

August 30, 2021

Chair Raúl Grijalva
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Grijalva,


America is facing a litany of crises. Countless Americans and our allies remain stranded in Afghanistan as a result of President Biden's botched withdrawal. Democrats in Congress and in the administration have yet to put forward a way to solve President Biden's border security crisis. Millions of Americans are living under emergency declarations related to the hurricanes and catastrophic wildfires ravaging our nation. As such, your decision to call a markup on September 2 to take up a partisan piece of reckless spending legislation is misguided. We write to request you postpone the House Committee on Natural Resources' markup scheduled for September 2, 2021 and join us in urging Speaker Pelosi to call the House back into an emergency session.

We have grave concerns about the extremely partisan budget reconciliation package slated for consideration, as it will attack safe and reliable American energy production, resurrect arcane work programs at a time when employers are already struggling to get people back into the workforce, pile insurmountable debt on future generations, make the U.S. more dependent on foreign adversaries like China, and hamstring our recovering economy. For these and many other reasons, we stand ready to oppose this egregious display of party politics.

However, this week is not the time for the committee's majority to be advancing partisan wish lists. Thousands of Afghan refugees are arriving to the U.S. daily with no long-term resettlement plan. Hurricane Ida is ravaging the Gulf Coast. Wildfires are decimating vast swaths of our country, destroying homes, property, and wildlife habitats. A humanitarian, public safety and environmental crisis continues to rage as a result of this administration's failure to secure our southern border. America is facing crises both at home and abroad, yet Congress is nowhere to be found. It is past time for us to come back to D.C. and tackle the critical needs of our country.

We cannot address these issues if we are bogged down in a morass of reckless spending. This is why we are calling on you to postpone the committee's markup until the crises facing our nation today are resolved. Throughout American history, this body has risen to the occasion and seen our country through the most trying of times. With proper leadership, there's no reason we can't do it again. Americans at risk, both at home and abroad, deserve nothing less.

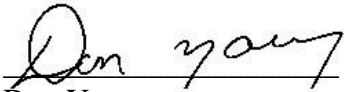
Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member



Louie Gohmert
Vice Ranking Member



Don Young
Ranking Member
Indigenous Peoples of the United States
Subcommittee



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Ranking Member
Oversight and Investigations
Subcommittee



Russ Fulcher
Ranking Member
National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
Subcommittee



Pete Stauber
Ranking Member
Energy and Mineral Resources
Subcommittee



Cliff Bentz
Ranking Member
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Subcommittee

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives