

**U.S. House of Representatives**

**Committee on Resources**

**Washington, DC 20515**

**April 8, 2005**

**Honorable Bill Owens  
Governor of Colorado  
Western Governors' Association  
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 338  
Washington, D.C. 80202-5114**

**Honorable Dave Freudenthal  
Governor of Wyoming  
Western Governors' Association  
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 338  
Washington, D.C. 80202-5114**

**Dear Governors Owens and Freudenthal:**

**Thank you for your recent letter regarding your efforts to promote species recovery through the Endangered Species Act. I am pleased that the Western Governors' Association is playing a significant role in this debate.**

**It is my belief that most - - if not all - - of the suggestions you made to improve species recovery, enhance the role of state governments in species conservation, use good science, and offer conservation incentives could be accomplished administratively. However, I also expect that Endangered Species Act legislation will move through the Resources Committee this year. I look forward to working you on administrative and legislative efforts that truly promote species recovery.**

**Thank you again for the constructive role you are playing in this debate.**

**Sincerely,**



**Nick J. Rahall, II  
Ranking Democratic Member**

**NJR/ls**