

**WHITE PAPER**  
**Cape and Antler Preservation Enhancement (CAPE) Act**

**Senator John Barrasso, Ranking Member ENR**

**OVERVIEW:** The Secretary of the Interior has a responsibility to protect native species and reduce the potential for local extinction of native species, including wildlife species, within National Park Service (NPS) units. Active management to protect and conserve native species and herds is critical in order to reduce the potential for local extinction of a native species.

Recognizing the need to ensure the NPS take swift, coordinated action to address these non-native threats, the Dingell Act (P.L. 116-9, Title II, §2410(a)) provided the authority for the NPS to conduct certain wildlife management activities, when deemed appropriate, through the use of qualified volunteers who meet existing stringent criteria. While the law provides that the NPS may donate the meat from those wildlife management activities, no other purposes are permitted, including donation of the cape (hide), horn and/or antlers.

**KEY PROVISION OF THE BILL:** The CAPE Act would extend the existing authority of the NPS to have the discretion to also include the donation and distribution of the cape, hide, horns and/or antlers to certain groups, with priority consideration given to those qualified volunteers that participated in the wildlife management activity. This will prevent waste, and allow use of all parts of non-native species managed under this authority.

**BACKGROUND:** Non-native species potentially threaten entire populations of native species. Removal or reduction of non-native species to conserve larger native populations requires a coordinated effort and engagement of certain volunteers and agencies.

One notable example is the native Teton Range bighorn sheep herd. This fragile and critically-important herd is threatened by non-native mountain goats that pose increased risk of pathogen transmission and the potential for competition to the native bighorn sheep herd.

*For more information concerning this bill, please contact James Willson at [James\\_Willson@energy.senate.gov](mailto:James_Willson@energy.senate.gov) or Kim Prill at [Kimberly\\_Prill@energy.senate.gov](mailto:Kimberly_Prill@energy.senate.gov).*