



House Committee on Natural Resources

Republican Wins in 2023



Friends,

Over the past 12 months, Republicans have worked tirelessly to help Americans who have shouldered the burdens of President Biden's failing agenda. Our committee has advanced bills to lower energy costs, increase access to our federal lands and waters, conserve our resources, demand accountability from the Biden administration, and develop innovative solutions to address the most pressing issues facing our nation.

Committee Republicans have been leaders in counteracting the disastrous energy policies that President Biden has unleashed on Americans. We passed H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, and through the leadership of our committee, the Fiscal Responsibility Act reformed the national permitting process for the first time in 40 years.

We prioritized bipartisan solutions that combat the continued threat of the People's Republic of China, partnering with our allies overseas. Through the Indo-Pacific Task Force and our congressional delegation to the region, the committee worked with local leaders to write bipartisan legislation that renews the Compacts of Free Association. This legislation is essential to our strategic strength against the threat of China and an important affirmation of our friendship with the Freely Associated States.

Congress has the responsibility of holding President Biden and his administration accountable for his policies using our Article One powers, and that is precisely what we have done, bringing in dozens of officials to testify and sending numerous letters requesting information from the administration to learn more about their policymaking decisions and shine a light on their devastating actions. These efforts will redouble in the coming months.

Our work is far from over, and achieving our goals will require dedication from every Republican in our Conference. I look forward to working side by side with each of you to implement policies that give Americans from coast to coast the resources to thrive.

Sincerely,

Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources

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MAJOR COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act

Biden's war on energy has devastated the American economy and cost countless dollars through historic inflation. Gas prices hit record highs last summer across the country, during which time President Biden was in Saudi Arabia begging for the oil we could have produced here at home. To combat President Biden's America-last policy, House Republicans introduced the **bipartisan H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act**. This act would **increase domestic energy production, maximize efficiency, and minimize delays for energy and hardrock mining projects** on federal land. The legislation increases mineral production as well, an essential building block of virtually every area of our daily lives. Finally, H.R.1 would modernize the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to **streamline environmental review processes** and foster project development across all sectors without sacrificing environmental standards or public involvement. **H.R. 1 passed through the House on March 30, 2023**, by a bipartisan vote of 225 to 204.

NEPA Permitting Reforms

For decades, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process has stifled innovation and progress for U.S. infrastructure projects. Republicans brought this issue to the forefront during debt ceiling negotiations, fighting for key provisions from the Building U.S. Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews (BUILDER) Act, introduced by U.S. Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.), which received a hearing in the Committee on Natural Resources on February 28, 2023, and passed with a bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives as a part of H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act passed out of the House on May 29, 2023, by a vote of 314 to 117, and was signed into law on June 3, 2023. The legislation **included substantial reforms to the burdensome NEPA permitting process**. These reforms include setting time and page limits for the permitting process, clarifying the requirements of NEPA and directing the Council on Environmental Quality to study modernizing the NEPA process by utilizing digital technologies, such as creating an online portal to streamline communications and data sharing between agencies and project applicants. These reforms will **speed up the process for energy, mining, infrastructure** and other projects that will improve the lives of all Americans for generations to come. Reforming NEPA in a commonsense manner has been a priority of Republicans for decades, and the reforms secured in the Fiscal Responsibility Act were the first to occur in more than 40 years.

Holding the Biden Administration Accountable

On April 19, 2023, Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland testified before the House Committee on Natural Resources on the administration's Fiscal Year 2024 budget, her first time before the committee in nearly two years. Republican members sought answers on why President Biden's budget continues to balloon and **showed Secretary Haaland how her policies have had devastating impacts** on Americans across the country.

Committee Republicans have brought in several other **high-profile administration officials**, including Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair Brenda Mallory. Biden has radically transformed CEQ's role into a bureaucracy that implements his eco-agenda, remakes federal agencies as vehicles of social change, and leads the war on domestic energy production. In addition, the committee scrutinized the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's controversial plan to extend 10-knot speed limits to boats as small as 35 feet throughout the East Coast. The proposed rule puts the already dangerous job of transferring pilots between boats and ships at increased risk by eliminating the ability to use speed as a safety option. Furthermore, the rule would be devastating for coastal economies. Overbearing rules such as the one NOAA proposed would lead to less fishing, loss of jobs in these communities and weaken the economy further.

Furthermore, the committee has used its power to conduct oversight and **put Biden and his administration under a microscope**. Committee Republicans have sent dozens of letters seeking answers from Biden administration officials, including a letter to Secretary Haaland regarding flagrant conflicts of interest in her position as a cabinet secretary. The committee has also advanced several **Congressional Review Act resolutions to shut down Biden's misguided Endangered Species Act listings** that stifle economic prosperity and conservation efforts across the country. Finally, the committee continues to investigate how foreign interests may use U.S. nonprofits to influence American environmental, natural resource, and energy policies.

Responsibly Managing America's Resources

America is blessed with some of the richest resources in the world, and we have an **unchosen obligation to steward them well**. To that end, Republican committee members have advanced conservative legislation to ensure our resources endure for generations to come. One of these bills, the **Save Our Sequoias Act**, provides land managers with emergency tools and resources they need in a race against the clock to save the iconic Giant Sequoias from being wiped out from catastrophic wildfires.

We're also experiencing a steep increase in the demand for hardrock minerals, including critical minerals, worldwide. Many of our members represent **mineral-rich areas that have been locked away** by the Biden administration's unscientific policies. Natural Resource Committee field hearings, site visits, legislation, and oversight letters have advanced avenues to produce minerals domestically, in a safe and responsible manner, ensuring a stable supply chain and promoting our national security.

Strengthening Our Partnership and Countering the People's Republic of China's Influence in the Indo-Pacific

The growing influence of the People's Republic of China (PRC) represents one of the greatest challenges to the future prosperity of the United States. This includes the Indo-Pacific region, where the PRC has continuously gained strategic influence through infrastructure projects and other means of economic and political coercion. This year, the committee recognized this growing threat when Chairman Westerman formed **the Indo-Pacific Task Force**, chaired by U.S. Rep. Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa) and co-chaired by U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) to conduct oversight on the issues facing the U.S. territories and the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which are known collectively as the Freely Associated States (FAS).

Alongside the task force meetings, **Chairman Westerman led a bipartisan Congressional Delegation (CODEL)** to the South Pacific to hold a congressional hearing and discuss with local leaders the challenges facing their communities and the PRC's threat. The CODEL visited Guam, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, where they met with senior government officials. During their trip, **members encountered the palpable and tangible presence of the PRC in the Indo-Pacific** and members learned of the PRC's coercive tactics to tempt tourism and foreign investment at every stop. Government officials in each nation were wary of the PRC's maligned influences but noted that ensuring their general population remains cautious of the PRC's deception is a significant struggle. The CODEL also heard from local communities on the destructive impacts of the PRC's illegal fishing.

The result of the Indo-Pacific Task Force meetings, the CODEL, the official committee hearing and meetings with state officials was the introduction of **H.J. Res. 96, the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023**, which approves the agreements negotiated between the Freely Associated States and the United States. The renewal of these decades-old agreements will have a lasting positive impact on the United States' presence in the region for the benefit of both the United States and the FAS allies. The agreements continue the long tradition of strong ties and allyship, ensuring that these relations stay strong for generations.

Expanding Access and Opportunities in Our National Parks

America is blessed with some of the most beautiful national parks and public lands in the world. Every American deserves access to these lands, and Congress must continue to expand outdoor opportunities. That's why Chairman Westerman introduced **the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreational Experiences (EXPLORE) Act**, comprehensive, bipartisan and bicameral legislation that will improve access and transform outdoor recreation opportunities on our public lands. This bill includes programs and practices that will **improve access for all Americans**, from sportsmen to veterans and their families, streamline the permitting process and reduce burdensome fees for small outfitting and guiding businesses.

HEARINGS

Unlike the partisan messaging hearings that were commonplace under the Democrat majority, we have used our hearings as opportunities to discuss the greatest threats to our natural resources and develop concrete policy solutions. This includes bringing in experts from various fields, constituents who can speak to how policy has affected their lives, and Biden administration officials to hold them accountable for their failings over the past three years. Our legislative hearings have led to numerous policy actions opening public lands, cutting burdensome regulations, and creating innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Our oversight hearings have held the Biden administration accountable and given all our committee members a chance to tell Biden officials how devastating their policies are for constituents across America.

Full Committee Hearings

Member Day Hearing | November 2, 2023

Members were encouraged to testify on issues within the committee's jurisdiction, including specific legislation or topics of importance to them and their constituents.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Matt Rosendale**, Representative, Montana's Second Congressional District
- The Hon. **French Hill**, Representative, Arkansas' Second Congressional District
- The Hon. **Derek Kilmer**, Representative, Washington's Sixth Congressional District
- The Hon. **Jim Baird**, Representative, Indiana's Fourth Congressional District
- The Hon. **Nick LaLota**, Representative, New York's First Congressional District
- The Hon. **Mike Ezell**, Representative, Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District
- The Hon. **Zach Nunn**, Representative, Iowa's Third Congressional District
- The Hon. **Young Kim**, Representative, California's Thirty-Ninth Congressional District
- The Hon. **Dusty Johnson**, Representative, South Dakota-at-Large
- The Hon. **Anthony D'Esposito**, Representative, New York's Fourth Congressional District
- The Hon. **Buddy Carter**, Representative, Georgia's First Congressional District

Destroying America's Best Idea: Examining the Biden Administration's Use of National Park Service Lands for Migrant Camps | September 27, 2023

President Biden's immigration policies have led to an unprecedented crisis at the border. The border crisis has spread to communities across the nation due to his administration's failure to secure the border, while at the same time unilaterally pursuing immigration policies that undermine America's national sovereignty and security. President Biden is placing America's best idea—our national parks— at risk due to an out-of-control border policy that he refuses to

address. He is doing this while also undermining the National Park Service’s Organic Act and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), commonly referred to as America’s “bedrock” environmental law by Democrats. All Americans should agree that national parks—some of our most treasured spaces for recreation, history, and family time outdoors—are not the appropriate landscapes for building migrant camps. House Republicans are advocating for policies that would restrict the flow of migrants crossing our southern border, reduce the abuse of the asylum process, and ensure that America’s national parks remain intact for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Joann Ariola**, Council Member, Ozone Park, NY
- The Hon. **Jaime Williams**, Assemblymember, New York State Assembly, Brooklyn, NY
- Mr. **Kenneth Spencer**, Chairman, U.S. Park Police Fraternal Order of Police
- Ms. **Eleanor Acer**, Senior Director, Refugee Protection, Human Rights First, New York, NY [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the Council on Environmental Quality Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request and Related Policy Matters | June 22, 2023

President Biden has transformed the once small Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) staff from their core mission of ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 into a legion of frontline warriors for implementing radical social change and eco-justice initiatives across the federal government. A bureaucratic morass of various agencies, offices, and councils report to, and take orders from, CEQ. CEQ’s role in implementing executive orders and rulemaking vastly exceeds its statutory role and prescribed authority. It is imperative for CEQ to abide by the Fiscal Responsibility Act’s significant NEPA and permitting reforms – reforms that will make it faster and easier to build critical infrastructure projects and reduce the burden on taxpayers by creating efficiencies in the permitting process.

- **Witness**

- The Hon. **Brenda Mallory**, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality

Legislative Hearing on Rep. Curtis’ bill, H.R. 3397 | June 15, 2023

H.R. 3397 would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to withdraw a proposed rule relating to conservation and landscape health and prohibits the BLM from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule or any substantially similar rule. The BLM’s proposed Conservation and Landscape Health Rule is a seismic shift in public land management that will fundamentally upend the agency’s multiple use mandate. Thousands of rural economies depend on access to BLM lands for energy and mineral development, recreation, grazing, timber production, and enjoyment. This rule is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to lock up more lands to advance radical goals like the administration’s 30x30 agenda. The governors of South Dakota and Wyoming testified at this hearing to amplify the voices of rural communities and concerned stakeholders the BLM has willfully ignored. The hearing advanced legislation that would block this damaging rulemaking.

Bill Considered: H.R. 3397

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Kristi Noem**, Governor, State of South Dakota

- The Hon. **Mark Gordon**, Governor, State of Wyoming
- Ms. **Nada Wolff Culver**, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management
- Ms. **Kathleen Sgamma**, President, Western Energy Alliance, Denver, CO
- Ms. **Kathy Chandler-Henry**, Board Chair, Eagle County Board of Commissioners, Eagle, CO [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing on the Save Our Sequoias Act | May 10, 2023

Giant Sequoias are facing an unprecedented and existential threat that could push the species to extinction in the next 25 years. Giant Sequoias, which can live for more than 3,000 years, are among the most fire resilient tree species on the planet. Yet in the last few years, catastrophic wildfires have decimated nearly one-fifth of the world's Giant Sequoias. We have reached a tipping point. Decades of inadequate forest management, combined with worsening drought conditions and rising temperatures, have created an environment that is killing these trees at an alarming rate never seen before in history. Fewer than 75,000 Giant Sequoias remain and without drastic intervention, this crisis will only worsen. The "Save Our Sequoias (SOS) Act" would give land managers the emergency tools and resources they need to save these iconic trees. This comprehensive, bipartisan legislation has 50 original cosponsors and is supported by more than 100 organizations.

Bill Considered: H.R. 2989

• Witnesses

- Mr. **Randy Moore**, Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- The Hon. **Shine Nieto**, Vice-Chairman, Tule River Indian Tribe of CA
- The Hon. **Dennis Townsend**, Chairman and Supervisor – District 5, Tulare County Board of Supervisors, CA
- Dr. **Joanna Nelson**, Director of Science and Conservation Planning, Save The Redwoods League, San Francisco, CA
- Mr. **Neal Desai**, Senior Program Director – Pacific Region, National Parks Conservation Association, CA [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior | April 19, 2023

The Biden administration has been a disaster for Americans across the country. This failure is in part due to the policies implemented by the Department of the Interior (DOI) under the leadership of Secretary Deb Haaland. This was the first time Secretary Haaland appeared before the House Committee on Natural Resources in nearly two years. DOI continues its relentless war on American energy and mineral security, with recent actions including the Boundary Waters mineral withdrawal and ending lease sales in parts of Alaska. These blanket bans on energy production and mining have inflated energy prices and increased American dependence on adversaries like the People's Republic of China, Iran and Russia.

• Witnesses

- The Hon. **Deb Haaland**, Secretary, Department of the Interior

Legislative Hearing on the Building United States Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews (BUILDER) Act of 2023 | February 28, 2023

Inefficient permitting reduces the value of the dollar invested, hurts U.S. competitiveness and security, and significantly curtails cumulative emissions reductions. The BUILDER Act would reform and streamline permitting, reduce litigation, and focus environmental reviews – helping reduce costs for Americans by speeding the development of more energy resources and innovation here at home while helping to lower global emissions. Committee Democrats are out of touch with the American public, their own conference, and the president when it comes to acknowledging that our burdensome and inefficient permitting process must be streamlined. Despite ample notice of the hearing date and the importance of the subject matter, the chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Brenda Mallory, failed to appear before the full committee to testify on the need for permitting streamlining, even though President Biden himself has called for NEPA reforms.

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **John Carr**, Vice President, Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse, WI
- Mr. **Brian Veerkamp**, President – Board of Directors, El Dorado Irrigation District, Placerville, CA
- Mr. **Keith Pugh**, PE, PWLF, President, American Public Works Association, Asheville, NC
- Mr. **John Beard, Jr.**, Founder, President and Executive Director, Port Arthur Community Action Network, Port Arthur, TX *[Minority Witness]*

Unleashing America's Energy and Mineral Potential | February 8, 2023

Stable domestic production of energy and mineral resources is necessary to the economic and national security of the United States. Taking an all-of-the-above approach to energy and mining – including oil, natural gas, coal, renewables, and hardrock minerals – is the best way to allow a diversity of energy sources to support our power grid and promote sufficient production of mined products to meet our technological and national security needs. Unfortunately, the actions of the Biden administration from day one have blunted the ability of American producers to produce the energy and mineral resources that our country, and the world, so desperately need.

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Kathleen Sgamma**, President, Western Energy Alliance, Denver, CO
- Mr. **Erik Milito**, President, National Ocean Industries Association
- Mr. **JC Sandberg**, Chief Advocacy Officer, American Clean Power
- Mr. **Brian Somers**, President, Utah Mining Association, Salt Lake City, UT
- Mr. **Michael Holloman II**, Commercial Director and Board Member, U.S. Strategic Metals, St. Louis, MO
- Mr. **Matthew Adams**, Vice President and Senior Tax Counsel, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Broomfield, CO
- Mr. **Reno Franklin**, Chairman, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians and Member, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Santa Rosa, CA *[Minority Witness]*
- Ms. **Dana Johnson**, Senior Director of Strategy and Federal Policy, WE ACT for Environmental Justice *[Minority Witness]*



Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

Legislative Hearing on Legislation to Counter President Biden's War on Energy | December 12, 2023

The Biden administration's "anywhere but here" energy agenda is increasing energy poverty for American families that are living paycheck to paycheck. Federal agencies should consider how to ensure energy abundance and affordability during their rulemaking processes to avoid energy poverty. Establishing a categorical exclusion for geothermal energy in areas with existing production or areas that have been recently studied is a responsible way to increase utilization of geothermal energy by expediting the permitting process without reducing environmental standards. To ensure certainty for operators and to avoid unnecessary permitting costs, energy producers who pay a fee to nominate acreage for oil and gas lease sales should be refunded if the Bureau of Land Management refuses to offer the acreage in a sale.

Bill Considered: H.R. 5482, H.R. 6474 and H.R. 6481

- **Witnesses** (at time of publication)
 - Mr. **Bryant Jones**, Executive Director, Geothermal Rising
 - Ms. **Kathleen Sgamma**, President, Western Energy Alliance
 - Mr. **Derek Hollie**, Founder, Energy Poverty Prevention Project

Legislative Hearing on Supporting Alaska's Native Communities and Domestic Energy Production | November 29, 2023

In September, the Biden administration cancelled previously issued leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), ignoring statutory requirements and threatening a critical lifeline of future revenues for Alaskan Native communities. The administration has also recently proposed a rule to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) that would effectively lock up 13 million acres for future energy production. These two decisions will have devastating economic impacts on local communities, as well as jeopardize our national security by limiting domestic energy production. Energy production in Alaska supports more than 77,000 jobs and contributes billions to the economy, much of which directly impacts Alaskan Native communities living on and around the North Slope. To reverse these policies, the committee considered H.R. 6285, "Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023," which will reinstate the previously issued ANWR leases as required by law and cancel the proposed NPR-A rule. This hearing was a chance for committee members to hear testimony from local community leaders in Alaska who have been ignored by the Biden administration and learn more about why these actions taken by the administration are detrimental to their way of life.

Bill Considered: H.R. 6285

- **Witnesses**
 - Mr. **Steve Feldgus**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior
 - Mr. **John Boyle**, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

- Ms. **Doreen Leavitt**, Secretary, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
- Mr. **Karlin Itchoak**, Alaska State Director, The Wilderness Society *[Minority Witness]*
- Mr. **Charles Lampe**, President, Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation

Examining the Biden Administration’s Abandoned Mine Lands and Active Mining Programs | November 14, 2023

Coal mining and mine reclamation in the United States are regulated by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), housed at the Department of the Interior. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 regulates two aspects of the coal mining sector: the reclamation of coal mines abandoned before the era of modern regulation, known as abandoned mine lands, and the regulation of active coal mining. Although the active mining and mine reclamation programs have been running for decades, the past several years have seen a large increase in delays for necessary approvals, unclear and conflicting administrative guidance, and new administrative requirements for coal mining states and tribes. This hearing provided an opportunity for members and witnesses from geographically diverse coal mining states to discuss challenges related to OSMRE activities and to consider methods to improve agency efficiency and transparency.

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Glenda Owens**, Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Kyle Wendtland**, Administrator, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division, Cheyenne, WY
- Mr. **Dustin Morin**, Director, Mining and Reclamation Division, Alabama Department of Labor, Montgomery, AL
- Mr. **Benjamin McCament**, Chief, Division of Mineral Resources Management, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, OH
- Mr. **Peter Morgan**, Senior Attorney, Sierra Club Legislative Office *[Minority Witness]*

Legislative Hearing on Bills Streamlining Permitting, Supporting Domestic Energy Production | October 25, 2023

Since day one, the Biden administration has jeopardized American energy and instead incentivized production in adversarial nations like Venezuela and Iran. This hearing centered on four bills that will spur the responsible development of all-of-the-above domestic energy resources by creating certainty, streamlining permitting processes and blocking harmful regulations.

Bills Considered: H.R. 1449, H.R., H.R. 6011 and H.R. 6009

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Darren Soto**, Representative, Florida’s 9th Congressional District
- The Hon. **Lauren Boebert**, Representative, Colorado’s 3rd Congressional District
- The Hon. **Russ Fulcher**, Representative, Idaho’s 1st Congressional District

- Mr. **Tom Kropatsch**, Oil and Gas Supervisor, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Casper, WY
- Ms. **Sarah Jewett**, Vice President of Strategy, Fervo Energy, Houston, TX
- Mr. **Gene Grace**, General Counsel, American Clean Power Association
- Ms. **Melissa Hornbein**, Senior Attorney, Western Environmental Law Center, Helena, MT [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the Biden Administration's Unprecedented Obstruction of the National Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program | October 18, 2023

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for issuing routine and on time five-year plans for offshore oil and natural gas leasing. The Biden administration has failed the American taxpayer and was more than 450 days late releasing their five-year plan in September 2023, which included a record-low number of potential sales. BOEM's publication of the plan threatens investment in American natural resources and breeds uncertainty for American energy consumers, while putting our adversaries squarely in the driver's seat of global energy production. Notably, the BOEM proposed plan includes only three lease sales exclusively in the Gulf of Mexico planning area and does not contain any sales in resource-rich Alaska. The proposed plan also contains the fewest sales in history, particularly concerning at a time of unrest in the Middle East, Western Africa and Eastern Europe, all of which hold a stake in global oil production and trade. This hearing allowed members to question BOEM Director Liz Klein about this inadequate and irresponsible plan, as well as hear from experts in the field who provided deeper context around the problems with the proposed program.

• **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Jerry Moses**, Director of State and Federal Relations, Office of Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy, Juneau, AK
- Mr. **Shane Seibel**, Executive Director, Southern Ute Growth Fund, Ignacio, CO
- Mr. **Tommy Faucheux**, President, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, Baton Rouge, LA
- Ms. **Liz Klein**, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Megan Bivan**, Founder, True Transition, Vienna, Austria [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing Considering Legislation to Support Domestic Energy Security and Increase Production | September 28, 2023

Bills Considered: H.R. 1121 and H.R. 5616

The Biden administration has repeatedly jeopardized American energy independence and limited domestic energy production. Through the cancellation of lease sales and continuous delays in drafting plans for future sales, the administration is increasing regulatory burdens and uncertainty in the American domestic energy industry. This hearing centered on two bills to support American energy production and security.

• **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Tim Tarpley**, President, Energy Workforce and Technology Council, Houston, TX

- Dr. **Greg Upton**, Executive Director and Associate Professor of Research at LSU Center for Energy Studies, Baton Rouge, LA
- Mr. **Chett Chiasson**, Executive Director of Port Fourchon, Fourchon, LA,
- Ms. **Breon Robinson**, Organizer, Healthy Gulf, Lake Charles, LA [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the Biden Administration's Mismanagement of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Program | September 19, 2023

Domestic production of oil and natural gas on federal lands is key to the economies and livelihoods of local communities across the country. Under the Biden administration, however, the Bureau of Land Management has attempted to stifle future energy production on federal lands by any means necessary. They have cut off access and suspended quarterly lease sales required by law, slowed the approval of drilling permits, locked up federal lands to development and increased costs on producers, all of which drives up energy costs for Americans. This hearing examined how regulatory actions proposed by BLM will cause energy prices to skyrocket further threatening the long-term viability of oil production on federal lands, thereby jeopardizing future revenues to states, local and native communities, good-paying jobs and national security.

• **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Mike Nedd**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Kathleen Sgamma**, President, Western Energy Alliance, Denver, CO
- Mr. **Bill Novotny**, President, Wyoming County Commissioners Association, Buffalo, WY
- Mr. **Nagruk Harcharek**, President, Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat, Anchorage, AK
- Dr. **Barbara Vasques**, Citizen Scientist and Advocate, Western Organization of Resource Councils, NW, CO [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the Methodology and Structure of the U.S. Geological Survey's Critical Minerals List | September 13, 2023

In December 2017, then-President Trump issued an executive order calling for a national strategy and plan to support a domestic supply of minerals vital to the economic and national security of the United States. The Department of the Interior, through the USGS, published an initial list of 35 critical minerals in 2018. To be categorized as "critical," a mineral commodity must be: (1) a nonfuel mineral or mineral material essential to the economic and national security of the United States, (2) produced from a supply chain that is vulnerable to disruption, and (3) serving an essential function in the manufacturing of a product, the absence of which would have substantial consequences for the U.S. economy or national security. Since its creation, there have been notable changes made to the USGS critical minerals list, including a significant debate around uranium and other mineral commodities. This hearing included questions and conversations around changes under this administration and potential additions to the criteria for future lists of critical minerals.

- **Witnesses**

- Dr. **Nedal Nassar**, Chief of Minerals Intelligence Research, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, VA
- Dr. **Roderic Eggert**, Research Professor of Economics & Business and Coulter Foundation Chair in Mineral Economics, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO
- Mr. **Reed Blakemore**, Director of Research and Programs, Global Energy Center, the Atlantic Council
- Mr. **Brian Somers**, President, Utah Mining Association, Salt Lake City, UT
- Mr. **Dustin Mulvaney**, Professor of Environmental Studies, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA [*Minority Witness*]

Safeguarding American Jobs and Economic Growth: Examining the Future of the Offshore Leasing Program | July 27, 2023

The Department of the Interior is more than a year overdue in issuing a new five-year program for offshore oil and natural gas leasing. This delay not only jeopardizes energy investment and numerous American industries, but also allows our adversaries to take the lead in global energy production. The Biden administration has not conducted any new lease sales, apart from those required under the Inflation Reduction Act with inflated royalty rates. This inaction has reduced investment, threatened future supply, and disadvantaged domestic producers. Delaying sales undermines efforts to strengthen our energy sector and address the current challenges of rising prices and global competitors. The offshore oil and gas industry serves as a powerful economic catalyst, stimulating diverse sectors that extend far beyond energy production. In the Gulf of Mexico, it supports state environmental restoration and resilience efforts as well as manufacturing, trucking, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, banking, finance, environmental contracting, and many others.

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Archie Chaisson, III**, President, Lafourche Parish, LA
- Mr. **Paul Danos**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Danos, Gray, LA
- Mr. **Mike Minarovic**, Chief Executive Officer, Arena Offshore, The Woodlands, TX
- Mr. **Justin Solet**, Gulf South Advocate, Dulac, LA [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing on Energy Opportunities | July 13, 2023

H.R. 4374 would nullify Public Land Order No. 7923, which imposed a mineral withdrawal on public lands in San Juan County, New Mexico. The withdrawal would decrease domestic energy production and cost Navajo Nation tribal members who own impacted mineral rights in the area an estimated \$194.3 million over the next 20 years and the American taxpayer more than \$1 billion in that same time frame. The loss of these revenues will have a devastating impact on Navajo allottees, who rely on the income the minerals generate to meet basic needs.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Nada Wolff Culver**, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
- The Hon. **Buu Van Nygren**, President, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ
- Ms. **Anita Ashland**, Senior Land Consultant Enduring Resources, Centennial, CO

- Ms. **Delora Hesuse**, Navajo tribal member and allottee, Nageezi Chapter, NM
- Mr. **Mario Atencio**, Vice President, Torreon/Star Lake Chapter, Navajo Allottee Spokesperson, Cuba, NM [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the Biden Administration’s Record on Federal Coal Leasing | July 12, 2023

Coal is a necessary component of American energy security, providing affordable, reliable power to the grid and thousands of stable jobs across the country. The United States contains vast amounts of coal, with the U.S. Energy Information Administration estimating recoverable coal reserves at around 251 billion short tons. The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management is responsible for coal leasing on more than 570 million acres of federal land, and coal mining and mine reclamation are regulated by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Consequently, policy decisions have a major impact on federal coal production in the United States. The Biden administration has taken repeated action to halt and hinder coal production on federal lands. These anti-energy decisions have created major uncertainty for operators and coal communities alike, and have jeopardized our nation’s energy reliability, thousands of well-paying jobs, and millions of dollars in revenue across the U.S.

• **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Randall Luthi**, Chief Energy Advisor, Office of the Governor, State of Wyoming, Cheyenne, WY
- Mr. **Matthew Adams**, Vice President and Senior Tax Counsel, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Broomfield, CO
- Mr. **John Driscoll**, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Port of Mobile Alabama Port Authority, Mobile, AL
- Ms. **Sara Kendall**, Interim Executive Director, Western Organization of Resource Councils [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing on Promoting Solutions for Growing Domestic Mining Sector and Supporting Mine Reclamation | June 14, 2023

This hearing discussed three bills related to different aspects and needs of the domestic mining sector. H.R. 2685, the “Mining Schools Act of 2023,” would create a grant program for mining schools to support educational programs in mining and related fields. The “Community Reclamation Partnerships Act” would aid in the remediation of abandoned mine land sites by allowing non-governmental organizations to help reclaim them. Finally, H.R. 3883 would nullify an administrative withdrawal imposed by the Biden administration that removed nearly 23,000 acres from mineral development in Nye County, Nevada.

Bills Considered: H.R. 2685, H.R. 3883 and H.R. 6233

• **Witnesses**

- Dr. **Walter G. Copan**, Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO
- Mr. **Christopher Wood**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Trout Unlimited, Arlington, VA

- Mr. **Kevin Moore**, Chairman and Chief Financial Officer, 3 Proton Lithium, Carson City, NV
- Ms. **Emily Hammond**, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Glen Earl Weston Research Professor, George Washington University School of Law [Minority Witness]

Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget for the Bureau of Land Management and the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement | May 16, 2023

The actions of the Bureau of Land Management under the Biden administration threaten the long-term viability of oil, gas, and coal production on federal lands, increasing costs and jeopardizing future revenues to states and local communities. Instead of working with Congress to enact lasting and substantial reforms, the Biden administration has proposed a budget that is riddled with misplaced priorities justified under the guise of nebulous conservation and climate objectives. With real crises on BLM land, such as drought, wildfires, and lack of access, the BLM has moved away from its multiple use and sustained yield mandate to a preservationist, reduced access mindset. Additionally, significant oversight is needed to ensure transparent regulations of mining programs at the BLM and the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, such as the disbursement of new funding made available under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for abandoned mine land cleanup. This hearing began the important process of providing such oversight.

• **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Tracy Stone-Manning**, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Glenda Owens**, Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior

Legislative Hearing on Expanding Mineral Production and Access | May 11, 2023

The Duluth Complex in northern Minnesota is a world-class mineral deposit containing nearly 8 billion tons of copper, nickel, cobalt, and platinum group metals. These minerals will soon see huge upswings in demand due to their use in battery storage, electric vehicles, and other rapidly expanding sectors. If developed, the Duluth Complex could constitute 95 percent of U.S. nickel reserves, 88 percent of U.S. cobalt reserves and 75 percent of U.S. platinum-group resources. Yet on January 26, 2022, the Biden administration cancelled two decades-old mineral leases held by a prospective mine operator in the region, Twin Metals Minnesota. A year later, on January 31, 2023, the Biden administration's mineral withdrawal of 225,504 acres in the region went into effect, blocking development of lands in question for 20 years. H. Con. Res. 34 conveys the House of Representatives' official disapproval of the recent withdrawal, which was a blatant attempt by the Biden administration to stop the Twin Metals project. The Superior National Forest Restoration Act rescinds the withdrawal, requires the timely review of any pending Mine Plans of Operations, and the directs the reissuance of any mineral leases or permits cancelled in the region since the beginning of the Biden administration.

Bills Considered: H. Con. Res. 34 and H.R. 3195

• **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Thomas Bakk**, Former Member of the Minnesota State Senate, Cook, MN
- Mr. **David Chura**, Board Chair, Jobs for Minnesotans, Duluth, MN

- Dr. **Harvey Thorleifson**, Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- Ms. **Becky Rom**, National Chair, Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, Ely, MN [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey | April 26, 2023

The Department of the Interior (DOI) oversees BOEM and is responsible for issuing regular five-year plans for offshore oil and natural gas leasing. As of today, BOEM is nearly one year late in issuing a new plan and is putting American jobs and the economy at risk. Without a timely plan, investment and development will stagnate, jeopardizing future production. This is the first time DOI has issued a delayed plan since the process was first initiated in 1980. This hearing was an important step in holding BOEM accountable and determining why the agency continues to delay the offshore leasing process. Committee Republicans stressed the need for certainty in the leasing and permitting process and the importance of the offshore leasing program to our energy security and our ability to supply our allies with energy resources. Additionally, this hearing provided the opportunity to oversee the U.S. Geological Survey, which houses a range of science programs analyzing domestic mineral reserves, wildlife health, natural hazards, and many other natural resources.

• **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Liz Klein**, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Paul Huang**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior
- Dr. **David Applegate**, Director U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, VA

Legislative Hearing on Unleashing American Energy and Lowering Costs | February 28, 2023

An all-of-the-above approach to domestic energy and mining – including oil, natural gas, coal, renewables, and hardrock mineral development – is the best way to support the energy needs of American families and meet our technological and national security needs. Unfortunately, the Biden administration has blunted America's ability to produce the energy and mineral resources that our country, and the world, so desperately need. These bills will spur the responsible development of domestic energy and mineral resources by creating leasing certainty, streamlining permitting processes, and reducing frivolous litigation.

Bills Considered: H.R. _____, "Transparency and Production of American Energy Act of 2023" and H.R. 209

• **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Dan Naatz**, Chief Operating Officer, Independent Petroleum Association of America
- Mr. **Rich Nolan**, President and CEO, National Mining Association

- Mr. **Paul Thomsen**, Vice President of Business Development, Americas, Ormat Technologies, Reno, NV
- Mr. **Mark Squillace**, Professor of Law, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
[Minority Witness]



Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Examining Opportunities to Promote and Enhance Tribal Forest Management | December 5, 2023

Tribal forests are consistently healthier and more resilient than poorly managed, adjacent federal lands. Tribes, along with state and local leaders, are becoming increasingly important partners in cross-boundary efforts to improve federal forest health. Challenges persist for tribal forest land, however, including continued wildfire threats and forest health concerns, frivolous litigation and burdensome regulations, staffing shortcomings, insufficient coordination of forest management activities and the lack of needed infrastructure. This hearing explored potential solutions to help further improve forest management on tribal forests and federal forests more broadly. Members discussed developing innovative proposals to encourage and facilitate cross-boundary coordination on forest management projects that will lead to lasting changes to improve the health of all our nation's forests. Members also heard from administration officials on the issues and local leaders in tribal communities for their expertise on this important topic.

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **John Crockett**, Associate Deputy Chief—State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, U.S. Forest Service
- Mr. **Bodie Shaw**, Deputy Regional Director—Trust Services (Northwest Region), Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland, OR
- The Hon. Robert Rice, Council Member, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Mescalero, NM
- Mr. **Michael Skenadore**, President, Menominee Tribal Enterprise, Keshena, WI
- Mr. **Cody Desautel**, President, Intertribal Timber Council (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), Nespelam, WA
- Mr. **Phil Rigdon**, Vice President, Intertribal Timber Council (Yakama Nation), Toppenish, WA
- Ms. **Dawn Blake**, Director, Yurok Tribal Forestry Department, Klamath, CA
[Minority Witness]

Legislative Hearing on Creating New Opportunities and Expanding Access | November 30, 2023

The EXPLORE Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation led by House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.). The bill addresses some of the most pressing issues for federal land managers and is the culmination of the subcommittee's yearlong effort to increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Federal lands offer an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities, including hiking, biking, rock climbing, camping, kayaking, canoeing, skiing, hunting, fishing, recreational shooting and many more. More Americans than ever are choosing to recreate outdoors at national parks and public lands, and the major federal land management agencies saw more than 580 million visitors last year. This hearing heard from both administration officials and outside groups on the importance and need for the EXPLORE Act to expand outdoor recreation for all Americans.

Bill Considered: H.R. 6492

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Chris French**, Deputy Chief of the National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- Mr. **Michael T. Reynolds**, Deputy Director for Congressional and External Relations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Jessica Wahl Turner**, President, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
- Ms. **Katherine Andrews**, Director – Office of Outdoor Recreation, Arkansas, Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Little Rock, AR
- Ms. **Sasha DiGiulian**, Professional Rock Climber, Boulder, CO
- Mr. **Luis Benitez**, Chief Impact Officer, Trust for Public Land, Denver, CO
[Minority Witness]

Legislative Hearing on Modernizing Land Management, Improving Forest Health and Enhancing National Security | November 14, 2023

This hearing focused on innovative technological solutions that can help prevent wildfires that have ravaged the country in recent decades. In particular, the BIOCHAR Act would create demonstration projects in each region of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management to test biochar with an emphasis on using excess fuels from forest management activities as feedstock. It also directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct research on biochar uses and its carbon sequestration potential. Additionally, the hearing focused on legislation to protect national security, create new models for public-private partnerships that will enhance forest health by incentivizing the adoption of new technology and restoring a keystone species.

Bills Considered: H.R. 4235, H.R. 4353, H.R. 4717, H.R. 5582, H.R. 5665, H.R. 6070, and Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, the Biochar Innovations and Opportunities for Conservation, Health, and Advancements in Research (BIOCHAR) Act

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Jeff Rupert**, Director, Office of Wildland Fire, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Jaelith Hall-Rivera**, Deputy Chief, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- Mr. **Edwin Oshiba**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy Installations, and Environment, Department of the Air Force

- The Hon. **Dwayne McFall**, Commissioner –District 3, Fremont County, CO
- Mr. **Pat Sherren**, Director – New Product Development and Sales, Metzler Forest Products, Reedsville, PA
- Mr. **Jim Topoleski**, Division Chief for Air and Wildland Division, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Redlands, CA
- Mr. **Jason Meyer**, Executive Director, White Oak Initiative, Grand Rapids, MI
- Ms. **Linda Goodman**, Former Regional Forester and Forest Service Job Corps National Director, National Job Corps Association [*Minority Witness*]
- Ms. **Janessa Goldbeck**, CEO, Vet Voice Foundation, Portland, OR [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing Examining Legislation Combatting Biden’s Border Crisis | October 19, 2023

Since President Biden took office, the southern border has rapidly declined into a state of chaos, with record-breaking numbers of illegal crossings each month. Biden's failing border policy has been detrimental to residents everywhere and is now threatening America's best idea: national parks. The bills considered at this hearing will secure our border and prevent any further actions from the administration that would impede Americans' ability to recreate on federal lands.

Bills Considered: H.R. 1727, H.R. 5283, H.R. _____, the Trash Reduction and Suppressing Harm from Environmental Degradation (TRASHED) at the Border Act, and H.R. _____, the Ensuring Border Access and Protection on Federal Land Act

• **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Troy Heithecker**, Associate Deputy Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- The Hon. **Joann Ariola**, NYC Council Member, Brooklyn, NY
- Mr. **Simon Hankinson**, Senior Research Fellow, Border Security and Immigration Center, the Heritage Foundation
- Dr. **George Lewis**, Chair, C&O Canal Historical Park Federal Advisory Commission, Jefferson, MD [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing on Legislation Expanding Recreational and Local Access | September 19, 2023

This hearing centered on four bills expanding recreational access, both at a national and a local level. The bills on the agenda would ensure lake access for recreation in Minnesota, prevent reductions in access to federal lands near gateway communities, strengthen interagency collaboration on outdoor recreation policies and allow for the revitalization of recreation opportunities in and around the RFK Stadium campus in Washington, D.C.

Bills Considered: H.R. 1657, H.R. 3107, H.R. 3200 and H.R. 4984

• **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Mike Reynolds**, Deputy Director, Congressional and External Relations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Jacqueline Emanuel**, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- The Hon. **Cory Smith**, Commissioner, District 1, Itasca County, MN

- The Hon. **Randy Brodehl**, Commissioner, Flathead County, Kalispell, MT
- Ms. **Ambreen Tariq**, Senior Program Director, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
- Mr. **Delano Hunter**, Acting Director, D.C. Department of General Services

Legislative Hearing on Military Veterans and Public Lands | July 20, 2023

All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women who have served in our nation's defense. As we continue to celebrate the month of our nation's founding and the freedoms we hold dear, Natural Resources Committee Republicans are committed to honoring our nation's military members and veterans. America is blessed with awe-inspiring public lands that offer a multitude of outdoor recreation opportunities. The bills examining this hearing offer thoughtful proposals to improve outdoor recreation opportunities for our nation's heroes, provide spaces for relaxation and healing for military families, and identify outdoor-focused employment for veterans transitioning to civilian life. Despite the importance of our public lands to veterans, many of those lands are inaccessible to veterans, particularly wounded warriors. Rep. Kiggans' "MVP Act" creates innovative adaptive trails and recreation opportunities to ensure wounded warriors can experience the full splendor of our national parks and public lands.

Bills Considered: H.R. 2666, H.R. 2468, H.R. 1829, H.R. 1786

• **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Jacqueline Emanuel**, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- Mr. **Frank Lands**, Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior
- The Hon. **Woody Cline**, Supervisor, Gila County, AZ
- Ms. **Lisa Wilson**, Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations, Utah Department of Transportation, Salt Lake City, UT
- Mr. **Marc Berejka**, Divisional Vice President, Community Advocacy & Impact REI, Kent, WA
- Mr. **Jeremy Villanueva**, Government Affairs Associate Director, Wounded Warrior Project [Minority Witness]

Legislative Hearing on Celebrating America's Public Lands | July 13, 2023

Natural Resources Committee Republicans celebrated America's rich history by highlighting the multitude of stories that have intertwined to form the fabric of our nation. Central to our history are the valor and heroism of millions of veterans who have fought to defend our democracy, freedom, and country. Several of these bills, including H.R. 2717 and H.R. 3448, honor the legacy of America's veterans and ensure their sacrifices are remembered for generations to come. H.R. 4377 helps our military protect the security of our nation by continuing the use of a critical training range for the Air Force and Navy.

Bills Considered: H.R. 4377, H.R. 3448, H.R. 2717, H.R. 1318, and H.R. 386

• **Witnesses**

- Dr. **Ravi I. Chaudhary**, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment, U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense
- Mr. **Mike Reynolds**, Deputy Director, Congressional and External Relations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior
- The Hon. **Helene Duhamel**, Senator, South Dakota Senate, Rapid City, SD

- Master Chief **Britt Slabinski**, USN (Ret.), Special Warfare Operator (SEAL), United States Navy, Arlington, TX
- Ms. **Beth Hill**, President, The Fort Ticonderoga Association, Ticonderoga, NY
- Mr. **David Duncan**, President, American Battlefield Trust
- Ms. **Anna Laymon**, Executive Director, Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation, Daphne, AL

Legislative Hearing on Considering Innovative Solutions to Address Federal Land Footprint and Burdensome Regulations | June 22, 2023

Republicans are committed to empowering local communities and jumpstarting rural economies through innovative solutions that reduce the federal footprint and cut bureaucratic red tape that stifles economic growth. Poor management of the vast federal estate leads to depressed local, and often rural, economies, lack of access to public lands, and increasingly degraded landscapes – from wildfires, to overgrowth, to failing infrastructure. Committee Republicans are leading the way to support legislation to right-size the federal estate and grow rural economies. This year, Congress enacted the first reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in more than 40 years. This hearing builds on the momentum to address NEPA barriers that are exacerbating the digital divide for rural communities across the country.

Bills Considered: H.R. 2997, H.R. 3025, H.R. 3049, H.R. 3250 and H.R. 4141

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Nada Wolff Culver**, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Rose Pugliese**, Assistant Minority Leader, Colorado House of Representatives (District 14), Colorado Springs, CO
- Ms. **Michelle McConkie**, Director, State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Salt Lake City, UT
- Mr. **John Stuart**, President and CEO, MTE Communications, Midvale, ID

Legislative Hearing Examining Bills to Increase Forest Management and Address the Wildfire Crisis | May 23, 2023

These bills would streamline bureaucracy that is preventing active forest management, the adoption of new firefighting technologies, and the hiring of wildland firefighters. The forest management legislation would expand the use of streamlined authorities with proven track records of success, increase the co-stewardship of fire-prone lands with tribes and counties, and provide land managers with the tools necessary to finally address the wildfire crisis at a larger scale. The fire suppression legislation would address key barriers for wildland firefighters, including the cumbersome hiring process and lack of affordable housing options. These are all examples of longstanding Republican priorities to confront the wildfire crisis by improving the pace and scale of forest management, responsibly suppressing catastrophic fires, and addressing challenges facing wildland firefighters in a fiscally responsible manner.

Bills Considered: H.R. 188, H.R. 934, H.R. 1450, H.R. 1726, H.R. 3522, H.R. 3499, H.R. 3389, H.R. 3396, and H.R. 3562

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Troy Heithecker**, Associate Deputy Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- Mr. **Robert Dugan**, Chairman, Placer County Water Agency, Auburn, CA

- Mr. **Cody Desautel**, President, Intertribal Timber Council, Portland, OR
- Mr. **Jamie Johansson**, President, California Farm Bureau, Sacramento, CA
- Ms. **Riva Duncan**, Fire Chief, Umpqua National Forest, Forest Service (retired), Vice President, Grassroots Wildland Firefighters, Asheville, NC
- Mr. **Rick Goddard**, Managing Director, Caylym Technologies International, Fresno, CA
- Mr. **Laurence Crabtree**, Forest Service (retired), Bieber, CA
- Mr. **Jonathan Godes**, President of Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST), Glenwood Springs City Councilor, Glenwood Springs, CO [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the Challenges Facing Forest Management, Wildfire Suppression, and Wildland Firefighters Ahead of the 2023 Wildfire Year | May 16, 2023

Worsening wildfires fueled by overgrown and unhealthy forests are destroying our Western landscapes. Without urgent action, 2023 could produce yet another devastating wildfire year. Despite billions of dollars in new funding, environmental laws and associated litigation continually handcuff federal land managers. Wildland firefighters face a multitude of challenges, including regional pay disparities and increasingly unwinnable on-the-ground conditions. Congress must carefully craft long-term solutions to the range of challenges facing firefighters.

• **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Jaelith Hall-Rivera**, Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- Mr. **Jeff Rupert**, Director, Office of Wildland Fire, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Ranatta McNair**, Board Member, National Association of Forest Service Retirees, Bend, OR
- Mr. **Matt Dias**, President, California Forestry Association, Sacramento, CA
- The Hon. **Greg Bolin**, Mayor, Paradise, CA
- Ms. **Courtney Schultz**, Associate Professor of Forest and Natural Resource Policy, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Forest Service | April 26, 2023

Over the past several years, Democrats poured billions of dollars into the Forest Service without streamlining any of the burdensome regulations or environmental reviews that are hamstringing the agency's active forest management projects. The results are hardly a surprise: hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars going out the door with little to no progress on the ground to show for it. Democrats have failed to offer any substantive reforms to improve the management of our national forests and conducted virtually no oversight of the Forest Service when they held the House majority in the 117th Congress. Committee Republicans brought Forest Service Chief Randy Moore before the Committee for the first time during his tenure to usher in a new phase of accountability and transparency for this agency.

• **Witness**

- Chief **Randy Moore**, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture

Examining the Implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act and the Growing National Park Service Deferred Maintenance Backlog | April 18, 2023

Federal land management agencies' deferred maintenance backlogs have nearly doubled from roughly \$22 billion in 2019 to \$38.6 billion in 2022, despite Congress investing a staggering \$9.5 billion in recent years to address the issue. The National Park Service has the highest total of deferred maintenance, with their backlog increasing by nearly \$10 billion after Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act. Committee Democrats refused to hold a hearing on the Great American Outdoors Act implementation last Congress. This inaction allowed the Biden administration to squander taxpayer dollars with no accountability, causing funding to be improperly allocated across geographic regions, between large and small parks, and between urban and rural areas. With National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund funding set to expire in 2025, Committee Republicans are committed to implementing long-overdue transparency while pursuing innovative solutions to address the maintenance and management challenges affecting our national parks and public lands.

- **Witness**

- The Hon. **Charles F. Sams**, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

Legislative Hearing to Promote Recreation on Federal Lands | March 28, 2023

More Americans than ever are choosing to recreate outdoors in our national parks and public lands and taking advantage of the abundant opportunities those lands provide to camp, hunt, fish, hike, rock climb, bike, and ski. However, our national treasures are facing more challenges today than ever before due to historic overcrowding, skyrocketing deferred maintenance backlogs, persistent access issues, and bureaucratic inertia that has kept land management agencies stuck in the past. Improving access to our public lands, including reforming federal land management policies that disproportionately limit access to recreation, is key to unlocking the full potential of the outdoor recreation economy. The eight bipartisan bills on this hearing addressed various challenges to some of the most popular outdoor recreation opportunities such as skiing, biking, climbing, and camping. Each bill addresses a unique, pressing issue such as lack of access, cumbersome and confusing permitting processes, and costly paperwork, that are key barriers to fully enjoying our federal lands.

Bills Considered: H.R. 930, H.R. 1319, H.R. 1380, H.R. 1527, H.R. 1576, H.R. 1614, H.R. 1642 and H.R. 1667

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Chris French**, Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, Forest Service
- Mr. **Corey Mason**, Executive Director, Dallas Safari Club, Dallas, TX
- Mr. **Mike Mills**, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, Little Rock, AR
- Mr. **Chris Winter**, Executive Director, Access Fund, Boulder, CO
- Mr. **Mike Reynolds**, Deputy Director for Congressional Affairs and External Relations, National Park Service
- Mr. **Aaron Bannon**, Executive Director, America Outdoors Association, Knoxville, TN
- Mr. **Fred Ferguson**, Vice President of Public Affairs, Vista Outdoor and Chairman, Vista Outdoor Foundation, Anoka, MN

- Mr. **Todd Keller**, Director of Government Affairs, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Boulder, CO *[Minority Witness]*
- Ms. **Geraldine Link**, Director of Public Policy, National Ski Areas Association, Lakewood, CO *[Minority Witness]*

Legislative Hearing on Bills Promoting Commonsense Wildfire Solutions | March 23, 2023
Weaponized environmental laws, frivolous litigation, and bureaucratic red tape all stand in the way of restoring forest health and preventing millions of acres from burning each year. The bills on this hearing are the first step in creating a true paradigm shift necessary to increase the pace and scale of active forest management.

Bills Considered: H.R. 200, H.R. 1473, H.R. 1567 and H.R. 1586

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Chris French**, Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- Mr. **Jonathan Wood**, Vice President of Law and Policy, The Property and Environment Research Center, Bozeman, MT
- Mr. **Ryan Bronson**, Director of Government Affairs, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, St. Paul, MN
- Mr. **Steve Ellis**, Chairman, Board of Directors, National Association of Forest Service Retirees, Beaver Creek, OR
- Ms. **Susan Jane M. Brown**, Senior Staff Attorney, Western Environmental Law Center, Eugene, OR *[Minority Witness]*

Promoting Conservation with a Purpose on America's Federal Lands and Forests | March 8, 2023

Conservation with a purpose means promoting federal land management policies that build resilient communities, promote access, and harness American innovation. Our federal lands are facing unprecedented crises. Catastrophic wildfires, growing deferred maintenance backlogs, and degradation of multiple use are disproportionately affecting the economy, environment, and safety of rural communities. Preservationist policies that lock up our abundant resources will only exacerbate the historically devastating wildfire and drought crisis, rural economic decline, and the loss of access and enjoyment to large parts of our federal lands.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Joel Ferry**, Executive Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Salt Lake City, UT
- The Hon. **John Espy**, Commissioner, Board of Carbon County Commissioners, Rawlins, WY
- Mr. **Phil Rigdon**, Vice President, Intertribal Timber Council, Toppenish, WA
- Mr. **John D. Leshy**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, UC Law San Francisco, San Francisco, CA



Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs

Legislative Hearing on Reforming Tribal Law Enforcement Benefits and Solving Local Issues | December 5, 2023

H.R. 4524 would authorize tribal law enforcement officers to be considered as federal law enforcement officers for the purposes of federal benefits and pensions, tort claim coverage, and penalties for crimes against tribal law enforcement officers, creating parity between federal and tribal law enforcement officers which can help with retention and recruitment of tribal law enforcement officers. H.R. 4748 would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to allow the Alaska Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell to form Alaska Native urban corporations in Southeast Alaska, and then each urban corporation to select one township of land (23,040 acres) within and near their historical, aboriginal lands in the Tongass National Forest to be owned in fee by the urban corporations. H.R. 6368 would establish a formal program within the Department of the Interior to support tribes and tribal organizations as they create and maintain their own American buffalo programs for the economic and spiritual benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives. H.R. 6443 would place approximately 172.1 acres of fee simple land owned the Jamul Indian Village in San Diego County, CA into trust by the United States for the benefit of the tribe.

Bills Considered: H.R. 4524, H.R. 4748, H.R. 6368 and H.R. 6443

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Jason Freihage**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Chris French**, Deputy Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- The Hon. **Jarred-Michael Erickson**, Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA
- The Hon. **Erica M. Pinto**, Chairwoman, Jamul Indian Village, Jamul, CA
- Mr. **Ervin Carlson**, President, Intertribal Buffalo Council, Rapid City, SD
- Mr. **Richard Rinehart**, CEO, Tlingit & Haida Business Corporation, Juneau, AK
[Minority Witness]

Opportunities and Challenges for Improving Public Safety in Tribal Communities |

November 14, 2023

Adequate public safety and law enforcement in Indian country has been a long-standing issue. American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) experience violence at a higher rate than other communities with more than four in five AI/AN adults reporting they have been a victim of some form of violence in their lifetime. Unfortunately, the ability of the Bureau of Indian Affairs within the U.S. Department of the Interior and tribal law enforcement agencies to recruit and retain qualified law enforcement and public safety personnel in Indian country is strained. Ensuring

adequate policing is hampered in part due to a lack of parity for pay and benefits, long background check approvals and the number of qualified applicants. Congress is considering various solutions to these problems, including improving recruitment and retention through further incentives already in use by other federal law enforcement agencies. During this hearing, committee members heard from tribal leaders about the successes, opportunities and challenges in tribal areas, as well as possible solutions.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Bryan Newland**, Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior
- The Hon. **Dustin Klatush**, Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Oakville, WA
- The Hon. **Lloyd Goggles**, Chairman, Arapaho Business Council, Northern Arapaho Tribe, Ethete, WY
- Mr. **Chris Sutter**, Police Chief, Tulalip Tribes, Tulalip, WA
- Mr. **Jonodev Chaudhuri**, Ambassador, Muscogee Creek Nation, Okmulgee, OK
[Minority Witness]

Legislative Hearing Considering Bipartisan Legislation to Renew COFA Agreements, Continue Commitment to FAS | October 19, 2023

The U.S. has a unique relationship with the Freely Associated States (FAS), comprised of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands located in the Indo-Pacific region. The FAS are of vital importance to the U.S. given their history, partnership and geostrategic location in the South Pacific. Chairman Westerman has prioritized strengthening America's presence in the Indo-Pacific region with the creation of the bipartisan Indo-Pacific Task Force. The committee and the task force are conducting oversight on issues facing the U.S. Pacific Territories and the FAS. In this hearing, members heard from Biden administration officials on the legislation that would approve the recently negotiated and updated COFAs with the FAS and reaffirm U.S. commitment to its allies and reliability as a partner worldwide.

Bill Considered: H.J.Res. 96

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Joseph Y. Yun**, Special Presidential Envoy for Compact Negotiations, United States of America, Department of State
- The Hon. **Carmen Cantor**, Assistant Secretary, Office of Insular and International Affairs, Department of Interior

Tribal Autonomy and Energy Development: Oversight of the Implementation of the Indian Tribal Energy Development & Self-Determination Act | September 28, 2023

Congress has historically worked to provide tribes with tools to better utilize underdeveloped energy resources on tribal lands. These resources can provide jobs and revenues for tribal communities that poor economic conditions have harmed for decades. These efforts also have the broader benefit of increasing domestic energy production and bolstering national security. Congress authorized Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs) in 2005, which removes the requirement for secretarial approval on each tribal energy project if tribes have their own approval process for these projects that is approved by the Secretary. This would allow tribes to better exercise self-determination. However, tribes have struggled to take full advantage of the TERA process despite streamlining and clarifications provided in the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2017. This hearing was an opportunity for members of Congress to hear from tribal and local leaders on the impacts of these laws, the struggles still facing tribes in their attempts to tap into resources and economic opportunities on tribal lands, and ways to improve the law to better support tribal autonomy into the future.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Melvin J. Baker**, Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ignacio, CO
- Mr. **Cody Desautel**, Executive Director, Confederate Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA
- Ms. **Bidtah Becker**, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the President of Vice President, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ
- Mr. **Nicholas Lovesee**, Director of Policy, Native American Finance Officers Association, [Minority Witness]

Legislative Hearing on Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service | July 27, 2023

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has long been plagued with issues of substandard medical care, high staff vacancy rates, aging facilities and equipment, and unqualified or predatory healthcare staff. Many of these issues first came to national attention in 2010 as the result of an investigation conducted by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The inability of the IHS to attract and retain quality health care professionals has been identified as a factor in the failure to provide quality care, leading to hiring subpar candidates. Other factors include incentives to retain mediocre employees, and challenges to fully staff IHS facilities. The Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act would amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) to improve incentives for recruitment and retention of IHS employees, improve hiring practices, streamline processes for dismissal of Senior Executive Service and IHS employees for misconduct and improve whistleblower protections.

Bill Considered: H.R. _____

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Cindy Marchand**, Secretary, Tribal Council, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA

- Mr. **Lee Spoonhunter**, Billings Area Representative, National Indian Health Board
- Ms. **Jerilyn Church**, Executive Director, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board, Rapid City, SD

Legislative Hearing on Tribal Lands | July 12, 2023

H.R. 929 would take into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup tribe approximately 17 acres of fee land owned by the tribe in Pierce County, Washington. H.R. 2882 would reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation through 2028. H.R. 3579 would require the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to process and complete residential and business mortgage packages on Indian trust land within 20 or 30 days, depending on the type of application. The legislation would also codify current deadlines in the BIA Mortgage Handbook and more closely align the BIA's processing of mortgage packages with current mortgage industry practices.

Bills Considered: H.R. 3579, H.R. 2882, H.R. 929

- Ms. **Heather Dawn Thompson**, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Charles Rose**, Chair, Board of Trustees, Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation, Tucson, AZ
- Ms. **Sharon Vogel**, Executive Director, Cheyenne River Housing Authority
- Eagle Butte, SD
- The Hon. **James Rideout**, Tribal Council Member, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Tacoma, WA [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing on Tribal Sovereignty Issues and the Creation of Memorial for Victims of Wounded Knee | June 7, 2023

One essential area over which the committee has jurisdiction is matters related to tribal land management. This area of legislation has been a priority for the Republican Natural Resources Committee. The bills considered during this hearing would speed the federal government's pace in allowing our tribal communities to use and develop their lands, support their communities, and honor their ancestors without the many regulatory burdens often faced by tribal leaders.

Bills Considered: H.R. 630, H.R. 1240, H.R. 1722, H.R. 2461, H.R. 2839 and H.R. 3371

- **Witnesses**
 - The Hon. **Bryan Newland**, Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior
 - The Hon. **Melanie Anne Egorin**, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services
 - The Hon. **Victoria Kitcheyan**, Chairwoman, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Winnebago, NE
 - The Hon. **Johnny Lehi Jr.**, President, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Tuba City, AZ
 - The Hon. **Ryman LeBeau**, Chairman, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Eagle Butte, SD
 - The Hon. **Frank Star Comes Out**, President, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Pine Ridge, SD

- The Hon. **Alfred “Bud” Lane III**, Vice-Chairman, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Siletz, OR [*Minority Witness*]
- Ms. **Francys Crevier**, CEO, National Council of Urban Indian Health [*Minority Witness*]
- The Hon. **Michael Langley**, Tribal Council Secretary, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Grand Ronde, OR [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the President’s FY 2024 Budget Request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Office of Insular Affairs | May 25, 2023

The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is responsible for a wide breadth of programs and policies that impact and support the wellbeing of American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Biden administration continues to focus on conservation and climate change programs related to adaptation and remediation which fail to fully support tribes in self-governance and autonomy. The administration’s policies may result in limiting tribal access to their own opportunities for natural resource development on tribal lands in the name of broad and nebulously defined climate goals. Continued oversight is needed to ensure BIA supports tribes seeking economic development, particularly of natural resources. The Office of Insular Affairs is charged with carrying out all duties and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior regarding all U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States (FAS). COVID-19 profoundly affected tourism in the territories, and while most travel restrictions on the islands have been lifted, businesses are still attempting to recover. Congress provided federal funds and expanded access to federal programs to the insular areas in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. Now as Congress considers the president's FY 2024 request, oversight is essential to ensure the funding is used in ways that best serve the needs of U.S. territories and the FAS.

• **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Bryan Newland**, Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior
- The Hon. **Carmen Cantor**, Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior

U.S. Interests in the Indo-Pacific: Examining How U.S. Engagement Counters Chinese Influence in the Region | May 16, 2023

In order to deter Chinese influence and to maintain the United States’ capacity to secure its interests, the U.S. must remain engaged with the Freely Associated States in the Indo-Pacific region and respond to malign Chinese coercive activity. While the U.S. has historically enjoyed good relations and ties in the Indo-Pacific region, Beijing has increasingly sought to reshape regional political, economic and strategic alignments. This attempt by the Chinese government is a direct threat to U.S. in the region and our national security. This hearing was an opportunity for committee members to learn more about recent attempts at Chinese influence in the region and further frame the future of the U.S. relationships in the Indo-Pacific.

• **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Alexander Gray**, Managing Partner, American Global Strategies, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK

- Mr. **Derek Grossman**, Senior Defense Analyst, The RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA
- Ms. **Cleo Paskal**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies
- Mr. **Peter Watson**, President & CEO, The Dwight Group, LLC
- Mr. **Emil Friberg**, former Assistant Director and Senior Economist, International Affairs and Trade, Government Accounting Office [*Minority Witness*]

Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Indian Health Service | May 11, 2023

Indian Country has seen substantial federal funding increases across agencies and programs that serve native communities, including for tribal health care facilities. Despite the need to reduce federal spending and the deficit, President Biden's FY 2024 budget proposes a \$2.45 billion increase for the agency, even though the Indian Health Service (IHS) has long been plagued with issues of substandard medical care that more funding won't necessarily solve. Committee Republicans are committed to continuing oversight of IHS to ensure they are fulfilling their mission efficiently and effectively for the benefit of native communities.

- **Witness**

- The Hon. **Roselyn Tso**, Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services
- Accompanied by: Jillian Curtis, Director of Budget, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services

Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Health Care Delivery in Tribal Communities | March 29, 2023

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has long been plagued with issues of substandard medical care, high staff vacancy rates, aged facilities and equipment, and unqualified or predatory health care staff. In 2017, the Government Accountability Office placed IHS on their high-risk list as one of the government programs and operations vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, or in need of transformation. This hearing explored solutions that can be implemented to modernize the IHS system and combat substandard medical care plaguing IHS facilities.

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Janet Alkire**, Board Member, National Indian Health Board
- Ms. **Jerilyn Church**, Executive Director, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board, Rapid City, SD
- Ms. **Laura Platero**, Executive Director, Northwest Portland Area Health Board, Portland, OR
- Ms. **Maureen Rosette**, Board Member, National Council of Urban Indian Health [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing Exploring Bipartisan Solutions for Tribal Autonomy | March 24, 2023
Starting in 1984, land transactions with Indians were prohibited unless authorized by Congress. Over time, these restrictions have changed and now generally only apply to land held in trust by the United States for the benefit of individual Indians or Indian tribes. Ensuring tribes can negotiate effectively, and on the same playing field as other landholders, can clear the way for further economic development, especially in rural areas.

Bills Considered: H.R. 1246 and H.R. 1532

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Bryan Newland**, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior
- The Hon. **Marcellus Osceola**, Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Hollywood, FL
- The Hon. **John Williams**, Vice Chairman, United Auburn Rancheria, Auburn, CA

Unlocking Indian Country's Economic Potential | March 1, 2023

Tribes face unique challenges and opportunities for economic development. Land is often one of the most important social, cultural, and economic resources available to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Indian Country consists of multiple different types of land statuses, trust land, fee land, and restricted fee land. Many land use restrictions imposed on Indian lands can prevent tribes and tribal landowners from developing projects, including energy and mineral development projects, and leveraging trust land as collateral to access financing for economic development, furthering the economic disparities that already exist in tribal communities. This hearing explored solutions that can modernize and streamline Indian country land use requirements that support tribal self-determination, so that tribes and individual American Indians and Alaska Natives can use their land in a way that best benefits their people.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Dustin Klatush**, Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Oakville, WA
- The Hon. **Joseph Rupnick**, Chairman, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Mayetta, KS
- Mr. **Jason Robison**, Lands and Resources Officer, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Roseburg, OR
- The Hon. **Wavalene Saunders**, Vice Chairwoman, Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells, AZ [*Minority Witness*]



Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations

The Mineral Supply Chain and the New Space Race | December 12, 2023

Exponential growth in global mineral demand and China's dominance of mineral supply chains threatens America's national security and economic interests. While there is uncertainty over the feasibility for space mining, accelerating investments from our foreign adversaries, notably China, to extract minerals from celestial bodies (such as the moon, asteroids, and eventually Mars) exacerbates America's fragile mineral supply chain. The eventual volume and value of space mining will provide immeasurable benefits to whomever controls the celestial mineral supply chain and will prove calamitous for those who choose to ignore the opportunities of space mining. America must take the necessary steps to secure our mineral supply chains by increasing domestic mineral development and leading the development of space mining activities. As in the past, the United States must continue to lead, rather than cede, its position on both mining and territorial control over expanding resources beyond Earth's orbit.

- **Witnesses** (at time of publication)
 - Mr. **Eric Sundby**, Co-Founder & CEO of TerraSpace, Executive Director of the Space Force Association, Boerne, TX
 - Dr. **Greg Autry**, Director and Clinical Professor, Space Leadership, Policy, and Business, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ
 - Ms. **Michelle Hanlon**, Executive Director, Center for Air and Space Law, The University of Mississippi School of Law, University, MS

Limiting Access and Damaging Gateway Economies: Examining the National Parks Air Tour Management Program | December 5, 2023

Air tours over national parks are an important industry for many states and provide an alternative for visitors to enjoy some of the country's most iconic landscapes, including those who have limited mobility or may otherwise not be able to access all areas of a national park unit. Air tours require no infrastructure on the ground and can help alleviate overcrowding and wait times, which have become problematic for many popular national parks. Unfortunately, the National Park Service (NPS) has utilized the National Parks Air Tour Management Program (ATMP) to essentially eliminate air tour flights over certain National Park units without consulting gateway communities and the National Parks Overflights Advisory Group. NPS is currently developing numerous ATMPs across the National Park System, including for Canyon de Chelly National Monument in Arizona, which could effectively prohibit all air tours in the units under consideration. Eliminating air tours has a much larger effect, including limiting access to the national park system for the elderly, those with physical limitations, and individuals with limited time and resources to travel. It also eliminates emergency services that air tour companies, provide for surrounding communities, and displaces a pilot workforce that regularly

transitions to fields experiencing pilot shortages such as emergency services, law enforcement and firefighting. This hearing was an opportunity for members to hear from community stakeholders about how these abuses of the ATMP will harm their livelihoods and question the NPS on its process for making these hasty decisions.

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Ray Sauvajot**, Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, National Park Service, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **John Wells**, Chairman of the Board, Military Veterans Advocacy, Slidell, LA
- Mr. **Jake Tomlin**, President, Grand Canyon Scenic Airlines, Boulder City, NV
- Mr. **Mark A. Schlaefli**, President, Rushmore Helicopters, Custer, SD
- Mr. **Carl Slater**, Delegate, Navajo Nation Council, Window Rock, AZ [*Minority Witness*]

Securing Our Border, Saving Our National Parks | October 18, 2023

The historic surge of illegal migrants under the Biden administration causes environmental degradation and destruction of federal lands along the southern border. Illegal immigration also impacts our federal lands and national parks through illegal marijuana grow operations, causing significant health, security and environmental issues for both employees and visitors, as well as the surrounding communities. Now, the Biden administration is further damaging our national parks by building “temporary” migrant shelters at Floyd Bennett Field, in the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City. Members will continue holding the Biden administration accountable for these destructive policies.

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Michael Reynolds**, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Chris French**, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
- Ms. **Julie Axelrod**, Director of Litigation, Center for Immigration Studies, Alexandria, VA
- Lt. **John Nores Jr.** (Ret.), Special Operations, Marijuana Enforcement Team, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Morgan Hill, CA
- The Hon. **Verlon M. Jose**, Chairman, Tohono O’odham Nation, Sells, AZ [*Minority Witness*]

Examining Barriers to Access in Federal Waters: A Closer Look at the Marine Sanctuary and Monument System | September 19, 2023

Marine protected areas (MPA) can restrict activities that communities, including tribal and underserved areas, rely on to remain economically viable. The economic activities affected communities rely on include commercial fishing, mining, oil and gas production and renewable energy development. The best available science suggests that MPA designations are not the most effective strategy for fisheries management and that our federal waters are already well protected through planned management and regulation of fishing activities and other uses of the marine environment. This hearing was essential in conducting necessary, and ongoing, oversight

on the Biden administration's bureaucratic overreach. For nearly three years, President Biden and his army of regulatory bureaucrats have hurt Americans across the country through overly burdensome red tape, including in MPA designations. Committee Republicans are devoted to investigating this regulatory overreach.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Jainey Bavishi**, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce
- Ms. **Florence Kargi**, Regional Affairs Manager, Coastal Villages Region Fund, Anchorage, AK
- Mr. **Bill Gibbons-Fly**, Executive Director, American Tunaboat Association, Annapolis, MD
- Mr. **Eric Reid**, Chair, New England Fishery Management Council, North Kingstown, RI
- Mr. **William Johnson Aila**, Native Hawaiian Fisherman, Waianae, HI [*Minority Witness*]

Examining Systemic Government Overreach at CEQ | September 14, 2023

Under Chairman Westerman, the House Committee on Natural Resources has worked tirelessly to hold CEQ accountable for its overreach. The committee has held multiple hearings explicitly focused on the overreach at CEQ, sent questions for the record that went unanswered by the agency for months and initiated multiple investigations into CEQ's unprecedented expansion of power under the Biden administration. This hearing further holds CEQ and the Biden administration accountable for their grotesque administrative overreach and willful disregard for our nation's laws. CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory was invited to testify but declined to appear or send a designee to testify on behalf of the agency. This is yet another moment in which Mallory, and CEQ as a whole, has ignored a co-equal branch of government.

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Brenda Mallory**, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality [*Invited*]
- Mr. **Mario Layola**, Director, Environmental Finance & Risk Management Program, Research Assistant Professor, Florida International University-Institute of Environment, Miami, FL
- Mr. **Scott Simms**, CEO Executive Director, Public Power Council, Portland, OR
- Mr. **Marlo Lewis**, Senior Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute
- Ms. **Jill Witkowski Heaps**, Senior Attorney, Earthjustice, New York, NY [*Minority Witness*]

Examining Barriers to Access: Ongoing Visitor Experience Issues at America's National Parks | July 27, 2023

Mismanagement of America's National Park System harms the economies of rural and gateway communities, restricts access and recreational opportunities, and prohibits desperately needed management of our overgrown, diseased, and dying public lands. Despite significant additional resources provided by Congress over the last several years, the National Park Service (NPS) has failed to reduce their deferred maintenance (DM) backlog and develop a strategy to prevent increasing the DM backlog in the future. It is imperative for NPS to better manage National Park System units to mitigate overcrowding and its effects on the land, while ensuring access to the National Park System without burdensome fees and permits.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Charles F. Sams, III**, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

Examining Ongoing Cybersecurity Threats within the Department of the Interior and the Nexus to State-Sponsored Cyber Actors | June 7, 2023

Cybersecurity is an ongoing endeavor and agencies should continually work to identify, protect, and detect cybersecurity threats. This includes identifying system weaknesses and implementing best practices. U.S. government agencies are increasingly subject to threats from state-sponsored actors, notably China. The DOI Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office recently issued separate reports on cybersecurity weaknesses at the Department of the Interior that expose the vulnerability of DOI's information systems, DOI's assets, and America's offshore energy infrastructure.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Mark Greenblatt**, Inspector General, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Marisol Cruz Cain**, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Government Accountability Office
- Mr. **Brian Cavanaugh**, Fellow for Cybersecurity, Intelligence, and Homeland Security, Heritage Foundation
- Mr. **Dean Cheng**, Senior Advisor, China Program, United States Institute of Peace
- Dr. **T. Charles Clancy Sr.**, Sr. VP & GM, MITRE Labs & Chief Futurist, The MITRE Corp., McLean, VA
- Ms. **Rhea Siers**, Senior Advisor (Cyber Risk), Teneo

Examining the Biden Administration's Efforts to Limit Access to Public Lands | May 24, 2023

The BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mandate is determined by Congress, not unelected bureaucrats. BLM's proposed Conservation and Landscape Health rule is unnecessary and circumvents congressional authority, threatening the American public's access to, and use of, federal lands. Recent actions taken by the BLM and other federal land management agencies, including the designation of monuments through the Antiquities Act, illustrates the Biden administration's lack of interest in stakeholders on the ground as they advance and promote a radical environmental justice agenda above all else.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Todd Devlin**, Prairie County Commissioner, Terry, MT
- Dr. **J.J. Goicoechea**, DVM, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Sparks, NV
- The Hon. **Travis Lingenfelter**, Chairman, Mohave County Board of Supervisors, Kingman, AZ
- Ms. **Stephanie Garcia Richard**, New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Santa Fe, NM *[Minority Witness]*

The Biden Administration's Executive Overreach and Its Impact on American Energy Independence | May 11, 2023

The Biden administration has abused executive authority to limit America's energy independence in support of meeting radical environmental justice goals. Limiting America's energy independence harms America's economy, our national security, and the daily lives of Americans. President Biden's weaponization of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Council on Environmental Quality as vehicles to force social change in furtherance of the administration's radical agenda is an assault on America's energy independence and separation of powers.

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Diana Furchtgott-Roth**, Director, Center for Energy, Climate, and The Herbert & Joyce Morgan Fellow in Energy & Environmental Policy at the Heritage Foundation
- Mr. **Jeremy Harrell**, Chief Strategy Officer, ClearPath
- Mr. **Kenny Stein**, Director of Policy, Institute for Energy Research
- Ms. **Jamie Pleune**, Associate Professor (Research), S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Dependence on Foreign Adversaries: America's Critical Minerals Crisis | February 9, 2023

Maximizing domestic production and development of hardrock minerals is in the best national security, economic, and environmental interests of the United States. As demand for critical minerals rises, domestic development ensures minerals are sourced in a safe, sustainable manner, avoiding suppliers that permit unacceptable labor conditions or have minimal concern for environmental impact. While the Biden administration's drive for a massive scale-up in renewable energy is contributing to the rapid growth of mineral demand, we must simultaneously strengthen U.S. supply by enhancing access to domestic hardrock mineral resources.

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Jason George**, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, Minneapolis, MN
- Mr. **Nick Loris**, Vice President of Public Policy, C3 Solutions, Arlington, VA
- Dr. **Michael Moats**, Professor and Department Chair of Materials Science and Engineering, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO
- Mr. **Aaron Mintzes**, Senior Policy Counsel, Earthworks *[Minority Witness]*



Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries

Left in the Dark: Examining the Biden Administration’s Efforts to Eliminate the Pacific Northwest’s Clean Energy Production | December 12, 2023

The Biden administration, through abuse of the administrative process, use of “sue and settle” tactics, selective use of science to achieve political, rather than biologically sound, solutions, and failure to defend the interests of the Northwest, is advancing an agenda of economic and community destruction while doing nothing to promote the health of fish species. The lower Snake River dams have the capacity to supply carbon-free base load energy. During periods of high demand, such as severe heat or prolonged winter cold snaps, the dams help to keep the Northwest power system reliable, even during emergencies. The lower Snake River dams play a critical role in reducing transportation emissions. Between 50 and 60 million tons of cargo are transported through barges along the river each year.

- **Witnesses** (not available at time of publication)

Legislative Hearing on Legislation to Improve Access to Public Waters, Support Long-Term Infrastructure | November 14, 2023

H.R. 6127 would build on the investments made in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, the Great American Outdoors Act, and the Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act to ensure hunters, anglers, and all Americans can find information and resources to help facilitate access to our public waters. H.R. 6107 would help irrigation districts address extraordinary maintenance needs for the Bureau of Reclamation’s canals that could pose a potential risk to populated areas in the event of a failure. H.R. 4219 would establish the Southwestern Power Administration Fund, a permanent, self-financed revolving fund supplied through Southwestern’s power sales receipts – with no annual appropriations. H.R. 5770 reauthorizes two U.S. Geological Survey programs, the Federal Priority Streamgaging Program and National Groundwater Resources Monitoring Program.

Bills Considered: H.R. 4219, H.R. 5770, H.R. 6107, and H.R. 6127

- **Witnesses**
 - Mr. **Mike Wech**, Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration, Tulsa, OK
 - Mr. **Ron Patt**, Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, Boise Project Board of Control, Caldwell, ID
 - Ms. **Nicki Fuller**, Executive Director, Southwestern Power Resources Association, Tulsa, OK
 - Mr. **Taylor Schmitz**, Director of Government Relations, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
 - Ms. **Amy L. Shallcross, P.E.**, Board Member and Chair of the Water Data and Science Committee for the Interstate Council on Water Policy, West Trenton, NJ

Legislative Hearing on Legislation Advancing Local Conservation Efforts | October 18, 2023

This hearing centered on three bills that would reauthorize various conservation programs. So far, these programs have been successful and effective in promoting and expanding conservation efforts domestically and internationally in a bipartisan manner. The committee this Congress has worked across the aisle to ensure that previously successful programs will continue.

Bills Considered: H.R. 4389, H.R. 4770, and H.R. 5009

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Stephen Guertin**, Deputy Director of Program Management and Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Carrie Selberg Robinson**, Director of the Office of Habitat Conservation, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce
- Mr. **Robert T. Caccese**, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg, PA
- Ms. **Julie Wraithmell**, Vice President and Executive Director, Audubon Florida, Miami, FL
- Mr. **Ben Cassidy**, Executive Vice President for International Government and Public Affairs, Safari Club International
- Dr. **Allison Colden**, Maryland Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis, MD [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing on Improving Water Infrastructure, Supporting Local Communities | September 28, 2023

This hearing centered on four bills that will grant communities and federal agencies the ability to modernize water infrastructure, fix mistakes in coastal barrier maps and remove barriers created by federal processes and bureaucracy. These pieces of legislation will protect coastal communities, transfer property from the government to private hands, reauthorize drought protection authority and protect shorelines from erosion.

Bills Considered: H.R. 2437, H.R. 3415, H.R. 4385, H.R. 4590

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Matt Strickler**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Steve Lynn**, Manager, Midvale Irrigation District, Pavillion, WY
- Mr. **Tom Leonard**, Alderman, Town of North Topsail Beach, N.C., Topsail Beach, NC
- Dr. **Christopher Hein**, Associate Professor, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA
- Mr. **William “Skip” A. Stiles, Jr.**, Senior Advisor, Wetlands Watch, Norfolk, VA [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing on American Fishing and Waters | July 27, 2023

This legislative hearing on eight bills covering wildlife, fishery, and western water policy. H.R. 1437 gives ranchers and cattlemen more options to address the devastating impacts of black vulture predation. H.R. 1792 implements amendments to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. H.R. 4051 creates a task force to address the increasing conflicts between fishermen and sharks. H.R. 4094 gives the Department of the Interior more flexibility in addressing the issues surrounding the Great Salt Lake Basin. H.R. 4587 prevents the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from implementing draconian fishing closures without the best available science. H.R. 4596 reauthorizes two successful fish recovery programs that provide Endangered Species Act compliance for more than 2,500 federal and non-federal water projects depleting approximately 3.7 million acre-feet per year in the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basins.

Bills Considered: H.R. 4596, H.R. 4587, H.R. 4094, H.R. 4051, H.R. 1792, H.R. 1437, H.R. 2950, and H.R. 2982

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Rob Wittman**, Representative, First District of Virginia
- The Hon. **Amata Radewagen**, Representative, American Samoa
- The Hon. **John Curtis**, Representative, Third District of Utah
- The Hon. **Lauren Boebert**, Representative, Third District of Colorado
- The Hon. **John Rutherford**, Representative, Fifth District of Florida
- The Hon. **Paul Tonko**, Representative, Twentieth District of New York
- The Hon. **John Rose**, Representative, Sixth District of Tennessee
- The Hon. **Jared Huffman**, Representative, Second District of California
- Dr. **Kelly Kryc**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce
- Mr. **Stephen Guertin**, Deputy Director for Program Management and Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **William Gibbons-Fly**, Executive Director, American Tunaboat Association, San Diego, CA
- Mr. **Jack Graham**, Captain, Afishianado Charters, Nags Head, NC
- Ms. **Jessica McCawley**, Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries Management, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, FL
- Mr. **Gene Shawcroft**, General Manager of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Orem, UT
- Mr. **Steve Wolff**, General Manager, Southwestern Water Conservation District, Durango, CO
- Mr. **Charlie Beshar**, Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee Chair, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Patton, MO
- Ms. **Genevieve Genest**, Donor Relations Manager, Galveston Bay Foundation, Kemah, TX *[Minority Witness]*
- Mr. **Seth Atkinson**, Quillback Consulting, Santa Cruz, CA *[Minority Witness]*

ESA at 50: The Destructive Cost of the ESA | July 18, 2023

As 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, Congress should examine how the Act is being implemented, its success in recovering listed species, and the cost it imposes on American families. The Biden administration has been implementing ESA with a “whatever the cost” mentality, impacting the economic opportunity of rural communities and threatening the property rights of their citizens. Instead, the Biden administration should be listening to local voices and incentivizing states and private landowners to implement conservation measures that benefit species. In addition, the Biden administration is rolling back necessary reforms to the ESA that were made by the Trump administration. This is harming species recovery, conservation, and imposing unjust costs on the American people. Empowering states, tribes, local governments, and private landowners in the ESA decision making process is the best path forward for both the health of species and the sustainability of local communities that coexist with species.

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Janet Coit**, Deputy Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce
- The Hon. **Martha Williams**, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Justin Jahnz**, Chief Executive Officer, East Central Energy, Braham, MN
- Mr. **Sean Vibbert**, Owner, Obsidian Seed Company, Madras, OR
- Mr. **Jonathan Wood**, Vice President of Law and Policy, Property and Environment Research Center, Bozeman, MT
- Mr. **Dan Ashe**, President and CEO, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Silver Spring, MD [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing Examining Legislation Focused on Water Resources, Hydropower | June 14, 2023

The legislation considered during this hearing is part of a continued effort to promote innovative and wide-ranging energy solutions. This is consistent with the goals of the committee since the Republican majority took control of the House of Representatives this January. H.R. 1607 would enable the exploration of additional pumped-storage hydropower facilities to the Salt River reservoir system in Arizona. H.R. 3027 would reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Basin Studies program until 2033. H.R. 3675 would permanently extend authorities that allow Bureau of Reclamation project water users to prepay what they owe to the federal government.

Bills Considered: H.R. 1607, H.R. 3027 and H.R. 3675

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Michael Brain**, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, , Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Leslie Meyers**, Associate General Manager and Chief Water Resources Executive, Salt River Project, Tempe, AZ
- Mr. **Cannon Michael**, Chairman, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Los Baños, CA

Examining the Impacts of NOAA's Proposed Changes to the North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule | June 6, 2023

Committee Republicans are holding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration accountable for policies that negatively impact our fisheries, shipping, and transportation industries. The proposed changes increase the dangers faced by pilots and pilot boat crews and reduce navigation safety in Federal Navigation Channels. Their proposed changes will restrict access to the Atlantic Ocean, making boating and fishing trips unsafe and nearly impossible.

• Witnesses

- The Hon. **Janet Coit**, Deputy Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce
- Mr. **Clayton L. Diamond**, Executive Director, American Pilots' Association
- Mr. **Fred Gamboa**, Captain, Andreas' Toy Charters, Princeton, NJ
- Mr. **Frank Hugelmeyer**, President and CEO, National Marine Manufacturers Association
- Dr. **Jessica Redfern**, Associate Vice President of Ocean Conservation Science, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, Boston, MA *[Minority Witness]*

Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Proposal for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Power Marketing Administrations | May 23, 2023

The Biden administration's budget fails to deliver economic or environmental benefits for the American people. Over the past several years, Democrats poured billions of dollars into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service without any focus on streamlining burdensome regulations or environmental review. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is also pushing policies that negatively impact recreational and commercial fisheries without regard to the economic impacts. Oversight is desperately needed to ensure every taxpayer dollar is well-spent.

• Witnesses

- The Hon. **Camille Touton**, Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **John Hairston**, Administrator and CEO, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, Portland, OR
- Ms. **Tracey LeBeau**, Administrator and CEO, Western Area Power Administration, Lakewood, CO
- Mr. **Mike Wech**, Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration, Department of Energy, Tulsa, OK
- Mr. **Virgil Hobbs**, Administrator and CEO, Southeastern Power Administration, Elberton, GA
- The Hon. **Martha Williams**, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
- The Hon. **Jaimey Bavishi**, Deputy Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

Legislative Hearing on Bills to Increase Access for Sportsmen, Responsibly Restore Beach Habitat | May 10, 2023

This hearing focused on promoting hunting and fishing access for America's sportsmen and women. By further modernizing the Federal Duck Stamp program, as proposed in H.R. 2872, waterfowl hunters will have a more simplified way of purchasing the Stamp, which steers user-fees towards habitat restoration and conservation. Similarly, H.R. 615 attempts to promote hunting and fishing access to our National Wildlife Refuge system by ensuring that the Biden administration does not impose a blanket ban on lead ammunition and fishing tackle. H.R. 524 would restore the ability of local communities to use sand from Coastal Barrier Resources Act System area to restoring their beaches, as they have done for decades.

Bills Considered: H.R. 524, H.R. 615, H.R. 2689 and H.R. 2872

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Matt Strickler**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Todd Adkins**, Vice President of Government Affairs, Sportsmen's Alliance, Columbus, OH
- Mr. **Bryan McClinton**, Undersecretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA
- The Hon. **Mills**, Mayor of Wrightsville Beach, Wrightsville Beach, NC
- Mr. **Timothy Whitehouse**, Executive Director, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Poolesville, MD [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing Highlighting the Failures of the Endangered Species Act / April 18, 2023

The Endangered Species Act, while well-intended, is 50 years old and in need of major oversight and updates. The ESA is a magnet for litigation, particularly as it relates to listing and delisting species. Environmental litigants repeatedly sue the federal government to list or up-list species, even if those listings stifle proactive conservation. This hearing covered three ESA-related Congressional Review Act joint resolutions (CRAs). These CRAs would overturn Biden administration actions that led to an unnecessary and overburdensome regulatory ESA regime.

Bills Considered: H.J. Res. 29, H.J. Res. 46, H.J. Res. 49 and H.R. 1213

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Gary Frazer**, Assistant Director for Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
- Mr. **Rick Horton**, Executive Vice President, Minnesota Forest Industries, Grand Rapids, MN
- Mr. **Fred Flippence**, Board President, Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Hines, OR
- Mr. **Don Hineman**, Past President, Kansas Livestock Association, Dighton, KS
- Mr. **Sam Rauch III**, Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, MD
- Mr. **Norman Semanko**, General Counsel, Family Farm Alliance, Boise, ID
- Mr. **Curt Brown**, Marine Biologist, Ready Seafood, Cape Elizabeth, ME

- Ms. **Ginny Olsen**, Political Director, Maine Lobstering Union, Stonington, ME
- Mr. **Robert Fischman**, Professor of Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Bloomington, IN [*Minority Witness*]
- Dr. **Michael J. Moore**, Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA [*Minority Witness*]

Why We Need to Store More Water and What's Stopping Us | March 28, 2023

Despite experiencing record drought over the past few years, some areas in the West are now facing historic precipitation levels. Lack of adequate surface and groundwater storage facilities will continue to result in flooding and uncaptured water for future use. The Biden administration has exacerbated this problem by opposing some new storage or handcuffing new or expanded facilities with red tape. The administration is also focused on diverting current water storage for environmental purposes that do little for fish while harming communities.

● **Witnesses**

- Mr. **William Bourdeau**, Vice Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Coalinga, CA
- Ms. **Tricia Hill**, Board Member, Klamath Water Users Association, Merrill, OR
- Mr. **Andy Mueller**, General Manager, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Glenwood Springs, CO
- Mr. **Joshua Sewell**, Senior Policy Analyst, Taxpayers for Common Sense [*Minority Witness*]

Legislative Hearing on Improvements to the Endangered Species Act / March 23, 2023

As 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Congress should examine how the Act is being implemented and its success in recovering listed species. How to define success is one of the key questions surrounding the ESA. By all metrics available (species population, habitat, state management plans, etc.), certain grizzly bear populations and gray wolves should be considered as recovered and delisted. Serial litigation is negatively impacting species recovery and the ESA listing and delisting process. Empowering states, tribes, local governments and private landowners in the ESA decision making process is the best path forward for both the health of species and the sustainability of local communities impacted by those species.

Bills Considered: H.R. 746, H.R. 886, H.R. 1245 and H.R. 1419

● **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Stephen Guertin**, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Department of the Interior
- Ms. **Nancy Wallace**, Marine Debris Program Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Department of Commerce
- Dr. **Nathan Roberts**, Associate Professor, College of the Ozarks, Branson, MO
- Mr. **Brian Nesvik**, Director, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, WY
- Ms. **Karli Johnson**, Rancher, Sevens Livestock, Choteau, MT
- Dr. **Christopher Servheen**, Retired Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missoula, MT [*Minority witness*]

Benefits and Access: The Necessity for Multiple Use of Water Resources | March 8, 2023

For generations, water resources projects have delivered multiple benefits to humans, fish, and wildlife. Similarly, our ocean resources and sustainable fisheries have been an invaluable resource for coastal communities. Access to inland and offshore water resources is important for our economy and the environment. While conflicts over these resources have existed historically, the policies of the Biden administration have exacerbated some of these conflicts and threatened economies, the environment and community ways of life.

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Scott Corwin**, Executive Director, Northwest Public Power Association, Vancouver, WA
- Ms. **Martha Guyas**, Southeast Fisheries Policy Director, American Sportfishing Association, Tallahassee, FL
- Mr. **Dan Keppen**, Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance, Klamath Falls, OR
- Ms. **Amy Cordalis**, Legal Counsel, Yurok Tribe, Klamath, California and Co-Founder, Ridges to Riffles Indigenous Conservation Group, Sacramento, CA
[Minority witness]

The Indo-Pacific Task Force

The Biden's Administration's Proposed Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023 | July 18, 2023

The Biden administration's legislative proposal to Congress would approve the relevant COFA with the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The proposal includes \$7.1 billion in mandatory spending over a period of 20 years for the Freely Associated States economic assistance and U.S. Postal Service.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Joseph Y. Yun**, Special Presidential Envoy for Compact Negotiations, United States of America, Department of State
- Mr. **Keone Nakoa**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Department of the Interior
- Dr. **Siddharth Mohandas**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia, Department of Defense
- His Excellency **Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.**, President, Republic of Palau
- The Hon. **Kenneth Kedi**, Speaker, The Parliament of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Mr. **Leo A. Falcam, Jr.**, Chief Compact Negotiator, Federated States of Micronesia

How the Compacts of Free Association Support U.S. Interests and Counter the PRC's Influence | June 14, 2023

The U.S. has international agreements known as Compacts of Free Association (COFA) with three Pacific Island countries: the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, collectively referred to as the Freely Associated States (FAS). The U.S. has vital security and economic interests throughout Indo-Pacific region, particularly amid rising competition with the People's Republic of China (PRC). The importance of the FAS for the U.S. cannot be overstated given the proximity to the U.S. homeland areas and

the broader geopolitical context. The PRC has sought to take advantage of the relatively weak economies and governance structure of island nations in the region. In order to deter PRC influence and to maintain the United States' capacity to secure its interests, the U.S. must remain engaged with the FAS, and the Indo-Pacific region as a whole, and respond to malign PRC coercive activity. The COFA is critical to the U.S. relationship with the FAS and for U.S. foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific.

- **Witnesses**

- Col. **Albert V. Short**, U.S. Army (Ret.); former Chief Negotiator for 2004 Compact of Free Association, Lorton, VA
- Ms. **Cleo Paskal**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies
- Colonel **Grant Newsham**, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, Honolulu, HI
- Dr. **Thomas Lum**, Specialist in Asian Affairs, Congressional Research Service
[Minority Witness]

IN THE FIELD

The Natural Resources Committee is bringing Congress to the people. It is critical we hear from the communities affected and understand matters on a local level. Many of the issues the committee tackles must be experienced to truly be understood. This is why we've taken the committee on the road, to hear from these communities most impacted by the Biden administration's policies and learn how we can better create sound policy back in D.C.

The next few pages showcase the field hearings and tours we hosted in the first year of the Republican majority. Many more to come!



Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) attempting to view the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City, a holding facility for migrants being processed after crossing into the U.S.

Floyd Bennet Field Migrant Housing Facility Tour | September 18, 2023

- New York City, NY

Since President Biden took office, there have been more than 5.8 million illegal crossings of the southern border of the United States. Many of these immigrants travel to self-identified “sanctuary cities” across the country, including NYC. More than 136,000 migrants have arrived in NYC since the spring of 2022. As a larger part of the effort to house illegal migrants, the state of New York and NYC have asked the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to establish “temporary” housing for more than 2,000 migrants at Gateway National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park System. Due to our jurisdiction over federal lands and national parks, Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and U.S. Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) visited NYC to learn more. The Republican members first visited the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan, a facility where hundreds of migrants are currently being processed, in order to learn about the housing problems facing a city that’s already at max capacity. The members visited the proposed migrant site to learn more about the effects this policy would have on the community and learn more about the conditions migrants would face at the site.



Members hear from foreign leaders and witnesses in Guam on the importance of the U.S. influence in the Indo-Pacific and the threat posed by the People’s Republic of China.

Peace Through Strength: The Strategic Importance of the Pacific Islands to U.S.-led Global Security | August 24, 2023

- Tamuning, Guam

There are three U.S. territories in the Indo-Pacific region: American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The U.S. has international agreements or Compacts of Free Association (COFA or “Compacts”) with three additional Pacific Island countries, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, collectively referred to as the Freely Associated States (FAS). The U.S. Pacific territories and the FAS are the lynchpin of U.S. strategy in the Pacific. As part of the Second and Third Island chains, these islands are home to U.S. military bases and enable the U.S. to protect its interests in the Indo-Pacific. During the committee’s CODEL to the region, Chairman Westerman held a full committee field hearing in Guam. The hearing featured emotional testimony from Irene Sgambelluri, a survivor of World War Two, who spoke about the historical legacy left with her community by the heroism of the United States armed forces in liberating the island of Guam from Imperial Japan. This hearing was an essential step in learning more on the impacts of the COFAs for the region and emphasized the need to continue these agreements to continue to strengthen U.S. ties in the region.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Lourdes “Lou” Leon Guerrero**, Governor of the Territory of Guam, Hagåtña, GU, U.S.A.
- The Hon. **Arnold I. Palacios**, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, MP, NMI, U.S.A.
- The Hon. **Kaleb Udoi, Jr.**, Minister of Finance, Republic of Palau, Koror, Palau
- The Hon. **Ricky Cantero**, Acting Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Federated States of Micronesia, Pohnpei State, FM
- The Hon. **Jack Ading**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Majuro, MH
- Brig. Gen. **Michael W. Cruz**, Adjunct General, Guam National Guard, Barrigada, GU, U.S.A.
- Brig. Gen. **Roderick R. Leon Guerrero** (Ret.), United States Army, Mangilao, GU, U.S.A.
- The Hon. **Tina Barnes**, Vice Speaker, Legislature of the Territory of Guam, Hagåtña, GU, U.S.A. *[Minority Witness]*
- Ms. **Irene Sgambelluri**, World War Two Survivor, Talofoto, GU, U.S.A.



Members hear from witnesses in Yosemite National Park on challenges related to forest management and wildfire prevention.

Conservation in a Crown Jewel: A Discussion About Wildfires and Forest Management in Yosemite National Park, California | August 11, 2023

- Yosemite National Park, CA

The health of our nation's forests has deteriorated so severely that Yosemite National Park, a crown jewel of America's National Park System, is in the epicenter of a catastrophic wildfire crisis that is decimating California and the West. From devastated communities to degraded air and water quality and lost access, their stories highlighted the desperate need to increase the pace and scale of active forest management. Committee Republicans remain committed to finding innovative solutions that will restore conservation to Yosemite and all our federal lands by cutting red tape, reducing frivolous litigation and giving land managers the tools and resources they need to expedite forest management projects.

- **Witnesses**

- The Hon. **Miles Menetrey**, Supervisor, Mariposa County, CA
- The Hon. **George Turnboo**, Supervisor, El Dorado County, CA
- Mr. **Bill Tripp**, Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, Karuk Tribe, Orleans, CA
- Dr. **Dave Delay**, California Cattlemen's Association, Butte County, CA
- Mr. **Johnnie White**, Board Member, California Farm Bureau, Sebastopol, CA
- Mr. **Matthew Bloom**, Owner, Kennedy Meadows Resort and Pack Station, Pinecrest, CA



Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) leading members on a tour to an aggregate mine to learn about the importance of mining to the national economy.

Securing Supply Chains: Access to Critical Minerals in the American Southwest | July 21, 2023

- Goodyear Recreation Center, Goodyear, AZ

Mineral exploration, supply, and production is abundant across the United States, including in the American Southwest. It is in the best national security, economic, and environmental interests of the United States to maximize the production and development of minerals domestically, rather than source minerals from foreign nations, many of which are adversarial to the United States. There is significant and rising demand for minerals in America, and across the world, to support the modern economy, ensure national security, and fuel technological innovation. Despite rapidly increasing demand, the Biden administration's policies have only made mineral production and development more challenging and uncertain. Harmful regulatory policies and schemes promoted by non-governmental organizations and the Biden administration work toward a "keep it in the ground" mentality, often force American-based companies to source critical minerals in their supply chains from abroad.

- **Witnesses**
 - Mr. **Misael Cabrera**, Director, School of Mining and Mineral Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
 - Mr. **James R. Carlson**, Chairman, Boundary Line Foundation, Chicago, IL
 - Mr. **Steve Crim**, Executive Director, Common Sense America, McLean, VA
 - Mr. **Jeremy Harrell**, Chief Strategy Office, ClearPath
 - Mr. **Craig Wiita**, President and CEO, Del Sol Refining, Inc., Prescott, AZ



Members and witnesses discussing water issues in front of a packed house in Pasco, WA.

Northwest at Risk: The Environmentalist's Effort to Destroy Navigation, Transportation, and Access to Reliable Power | June 26, 2023

- Richland High School, Richland, WA

The lower Snake River dams have the capacity to supply carbon-free base load energy. The dams help to keep the Northwest power system reliable, even during emergencies. In addition, the lower Snake River dams play a critical role in reducing transportation emissions, with between 50 and 60 million tons of cargo are transported through barges along the river each year.

Despite these facts, radical environmentalists continue demanding that the dams be removed, which would have devastating impacts across the Northwest and the nation at large.

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Jennifer Quan**, West Coast Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce, Seattle, WA
- Mr. **John Hairston**, Administrator and CEO, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR
- Ms. **Beth Coffey**, Director of Programs, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland, OR
- Mr. **Rick Dunn**, General Manager, Benton Public Utility District, Kennewick, WA
- Ms. **Michelle Hennings**, Executive Director, Washington Association of Wheat Growers, Ritzville, WA
- Mr. **Alex McGregor**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, The McGregor Company, Colfax, WA
- Mr. **Todd Myers**, Environmental Director, Washington Policy Center, Cle Elum, WA
- Dr. **David Welch**, President & Founder, Kintama Research Services Ltd., Nanaimo, BC, Canada



Bipartisan group of members and Yale faculty and students at a campsite in the Yale Forest.

Bipartisan Field Tour to See Forest Management in Action | May 19, 2023

- Yale-Myers Forest, Eastford, CT

As wildfires decimate more and more of the western United States each year, it's imperative that land managers be equipped with the necessary tools to keep forests healthy. The Yale Working Forest is a perfect example of how the healthiest forests are ones that are managed with science-based methods. Members began the day with a briefing from Yale forestry faculty on forest products, wood technology and mass timber in the context of carbon mitigation and sustainable design. They then headed to the Yale-Myers Forest, and visited several different stands to learn more about the biodiversity, as well as challenges like invasive species and how land managers mitigate the issues.



Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.), and U.S. Reps. Jack Bergman (R-Mich.), Mike Collins (R-Ga.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.) during a mine tour before the hearing.

Examining the Mineral Wealth of Northern Minnesota | May 2

- Mountain Iron-Buhl High School, Mountain Iron, MN

Northern Minnesota is home to several rare geological formations, including those colloquially known as the Iron Range, the Duluth Complex, and the Tamarack Complex that hold vast deposits of taconite, copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum, and other hardrock minerals in North America. Taconite has been mined in Northern Minnesota for more than 130 years, providing material vital to the industrialization of America. Minerals mined in the region helped our nation win two world wars. It has also created a source of employment for generations. However, attempting to operate on federal lands has unfortunately become synonymous with bureaucratic delays. Some projects have been in development for decades, with resistance from anti-mining administrations creating barriers outside of the regular approval process. Under the Biden administration arbitrary mining bans have been used to shut down production opportunities, including the mineral withdrawal of 225,504 acres of the Superior National Forest land, finalized by the Biden administration in January 2023.

- **Witnesses**

- Ms. **Jessica Johnson**, Community Outreach and Government Relations Manager, Talon Metals Corp., Tamarack, MN
- Dr. **Dean Peterson**, Chief Geologist, Big Rock Exploration, Minneapolis, MN
- Mr. **Joe Baltich**, Owner, Northwind Lodge, Ely, MN



House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), and U.S. Reps. John Duarte (R-Calif.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), and David Valadao (R-Calif.) hosting a press conference in front of Friant Dam.

Legislative Hearing on Bills Addressing Water Storage Challenges | April 11, 2023

- World Ag Expo, Tulare, California

For years California has experienced catastrophic drought, which has been exacerbated by federal and state regulations, that have devastated many farming communities. These communities are now experiencing widespread flooding due to historic precipitation brought upon by "atmospheric river" rainstorms. This boom and bust cycle will most definitely happen again. This field hearing explored the need to finish proposed water storage projects and contemplate new surface and groundwater storage opportunities in California and elsewhere in the West to help make the region more resilient to drought and flooding. Despite ample notice of the hearing date and the importance of the subject matter, both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce declined to appear before the subcommittee to testify on the need for these water projects that impact the lives of millions throughout the region.

Bills Considered: H.R. 215 and H.R. 872

- **Witnesses**
 - Mr. **Charlton Bonham**, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sacramento, CA
 - Mr. **Tony DeGroot**, Farmer, DG Bar Ranches, Hanford, CA
 - Mr. **Aaron Fukuda**, General Manager, Tulare Irrigation District, Tulare, CA
 - Mr. **Jason Phillips**, CEO, Friant Water Authority, Lindsay, CA
 - Mr. **Jeff Sutton**, General Manager, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Willows, CA
 - Mr. **Chris White**, Executive Director, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority, Los Banos, CA



House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), and Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.) during a site tour of a New Mexico oil rig before the field hearing.

Federal Energy Production Supports Local Communities | February 13, 2023

- The University of Texas Permian Basin, Midland, TX

Domestic production of oil and natural gas on federal lands is critical to the economies and livelihoods of local communities across the country. The actions of the Biden administration have driven up energy prices and have threatened the long-term viability of oil production on federal lands, jeopardizing future revenues to states and local communities. Federal agency permitting processes are in desperate need of reform to ensure timely approval of critical permits for the development of energy resources on federal lands.

- **Witnesses**

- Mr. **Doug Ackerman**, President and CEO, New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, Santa Fe, NM
- Ms. **Tracee Bentley**, President and CEO, Permian Strategic Partnership, Midland, TX
- The Hon. **David Gallegos**, District 41, New Mexico State Senate, Eunice, NM

LETTERS

One of the best ways to continue to hold the Biden administration accountable is by using the oversight powers afforded to the legislative branch in the Constitution. In requesting information and appearances from federal officials through these letters, we as a committee are upholding the essential principles of the checks and balances afforded to us by the Constitution's first article, building a record and holding the federal government accountable to the American people. From devastating the economy by driving up the price of gas to restricting Americans from using federal lands, the Biden administration has consistently taken steps against American interests.

As a committee, we will continue to push back against these actions.

The following is a list highlighting oversight letters sent by our committee members to the Biden administration.

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning | November 20, 2023

Seeking information from the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management regarding the cancellation of two decades-old mineral leases in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota and the withdrawal of 225,504 acres of mineral-rich land in the same area from mineral exploration and development.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

Letter to President and Co-Founder of Code Pink Jodie Evans | November 16, 2023

Requesting information concerning Code Pink's potential ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The Committee is concerned with the CCP's growing attempts to influence American policies. The Committee is also concerned that the relationship between the CCP and Code Pink benefactors, board members, and staff may impact Code Pink's political, advocacy, and lobbying activities relating to America's environmental, natural resource, and energy policies. Such political and lobbying activities may require compliance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and U.S. Reps. Mike Collins (R-Ga.), Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa) and Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

Letter to Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory | November 13, 2023

Requesting information as part of the committee's ongoing investigation into the Biden administration's decision to waive environmental reviews and house migrants on National Park Service land.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to Pueblo Action Alliance Executive Director Julia Bernal | November 2, 2023

Conducting oversight on the relationship between the Department of the Interior and the Pueblo Action Alliance (PAA), specifically concerning Secretary Deb Haaland's potential lack of impartiality and the misuse of her position to benefit PAA.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and U.S. Reps. Mike Collins (R-Ga.), Wesley Hunt (R-Texas), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.) and Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.)

Letter to League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski | October 30, 2023

Concerning purported evidence of a foreign national potentially influencing the League of Conservation Voters and related LCV entities. The Committee requested documents and communications to assist with its oversight efforts.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Departmental Ethics Office Director and Designated Agency Ethics Official Heather Gottry | October 23, 2023

Regarding Secretary Haaland's potential lack of impartiality and misuse of her position, particularly for the benefit of a nonprofit organization and family members. This is a follow up to the June 5, 2023 letter regarding Secretary Haaland's relationship with the Pueblo Action Alliance.

Signee: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.)

Letter to Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory | October 17, 2023

Continuing to investigate the process of selecting an international organization, the Science Based Target Initiative, as the sole arbitrator of emission reduction targets for federal contractors. Specifically, the committee sought information from the Council on Environmental Quality on the selection of SBTi and the outsourcing of government authority to SBTi.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to President Joe Biden, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning and U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore | October 2, 2023

Following up on the committee's previous letter on August 8, 2023, requesting information on the announcement of the creation of a Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and National Park Service Director Charles F. Sams III | September 15, 2023

Seeking information from the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service on the announcement of a proposed lease to house unsheltered migrants at Floyd Bennett Field, a portion of Gateway National Recreation Area.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), Mike Collins (R-Ga.), John Curtis (R-Utah), Anthony D’Esposito (R-N.Y.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Anthony Garbrino (R-N.Y.), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Welsey Hunt (R-Texas), Nick LaLota (R-N.Y.), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), George Santos (R-N.Y.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.), Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.) and Daniel Webster (R-Fla.)

Letter to Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory | September 6, 2023

The committee is conducting oversight regarding the process of selecting an international organization, the Science Based Target Initiative, as the sole arbitrator of emission reduction targets for federal contractors. The committee sought information from the Council on Environmental Quality into the selection of SBTi and the outsourcing of government authority to SBTi.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to Department of commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator Richard W. Spinrad | August 22, 2023

Regarding National Marine Fisheries Services’ recent reversal on supporting the continued operation of four dams on the Lower Snake River: Ice Harbor Dam, Lower Monumental Dam, Little Goose Dam, and Lower Granite Dam. This letter was a follow up to the committee’s May 1, 2023, letter, requesting numerous documents and records critical to our investigation.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.)

Letter to President Joseph Biden, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning and United States Forest Service Chief Randy Moore | August 8, 2023

Seeking information from the Executive Office of the President, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service on the recent announcement of the creation of a Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Director Charles F. Sams III | July 27, 2023

Conducting oversight on federal funding utilized to produce the National Memorial Day Concert and the Capitol Fourth concert held annually on the U.S. Capitol Grounds.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), House Committee on Administration Chairman Bryan Steil (R-Wis.), Subcommittee on Oversight Chairman Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.), and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski | June 20, 2023

Inquiring into LCV's Foreign Agents Registration Act compliance and fundraising, lobbying and political activities.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Deb Haaland and Departmental ethics official Heather Gottry | June 5, 2023

Conducting oversight into the secretary's potential conflicts and compliance with ethics obligations. Given DOI's announcement regarding the mineral withdrawal surrounding the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, these issues are particularly concerning.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Chairwoman Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), and U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.) and Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.)

Letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams | May 19, 2023

Seeking transparency on the use of funds to hire outside consultants for various trainings, projects and workshops that are unrelated to the mission of the agency. The Service's use of outside consultants includes paying nearly \$2.5 million to a "social change agency" from Portland, OR.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Deb Haaland | May 17, 2023

Regarding the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed rule, "Conservation and Landscape Health," published in the Federal Register on April 3, 2023. The administration's proposal will have considerable implications, fundamentally changing the way the BLM carries out its multiple use and sustained yield mandate under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Given the potentially significant impacts of the proposed rule, stakeholders and the public should be afforded additional time to consider and provide feedback on the proposed changes. The letter requested an extension of the comment period by an additional 75 days, to 150 days.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Chair Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom Tiffany and U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Curtis (R-Utah), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa) and Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.)

Letter to Chair Granger, Ranking Member Delauro, Subcommittee Chair Simpson and Subcommittee Ranking Member Pingree | May 15, 2023

Asking Congress to set CEQ's funding level at FY 2022 levels, consistent with the Limit, Save, Grow Act passed by the House for refusing to testify before the committee.

Signee: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.)

Letter to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Senior Advisor Katie Westfall and U.S. Department of Commerce General Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official Leslie Kiernan | May 9, 2023

Concerning Ms. Westfall's potential ethics violations and her previous work at the Environmental Defense Fund.

Signee: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator Richard Spinrad | May 1, 2023

Regarding the committee's investigation into the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service regarding their reversal on supporting the continued operation of the dams on the Lower Snake River.

Signees: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon A. Estenoz | April 21, 2023

Concerning the distribution and stewardship of taxpayer resources appropriated to the Department of the Interior to address deferred maintenance and repairs, specifically at the National Park Service.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Deb Haaland | April 20, 2023

Requesting information on DOI's plans to mitigate hacking and cybersecurity threats in light of recent high-profile leaks of classified U.S. government documents.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

Letter to Department of the Interior Land and Minerals Management U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Laura Daniel-Davis | March 28, 2023

Raising concerns over the Biden administration's ongoing efforts to obstruct American energy production and implement its climate agenda. To ensure Americans have access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy, the Republican lawmakers are calling on the U.S. Department of the Interior to provide information on their delay in issuing a five-year offshore leasing plan and the Department's failure to fulfill its obligations to lease federal land for domestic oil and gas production.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.), Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs Chairman Pat Fallon (R-Texas),

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) and U.S. Reps. Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), John Curtis (R-Utah), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Garret Graves (R-La.), Wesley Hunt (R-Texas), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) and Jim Moylan (R-Guam)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland | March 24, 2023

Regarding an inquiry originally sent to the Department of the Interior on January 12, 2022, regarding the onshore oil and gas leasing program.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Chair Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom Tiffany and U.S. Reps. Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), Mike Collins (R-Ga.), John Curtis (R-Utah), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Garret Graves (R-La.), Jennifer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico), Wesley Hunt (R-Texas), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), James Moylan (R-Guam), Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), Daniel Webster (R-Fla.), and Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

Letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams | March 14, 2023

Seeking answers regarding decisions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct “acknowledging Ecogrief and Developing Resilience” counseling sessions for USFWS employees.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Chair Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom Tiffany and U.S. Reps Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Curtis (R-Utah), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), James Moylan (R-Guam), Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), and Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

Letter to U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin, III | March 2, 2023

Concerning recent reports that the newly unveiled Remembrance Wall of the Korean War Veteran Memorial in Washington D.C. may contain more than 1,000 spelling errors and hundreds of additional inaccuracies.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Ranking Member Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), House Committee on Armed Services Chairman Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), Senate Committee on Armed Services Ranking Member Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) and Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore | February 8, 2023

Asking that the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service work together expeditiously to finalize the proposed rule, “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Interagency Cooperation,” originally published on January 12, 2021.

Signees: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.) and U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Curtis (R-Utah), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Daniel Webster (R-Fla.), and Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

Letter to U.S. Government Accountability Office Comptroller General Gene Dodaro | February 6, 2023

Requesting to be added as requester for the GAO review of the U.S. Efforts to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and Address Human Rights Abuse Allegations.

Signee: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.)

Letter to Department of the Interior Inspector General Mark Greenblatt | January 31, 2023

Following up on requests urging a full audit of the Departmental Ethics Office and highlighting flaws related to Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Nada Culver's disclosures.

Signee: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.)

Letter to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack, U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina M. Raimondo and Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory | January 25, 2023

Notifying the administration officials that the Republican majority will be using every available resource to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the departments and offices under their purview.

Signees: House Committee On Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Chair Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.) and U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), Mike Collins (R-Ga.), John Curtis (R-Utah), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Jenniffer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico), Garret Graves (R-La.), Wesley Hunt (R-Texas), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), James Moylan (R-Guam), Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.), Daniel Webster (R-Fla.), and Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

BILLS PASSED

H.R. 5283 | Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023 |
November 30, 2023

To prohibit the use of federal funds to provide housing to specified aliens on any land under the administrative jurisdiction of the federal land management agencies.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.) and Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 5283 was passed in the House by yeas and nays: 224-203

H.R. 1722 | Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023 | November 8, 2023

To amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas (D-Ore.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Val Hoyle (D-Ore.), and Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.)

H.R. 1722 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 2717 | Hershel “Woody” Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act |
November 8, 2023

To require the authorized commemorative work honoring Medal of Honor recipients to be attached to, or not more than 1,000 feet from, the Lincoln Memorial. President Lincoln established the Medal of Honor award.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Blake Moore (R-Utah) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. John Curtis (R-Utah), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) Wesley Hunt (R-Texas), Mike Levin (D-Calif.), Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Cliff Bentz (R-Wash.), Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)

H.R. 2717 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 3448 | American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act of 2023 | November 6, 2023

To amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America’s battlefields.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.)

H.R. 3448 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 359 | Fort San Gerónimo Preservation Act | November 6, 2023

To establish Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Jennifer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico)

H.R. 359 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 1318 | Women’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act | November 6, 2023

To authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women’s suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Katie Porter (D-Calif.), Susie Lee (D-Nev.), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Jennifer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico), and Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.)

H.R. 1318 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 1607 | November 6, 2023

To clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Schweikert (R-Ariz.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.)

H.R. 1607 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 3371 | Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act | September 20, 2023

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.)

H.R. 3371 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 2872 | September 20, 2023

To amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow states to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. John Duarte (R-Calif.)

H.R. 2872 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 1450 | Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act | September 14, 2023

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 1450 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 3324 | September 13, 2023

To extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.)

H.R. 3324 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 1567 | Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions Act | September 13, 2023

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

H.R. 1567 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 3389 | Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023 | September 12, 2023

To require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an evaluation with respect to the use of the container aerial firefighting system (CAFFS), and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) and John Curtis (R-Utah.)

H.R. 3389 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

S. J. Res. 24 | A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States 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" | July 27, 2023

Introduced by U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) | House Companion (H.J. Res 49) introduced by U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Rob Wittman (R-Va.) Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), Tom Tiffany (R-Wis), Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), and Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo).

S.J. Res 24 was passed by the Senate 51-49, passed by the House 220-209, vetoed by the President, and a veto override vote failed in the Senate 47-45.

S. J. Res. 9 | A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment" | July 27, 2023

Introduced by U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) | House Companion (H.J. Res 29) introduced by U.S. Rep. Tracey Mann (R-Kan.)

S.J. Res 9 was passed by the Senate 50-48, passed by the House 221-206, vetoed by the president, and a veto override vote failed in the Senate 47-46.

H.R. 1 | The Lower Energy Costs Act | March 30, 2023

To lower energy costs by increasing American energy production, exports, infrastructure, and critical minerals processing, by promoting transparency, accountability, permitting, and production of American resources, and by improving water quality certification and energy projects, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.) | Committee Cosponsors: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and U.S. Reps. Garret Graves (R-La.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Curtis (R-Utah.) and Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.)

H.R. 1 was passed in the House by yeas and nays: 225-204

H.R. 548 | Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act | February 6, 2023

To take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-Tenn.)

H.R. 548 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 423 | Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2023 | February 2, 2023
To take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.
Introduced by U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.)

H.R. 423 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, engrossed in the House, and referred to the U.S. Senate. H.R. 423 passed through the U.S. Senate on July 18, 2023, and signed into law on July 28, 2023 by President Joe Biden.

MARKUPS

In the past 12 months, we have held hearings on 129 bills, favorably reported 78 bills out of the committee and passed 18 bills off the House floor. These numbers are something to be proud of, as they reflect the hard work of the entire committee. We will continue to pass legislation and do the people's work here in Congress throughout the 118th Congress.

The following bills are bills that have been passed through the committee markup process organized by date it was passed through the committee.

December 6, 2023 Markup

H.R. 1449 | Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act
To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes.
Introduced by U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho)

H.R. 1449 was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

H.R. 3250 | National Museum of Play Recognition Act
To recognize the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York.
Introduced by U.S. Rep. Joe Morelle (D-N.Y.)

H.R. 3250 was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

H.R. 3396 | Fire Department Repayment Act of 2023
To require the standardization of reciprocal fire suppression cost share agreements, and for other purposes
Introduced by U.S. Rep. Josh Harder (D-Calif.)

H.R. 3396, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

H.R. 5490 | Bolstering Ecosystem Against Coastal Harm Act

To amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-Va.)

H.R. 5490, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

H.R. 6009 | Restoring American Dominance Act

To require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.)

H.R. 6009, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by roll call vote of **23 to 18**.

H.R. 6011 | Right-of-Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act

To direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to notify applicants of the completion status of right-of-way applications under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.)

H.R. 6011, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

H.R. 6233 | Community Reclamation Partnership Act

To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood (R-Ill.)

H.R. 6233 was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

H.R. 6285 | Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023

To ratify and approve all authorizations, permits, verifications, extensions, biological opinions, incidental take statements, and any other approvals or orders issued pursuant to Federal law necessary for the establishment and administration of the Coastal Plain oil and gas leasing program, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 6285, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by roll call vote of **24 to 17**.

November 15, 2023 Markup

H.R. 524

To amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Rouzer (R-N.C.)

H.R. 524 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 2437

To revise the boundaries of a unit of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Topsail, North Carolina, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Greg Murphy (R-N.C.)

H.R. 2437 was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **19 to 15**.

H.R. 2882 | Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023

To reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-Ariz.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) and Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.)

H.R. 2882 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 4094 | Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act

To amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Blake Moore (R-Utah)

H.R. 4094 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 6070

To amend the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 to clarify the authority of Department of Defense to conduct certain military activities at the Nevada test and training range, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Susie Lee (D-Nev.)

H.R. 6070 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 1727 | Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act

To amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Trone (D-Md.)

H.R. 1727 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 5509 | Electronic Permitting Modernization Act

To modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Katie Porter (D-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Colo.)

H.R. 5509 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

November 8, 2023 Markup

H.J. Res. 96 | Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023

To approve and incorporate by reference agreements signed between the U.S. and three Pacific Island Countries, known as the Freely Associated States (FAS), of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, for the new Compact of Free Association (COFA) period, from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 through FY 2043.

Introduced by House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) | Committee Cosponsors: Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and U.S. Reps Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa), Ed Case (D-Hawaii), Katie Porter (D-Calif.), and Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

H.J. Res. 96 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 1121 | Protecting American Energy Production Act

To prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), and Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.)

H.R. 1121 was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **21 to 17**.

H.R. 6008 | R.I.C.E.'s Whale Act

To prohibit implementation of certain documents until the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service issues documents relating to the Rice's whale.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), and Wesley Hunt (R-Texas)

H.R. 6008, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **22 to 17**.

H.R. 4385 | Drought Preparedness Act

To extend authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Susie Lee (R-Nev.)

H.R. 4385 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

October 26, 2023 Markup

H.R. 1792 | South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023

To amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawaii)

H.R. 1792, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 2560 | Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2023

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Bill Keating (D-Ma.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Jenniffer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico) and Garret Graves (R-La.)

H.R. 2560, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 3415 | Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.)

H.R. 3415 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 4587 | Red Snapper Act

To provide that the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall not issue an interim or final rule that includes an area closure in the South Atlantic for species managed under the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan until the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count study is complete and the data related to that study is integrated into the stock assessment.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. John Rutherford (R-Fla.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Garret Graves (R-La.) and Daniel Webster (R-Fla.)

H.R. 4587, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **21 to 18**.

H.R. 4770 | Chesapeake Bay Science, Education, and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2023

To reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-Md.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

H.R. 4770, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 5009 | The Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Reauthorization Act or WILD Act

To reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Joyce (R-Ohio) | Committee Cosponsors: House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and U.S. Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Jenniffer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico), Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.) and Jim Moylan (R-Guam)

H.R. 5009, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 5283 Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023

To prohibit the use of federal funds to provide housing to illegal migrants on any land under the administrative jurisdiction of the federal land management agencies.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), and Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.)

H.R. 5283, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **22 to 17**.

H.R. 5616 | BRIDGE Production Act of 2023 | October 26, 2023

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Wesley Hunt (R-Texas) and Jerry Carl (R-Ala.)

H.R. 5616, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **22 to 17**.

September 20, 2023 Markup

H.R. 929 | Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act of 2023

To take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.)

H.R. 929, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 934

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), and John Duarte (R-Calif.)

H.R. 934, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by voice vote.

H.R. 1786 | Get Rewarding Outdoor Work for our Veterans Act (GROW) Act

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Warrior Training Advancement Course, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to administer a pilot program to employ veterans in positions that relate to conservation and resource management activities of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Mike Levin (D-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

H.R. 1786, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 3448 | American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act

To amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America's battlefields.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Jen Kiggans (R-Virg.) and Susie Lee (D-Nev.)

H.R. 3448, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 4051 | The Supporting the Health of Aquatic systems through Research, Knowledge, and Enhanced Dialogue (SHARKED) Act

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Garret Graves (R-La.) and Daniel Webster (R-Fla.)

H.R. 4051, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 4596 | Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Reauthorization Act of 2023

To reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.)

H.R. 4596 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

July 26, 2023 Markup

H.R. 2717 | Hershel ‘Woody’ Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act

To authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Blake Moore (R-Utah) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. John Curtis (R-Utah), Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.), Joe Neguse (D-Colo.), Wesley Hunt (R-Texas), Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.), Mike Levin (D-Calif.), Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)

H.R. 2717, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **29 to 0**.

H.R. 2997 | Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act (CONVEY) Act

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain federal land in Colorado, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.)

H.R. 2997, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by voice vote.

H.R. 3049 | Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Exchange Act of 2023

To provide for the exchange of certain federal land and state land in the state of Utah.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah)

H.R. 3049 was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **30 to 0**.

H.R. 3499 | Direct Hire to Fight Fires Act

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide direct hire authority to appoint individuals to Federal wildland firefighting and firefighting support positions in the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Darrel Issa (R-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.)

H.R. 3499, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by a roll call vote of **32 to 0**.

H.R. 3675 | Western Water Accelerated Revenue Repayment Act

To amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to extend certain contract prepayment authority.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), and Tom McClintock (R-Calif.)

H.R. 3675, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **22 to 14**.

H.R. 4141 | Broadband for Americans through Responsible Streamlining Act (BARS) Act

To provide that certain communications projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho)

H.R. 414, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **22 to 13**.

H.R. 1318 | Women’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act

To authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women’s suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Jennifer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico), Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M), Susie Lee (D-Nev.), Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.) and Katie Porter (D-Calif.)

H.R. 1318 was ordered favorably reported by a roll call vote of **32 to 0**.

H.R. 1722 | Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023

To amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas (D-Ore.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Val Hoyle (D-Ore.), Jennifer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico), Katie Porter (D-Calif.), Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M), Susie Lee (D-Nev.), Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.) and Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.)

H.R. 1722 was ordered favorably reported by a roll call vote of **32 to 0**.

H.R. 4377

To amend the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 with respect to extensions, additions, and revisions to the Barry M. Goldwater Range in Arizona.

Introduced by Committee Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.)

H.R. 4377 was ordered favorably reported by a roll call vote of **32 to 0**.

July 19, 2023 Markup

H.R. 4374 | Energy Opportunities for All Act

To nullify Public Land Order No. 7923, withdrawing certain land in San Juan County, New Mexico, from mineral entry.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Eli Crane (R-Ariz.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) and Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.)

H.R. 4374 was ordered favorably reported by a roll call vote of **22 to 16**.

H.R. 1607

To clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Schweikert (R-Ariz.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.)

H.R. 1607 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 2839

To amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle (D-Ore.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas (D-Ore.)

H.R. 2839 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

June 21, 2023 Markup

H.R. 615 | Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023

To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) and Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

H.R. 615, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **21 to 15**.

H.R. 1380 | Protecting America’s Rock-Climbing Act

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to issue guidance on climbing management in designated wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah)

H.R. 1380, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 1726 | Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2023

To require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-Hawaii)

H.R. 1726, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 2872

To amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow states to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. John Duarte (R-Calif.)

H.R. 2872, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 3324

To extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.)

H.R. 3324 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 3397 | The WEST Act of 2023

To require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw a rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to conservation and landscape health.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.) and Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 3397, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by roll call vote of **20** to **16**.

June 13, 2023 Markup

H.R. 188 | Proven Forest Management Act

To direct the secretary concerned to coordinate with impacted parties when conducting a forest management activity, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), James Moylan (R-Guam) and Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 188, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **23 to 17**.

H.R. 1240 | Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023

To transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-Iowa)

H.R. 1240, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 1314 | Lodging Options Developed for Government Employees (LODGE) Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships to develop housing, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Blake Moore (R-Utah)

H.R. 1314 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 1450 | Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 1450, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **39 to 0**.

H.R. 3371 | Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.)

H.R. 3371 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 3389 | Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023

To require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an evaluation with respect to the use of the container aerial firefighting system (CAFFS), and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. John Curtis (R-Utah) and Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.)

H.R. 3389, as amended, was ordered favorably by unanimous consent.

H.R. 3562 | Forest Service Flexible Housing Partnerships Act of 2023

To amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize Forest Service flexible housing partnerships.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.)

H.R. 3562, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

May 17, 2023 Markup

H. Con. Res. 34

Expressing disapproval of the withdrawal by the Secretary of the Interior of approximately 225,504 acres of National Forest System lands in Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, Minnesota, from disposition under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H. Con. Res. 34 was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **17 to 15**.

H.R. 200 | Forest Information Reform (FIR) Act

To amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are not required to reinitiate consultation on a land management plan or land use plan under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 200, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **22 to 17**.

H.R. 1586 | Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023

To allow the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use a fire retardant, chemical, or water for fire suppression, control, or prevention activities.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), James Moylan (R-Guam), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.) and Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 1586, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **22 to 17**.

H.R. 2989 | Save Our Sequoias (SOS) Act

To improve the health and resiliency of Giant Sequoias, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) | Original Committee Cosponsors: House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and U.S. Reps. Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), John Curtis (R-Utah), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) and Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

H.R. 2989, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by voice vote.

H. R. 3195 | Superior National Forest Restoration Act

To rescind Public Land Order 7917, to reinstate mineral leases and permits in the Superior National Forest, to ensure timely review of Mine Plans of Operations, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.)

H.R. 3195, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **21 to 17**.

April 27, 2023 Markup

H.J. Res. 29

To provide for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment.”

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Tracey Mann (R-Kansas) | Committee Cosponsors: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), John Duarte (R-Calif.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) and Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

H.J. Res. 29 was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **16 to 12**.

H. Con. Res 46

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat.”

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Matt Rosendale (R-Colo.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.), David Valadao (R-Calif.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

H.J. Res. 46 was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **17 to 12**.

H.J. Res. 49

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States 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.”

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

H.J. Res. 49 was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **17 to 12**.

H.R. 215 | WATER for California Act

To provide long-term water supply and reliability to California, and for other purposes. The reported legislation included language from H.R. 186, the Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act, sponsored by Rep. Tom McClintock. This language clarifies that if there’s a potential project on Interior or Agriculture Department lands, then the Bureau of Reclamation shall be the coordinating agency for the permits or a “one-stop shop” permitting agency.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. John Duarte (R-Calif.), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.) and Tom McClintock (R-Calif.)

H.R. 215, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **22 to 17**.

H.R. 764 | Trust the Science Act

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), James Moylan (R-Guam), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) and Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

H.R. 764 was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **21 to 16**.

H. R. 1245 | Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2023

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a final rule relating to removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.) and Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 1245 was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **21 to 17**.

H.R. 1319 | Biking on Long-Distance Trails (BOLT) Act

To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop long-distance bike trails on federal land.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Neguse (D-Colo.) | Committee Cosponsor: U.S. Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah)

H.R. 1319 was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 1419 | Comprehensive Grizzly Bear Management Act of 2023

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue a new rule removing the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Reps. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.) and Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 1419 was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **22 to 17**.

H.R. 1567 | Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions (ACRES) Act

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

H.R. 1567, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

March 9, 2023 Markup

H.R. 1335 | Transparency, Accountability, Permitting and Production of American Resources Act

To restart onshore and offshore oil, gas, and coal leasing, streamline permitting for energy infrastructure, ensure transparency in energy development on federal lands, and for other purposes.

Introduced by House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) | Committee Cosponsors: U.S. Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.) and U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

H.R. 1335, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by a roll call vote of **24 to 19**.

