires the protection of their homes and habitats. It has proven time and time again to be an effective tool to prevent the extinction of species by preventing 99 percent of listed species from going extinct. It safeguards habitat, helps endangered species regain a foothold on life, and ultimately flourish.

We are alarmed with some of the rhetoric coming out of Washington that would "modernize" the Endangered Species Act, a move that would undermine its success. We were similarly disheartened at the 150 bills, amendments and riders introduced over the past two years that would have gutted or delisted a species. The decision of which species should be added to the list is based on sound science and should remain that way. And, Members of Congress should not work to dismantle this bedrock piece of legislation which has been so critical to saving God's creatures.

The Endangered Species Act is already flexible, giving wildlife managers in Delaware and other states the ability to work with federal scientists to develop species recovery plans. Efforts in Congress to gut or repeal the Endangered Species Act is an attempt to take away authority from scientists—biologists and wildlife conservationists who know best how to save species from extinction.

We ask you to oppose any efforts to undermine the Endangered Species Act and to work to protect God's threatened and endangered creation.

Sincerely,

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