

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2245

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit import and export of any species listed or proposed to be listed under such Act as a threatened species or endangered species, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MOULTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit import and export of any species listed or proposed to be listed under such Act as a threatened species or endangered species, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Conserving Ecosystems
3 by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies
4 Act” or the “CECIL Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO PROHIBITED ACTS.**

6 Section 9(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of
7 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(a)(1)) is amended by striking sub-
8 paragraph (A) and inserting the following:

9 “(A) import into or export from the United
10 States any species listed or proposed to be listed
11 under section 4(c) as a threatened species or endan-
12 gered species;”.

13 **SEC. 3. IMPORTS OF SPORT-HUNTED TROPHIES.**

14 Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
15 (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(3) Before issuing any permit under this Act au-
18 thorizing import of any sport-hunted trophy of a threat-
19 ened species or endangered species, the Secretary must
20 make a finding after public notice and comment pursuant
21 to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, of whether
22 the country where the animal was killed adequately pro-
23 vides for the conservation and monitoring for that species,
24 including—

25 “(A) a management plan for that species based
26 on the best available science that—

1 “(i) addresses existing threats to the spe-
2 cies; provides a significant conservation benefit
3 to the species;

4 “(ii) formally coordinates with adjacent
5 countries to protect transboundary populations;
6 and

7 “(iii) ensures that any take is sustainable
8 and does not contribute to the species’ decline
9 in either the short-term or long-term according
10 to current population estimates derived through
11 the use of the best available science;

12 “(B) such management plan is being actively
13 implemented;

14 “(C) the country where the animal was killed
15 demonstrates transparency, accountability, and
16 verifiability in governance to ensure that any bene-
17 fits of trophy hunting, including revenue from such
18 taking, materially, directly and substantially benefits
19 the conservation of that species; and

20 “(D) hunting of the species in such country en-
21 hances the propagation or survival of the species.

22 “(4) Notwithstanding sections 9(b) and 9(e)(2), no
23 permit may be issued by the Secretary for the import of
24 a sport-hunted trophy of an elephant or lion taken in Tan-
25 zania, Zimbabwe, or Zambia.”.

1 **SEC. 4. PERMIT FEES FOR SPORT-HUNTED TROPHY IM-**
2 **PORTS.**

3 Section 10(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of
4 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(2)) is amended by redesignating
5 subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D), and by inserting
6 after subparagraph (B) the following:

7 “(C) No permit may be issued by the Secretary under
8 this Act for import of a sport-hunted trophy unless the
9 applicant pays to the Secretary all administrative costs in-
10 curred by the United States that are associated with proc-
11 essing the permit application.”.

12 **SEC. 5. TRANSPARENCY OF SPORTS-HUNTED TROPHY IM-**
13 **PORT PERMITS.**

14 Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
15 (16 U.S.C. 1539(c)) is amended by striking “which is
16 made under this section” and inserting in its place “under
17 this Act for an endangered species or threatened species”.

18 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CON-**
19 **SERVATION COUNCIL.**

20 The International Wildlife Conservation Council of
21 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is hereby abol-
22 ished.

23 **SEC. 7. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
26 of the United States shall conduct and submit to the Con-

1 gress a report on the results of a study of the effectiveness
2 of trophy hunting in supporting international wildlife con-
3 servation efforts.

4 (b) REPORT.—The report shall—

5 (1) include a detailed analysis of how permit
6 fees and other payments from hunters to govern-
7 ment entities and hunting guides in host countries
8 are applied to tangible actions supporting the con-
9 servation of the target species and other wildlife in
10 such countries;

11 (2) identify data gaps and recommend informa-
12 tion that hunters and host countries must submit to
13 verify the impacts of trophy hunting on wildlife con-
14 servation efforts; and

15 (3) recommend actions that the Department of
16 the Interior and the Congress should take to ensure
17 that trophy hunting contributes to conservation.

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