



NEW MEXICO FARM & LIVESTOCK BUREAU

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August 27, 2025

The Honorable Paul A. Gosar
U.S. House of Representatives
2057 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gosar,

On behalf of the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau (NMF&LB), the voice of agriculture and ranching families across our state since 1917, we write to express our strong support for H.R. 4255, the “Enhancing Safety for Animals (ESA) Act of 2025.”

1. Protection of New Mexico Ranching Livelihoods

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reports that the Mexican wolf population in the U.S. has grown for nine consecutive years, reaching at least 286 wild wolves and approximately 350 in captivity by the end of 2024. While population recovery is a conservation goal, unchecked growth without adequate local control has heightened instances of livestock predation—posing real financial and emotional burdens for New Mexico producers.

2. Unfair Regulatory Constraints and Compensation Challenges

The current depredation evidentiary standard imposed by the Wildlife Services division—requiring subcutaneous hemorrhaging to confirm wolf predation—renders timely compensation almost impossible for ranchers. Sparse evidence, scavenger interference, and vast grazing areas all compound the problem. (These burdensome standards unfairly hinder livestock owners from recouping legitimate losses.

3. Removal of Outdated Rules and Executive Overreach

H.R. 4255 proposes nullifying prior U.S. Fish & Wildlife rules—specifically, the 2015 endangered listing and the 2022 revision listing the Mexican wolf as a nonessential experimental population. Repealing such provisions is a necessary step toward restoring regulatory balance and empowering state and local wildlife authorities to effectively manage threats.

4. Decoupling U.S. Wolf Management from Mexico

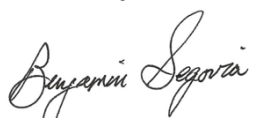
The bill takes a critical step by eliminating the consideration of Mexican wolf status in Mexico when making U.S. delisting or status decisions. (For New Mexico ranchers, this means that management decisions will be informed solely by domestic circumstances—not influenced by conditions beyond U.S. jurisdiction.)

In summary, H.R. 4255 promotes fairness, strengthens the safety and viability of New Mexico livestock operations, and restores local authority where it is most needed.

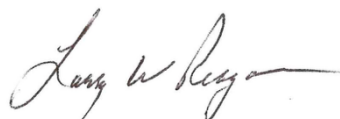
The New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau strongly endorses this legislation and urges swift advancement through the Natural Resources Committee and the House.

Thank you, Representative Gosar, for championing the rights and welfare of agricultural communities. Your leadership on this critical matter is vital to the survival and prosperity of New Mexico's ranching families.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Segovia
CEO
Las Cruces, NM



Larry Reagan
President
Ft. Sumner, NM