

S.J. Res 4

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, U.S. Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat”

Topline Points

- x The Northern Long-Eared Bat, found in 37 states, faces population decline due to a currently incurable fungal disease known as White-Nose Syndrome. Unlike other species, human activity or habitat loss are not contributing to this species decline.
- x This listing will have significant negative economic impacts including slowing or stopping forestry and infrastructure projects, such as building new transmission lines
- x Over the last three years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed ESA consultations on 24,480 projects across the bat’s 37 state range. The change in listing status for the bat may lead to additional regulatory obligations or exposure to environmental lawsuits and could delay important projects indefinitely

Background

In 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) listed Northern Long-Eared Bats threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As a result of a lawsuit, in 2022 the Service published a final rule listing the bat as endangered.

In its listing, the Service stated that White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), not human activity, is the main threat to the bat. While there is no meaningful connection between the spread of WNS and human activity, the Service’s decision to list the bat as endangered will have significant impacts across 37 states and further restrict forest management and infrastructure project permitting on both private and public lands

The final rule does little to promote the recovery of the Northern Long-Eared Bat, but it will significantly impact the economic well-being of communities across 37 states. Passing H.R. Res. 49 would walk back the Biden administration’s misguided listing of the Northern Long-Eared Bat as endangered and would continue to protect the bat as a threatened species

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