

## Northeast Iowa Regional

### What should be the U.S. position in the United Nations on species extinction?

**Background Information:** Acknowledging that the United States adheres to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which protects endangered species and the ecosystems they depend upon. Approving that the definition of biodiversity is a variety of lifeforms in a particular ecosystem. Declaring that the definition of extinction is the process of a species dying out. Aware that the definition of an endemic species is a species that is specific to one geographic location. Cognizant of the fact that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of United States species are currently at increased risk of extinction. Recognizing that the definition of an endangered species is a species facing extinction. Affirming that 99% of threatened species are at risk from human activities worldwide. Deeply disturbed that out of the approximately 8,300 known animal breeds, 8% are extinct and 22% are facing extinction. Concerned that 12% of the Earth's birds, 32% of amphibians, 21% of reptiles, 50% of primates, and 68% of plants are considered threatened with extinction. Considering the fact that the ESA evaluates a species based off of five factors: destruction of habitats, overuse of species for commercial or educational purposes, disease and predation, deficiency of existing measures for protection, and other human or natural activities. Conscious of the fact that the ESA requires a 90 day review of petitions submitted for consideration to add a species to the endangered species list. Bearing in mind that after the 90 day review, if a species possesses the qualities to be added to the endangered species list, the said species then goes on to a 12-month review where it is decided whether or not the species is warranted. If the species is warranted, a proposition is then submitted to the *Federal Register* where it is then reviewed by species specialists over a 60 day period where the species is finally declared endangered or not. The species is then added to the official list, effective 30 days after being declared endangered.

Affirming that 150 countries in the UN signed the Convention on Biological Diversity, which promotes the protection of biological diversity worldwide. Reiterating that human activity affecting global warming and climate change plays a significant role in the loss of biodiversity, which leads to species extinction.

#### **United States Position:**

Expresses that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife services and the National Marine Service should make the final decision regarding whether a species qualifies for endangered species status, rather than members of Congress. Declares that the United States should shorten the 90 day review period for adding a species to the endangered species list. Suggests that the ESA raises the 1.7 billion dollar annual budget (as of 2012) for protection of endangered species and divides the budget for endangered species more fairly, considering that some animals require more protection than others. Considers that each species should have a limit and minimum amount of money for protection. Declares that the monitoring and supervision of illegal hunting should be increased, as well as the enforcement of fines and penalties pertaining to the crimes. Designates that education of local species endangerment within state bounds should be increased with methods such as newspaper articles and newsletters, T.V. specials, volunteer work, social media advertisements, sections of school curriculums, and billboards. Declares that endangered plant species should be displayed in greenhouses for educational purposes. Instructs that a course that teaches

endangered species protection should be a graduation requirement for high school. Authorizes that more regulations should be put in place for business productions to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

### **Justification and Summary:**

The National Marine Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife services should have the final say regarding endangered species because the local, state, and national scientists understand the needs of the species more than members of Congress, whose major concern usually falls with the economy. There is not a minimum amount of money in place for individual species protection, which means that many endangered species receive little to no money for renewal. Shortening the review period gives more time for a species to be protected by the ESA. This would allow for a quicker, more promising renewal of the species. As of now, only 55% of United States schools possess an environmental science course. The youth need to be educated about species extinction and protection of biodiversity. Following, if they are mindful of the endangered species in their own area, then individuals will have more purpose and willingness to follow regulations and protect the endangered species to preserve their city. The United States of America is committed to the protection of all species in order to preserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystems.

<http://www.eswr.com/enforcement/>

<https://www.fws.gov/>

<https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Conservation/Endangered-Species-Act.aspx>

<https://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Protect-Wildlife/Endangered-Species.aspx>

[http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/biodiversity/elements of biodiversity/extinction crisis/](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/biodiversity/elements_of_biodiversity/extinction_crisis/)

[www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/iowa\\_cty.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/iowa_cty.html)

[https://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=114662](https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=114662)

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[http://www.chm.ph/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=509&Itemid=56](http://www.chm.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=509&Itemid=56)

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>