



ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA

July 6, 2017

Honorable Louie Gohmert  
Vice-Chairman  
Natural Resources Committee  
US House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Gohmert,

The Zoological Association of America (ZAA) strongly supports passage of HR 2603 – the SAVES Act. The listing of nonnative species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is redundant and counter-productive to conservation efforts for endangered species.

ZAA is the one of the largest trade association in the zoological sector; counting among its members some of the finest facilities in United States. ZAA promotes responsible ownership, management, conservation, and propagation of animals through professional standards in husbandry, animal care, safety and ethics.

Conservation, education and research are major pillars of our work at ZAA. Our members are involved in conservation work including reintroduction programs, rescue and rehabilitation, community outreach and education programs, and a series of predator/prey conflict avoidance programs and studies. Additionally, through maintenance of robust captive populations of endangered species, ZAA institutions create a conservation safety net for wild populations. These species management programs are coordinated across our membership to ensure the greatest genetic diversity and overall herd health for these species.

ZAA's commitment to the fields of research and education takes us beyond animal ambassador programs and classroom education to more comprehensive work with wildlife management professionals around the globe. This work includes conducting and supporting research in behavioral sciences and genetics and exchanging information and training on husbandry, nutrition, best management practices, and veterinary care.

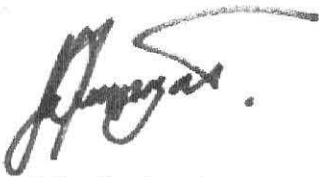
Our members rely on the ability to move individual animals among collections to best maintain a robust captive population and to provide the best opportunities for successful breeding of endangered species. The onerous and prohibitive regulation of captive bred, non-native species under the ESA is counter-productive to conservation efforts. If our members cannot successfully maintain a healthy captive

population of some of our most endangered species, we will lose that important genetic safety net. In addition, the general public will lose the opportunity to learn about these unique creatures while developing stewardship and compassion for the conservation of endangered and threatened species

ZAA members contribute to and support in situ conservation worldwide, both independently and through the Hall Family ZAA Conservation Fund with a direct correlation between the guests, our member institutions, and supporting animals in the wild. We need to assure our members and the public that conservation of endangered species is a priority, and we can do that by lifting the redundant and unnecessary regulation of nonnative species under the ESA.

HR 2603 is the best conservation policy in many years and ZAA strongly supports its passage. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Seyjagat", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Seyjagat  
Executive Director  
Zoological Association of America