



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

S.J. Res. 24 Myth vs. Fact

Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress has the ability to formally pass measures overturning certain federal agency actions. The Senate recently passed S.J. Res. 24 by a bi-partisan 51-49 vote. If a CRA joint resolution is approved by both the House and Senate and signed by the President, the rule cannot go into effect or continue in effect

Myth: *Human activity is a threat to the northern long-eared bat.*

Fact: The northern long-eared bat is at risk due to a currently incurable fungal disease, known as White-Nose Syndrome. The disease is not caused by humans. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has said that no significant population declines have been observed from human activities, such as infrastructure development and forestry.

Myth: *The CRA would remove the protections for the northern long-eared bat.*

Fact: The CRA does not remove the northern long-eared bat from the endangered species list. Instead, the bat would continue to be protected as a threatened species throughout its 37-state range. This means that critical infrastructure and forest management projects that pose little threat to the bat would be able to continue while research is on-going to find a cure for White-Nose Syndrome.

Myth: *Forest management harms bat habitat.*

Fact: The Natural Resources Committee heard testimony from Rick Horton, Executive Vice President of Minnesota Forest Industries, who stated that forest management benefits the northern long-eared bat by creating corridors for the bats to migrate and feed. Current forest management standards that govern 375 million acres of forestland in North America already call for adequate best practices to retain den and nest trees during timber harvests in order to benefit bats.

Myth: *Listing the northern long-eared bat as endangered does not delay the permitting process for projects within the species' range.*

Fact: Over the last three years the Service has completed ESA-related consultations on 24,480 projects across the bat's 37-state range. Many of these projects have not been completed. Listing the bat as endangered will lead to additional regulatory obligations, including the need to repeat previously completed consultations, and exposure to environmentalist lawsuits. The Service has identified 3,095 projects for additional regulatory reviews and permits will be needed as a result of listing the northern long-eared bat as endangered.

Contact

Doug Levine (policy) Doug.Levine@mail.house.gov | Rebekah Hoshiko (comms)
Rebekah.Hoshiko@mail.house.gov