

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
The Honorable Adam Schiff  
The Honorable Jim Costa  
United States Congress  
Washington, DC

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff and Representative Costa:

We write to you today unified in our support for the protection of God's precious and good creation and, in particular, the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This bedrock piece of conservation law has been extremely effective in preventing species from becoming extinct. Specifically, we urge you to counter measures to weaken the Endangered Species Act including delisting endangered and threatened species like the Grizzly Bear that is not science-based.

The Endangered Species Act is our nation's most effective tool for protecting species threatened with extinction. California holds vast and is home to an abundance of God's creatures including endangered species such as the Fresno Kangaroo Rat, the Mission Blue Butterfly and the California Condor. With the help of protections of the ESA, these species remain on a path to recovery.

The Bible is filled with messages about taking care of Creation. In those passages, we are reminded that the world belongs to God and we are instructed to be stewards of God's earth. The story of Noah's ark sets forth an example for us to follow as we care for creatures great and small. God's covenant with Noah and his descendants as well as with the entirety of Creation makes it clear that God views Creation, both human and non-human, as valuable and as being in relationship with one another.

We urge you to champion the Endangered Species Act and join us in stewarding God's creation and oppose any regulatory rollbacks or species delisting that isn't science-based.

Sincerely,

Rev. Larry Clinkscales, Sr. Pastor  
Second Baptist Church, Fresno, CA

Rabbi Rick Winer  
Temple Beth Israel, Fresno CA

Rev. Dominic Holland, Sr. Pastor  
Carter Memorial AME Church  
Fresno, CA