



**Congressman Denny Rehberg**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **REHBERG CALLS FOR “SOUND SCIENTIFIC REFORMS” TO ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

WASHINGTON – Montana’s Congressman, U.S. Representative Denny Rehberg (R-MT), called on his fellow members of Congress during a committee hearing today to implement real reforms mandating the use of sound scientific findings with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Rehberg’s comments came during a Resources Committee hearing into H.R. 4840, the “Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2002”.

“The Endangered Species Act must be reformed to mandate the use of sound scientific methods that protect the environment while not wreaking havoc on small family farmers and ranchers,” said Rehberg. “Our legislation is the first step toward resolving the bureaucratic nightmare of policies and regulations associated with the Act,” continued Rehberg

H.R. 4840 mandates that the best scientific and commercial data available be used as a basis for ESA determinations, with preference given to empirical, field-tested, and peer-reviewed data.

Over the years, ESA has been applied across millions of acres and to hundreds of miles of watercourses costing billions of dollars, causing economic hardship, and at times, devastation to thousands of people. The bureaucratic debacle worsens every year because of the difficulty in removing species from the list and the ease to petition, then list, a species as threatened or endangered. As of December 31, 2001 there were 1,254 plants and animals listed, with hundreds more on the candidate list awaiting action.

H.R. 4840 seeks to bring conformity to the ESA process by integrating a better and more defined method of using reliable and valid science in the decision-making process and by initiating a system of peer-review of many of the federal agency decisions.

“This is common sense reform designed to balance the delicate needs of our environment with sound scientific methods that respect the rights of everyone involved,” concluded Rehberg.