

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 29, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you, your families, and constituents are safe and sound during this ongoing pandemic. I look forward to seeing all of you in person as soon as it is safe to do so.

During this crisis, the Committee Majority has hosted eight online forums, featuring discussions with 32 panelists, streamed live to the public. Two of these forums were designed to be bipartisan.

The Majority plans to host four more online forums in June, including discussions on reclaiming abandoned wells, standards for reopening national parks, building a climate-friendly economic recovery, and the impacts of the pandemic on our ability to respond to wildfire season. Our Republican colleagues will be invited to participate in these forums and are of course free to organize their own events. I am grateful to the Members and staff for their patience, creativity, and skill in adapting to these new circumstances so that our work could continue.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the House adopted H.Res. 965 which, among other provisions, authorizes House Committees to conduct official hearings and business meetings online. As a result, our Committee will begin holding official hearings and mark-ups, conducted pursuant to the Resolution and the regulations promulgated by the Rules Committee, in June.

We will begin with a full committee hearing on June 11<sup>th</sup> to hear testimony from Natalie Jaresko, the Executive Director of the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico. That will be followed by two hearings in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee, and one in the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee later in the month.

Members will receive official notice of these hearings pursuant to our rules. In addition, Members will be invited to participate in a practice hearing and mark-up on June 5<sup>th</sup> in order to prepare for this new format. I urge each of you to review the precise language of the Resolution and the regulations, as there are several important differences in the process for these online meetings.

Members have expressed concerns about the practicality and even the legality of official Congressional business conducted online. Chair McGovern laid out the Constitutional underpinnings of this new authority in written materials circulated prior to the vote on H.Res. 965 and during floor debate on the measure. If you have concerns, please review the material provided by the Rules Committee.

Every employer, educational institution, court, and government in the country is finding ways to conduct business remotely and so must the U.S. Congress. I look forward to working together to continue our important work during this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chair  
Committee on Natural Resources