

**Union Calendar No. 696**

114TH CONGRESS }  
*2d Session*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT  
114-886

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
DURING THE  
ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION  
JANUARY 6, 2015—DECEMBER 18, 2015  
SECOND SESSION  
JANUARY 4, 2016—JANUARY 3, 2017  
together with  
SUPPLEMENTAL AND DISSENTING VIEWS



DECEMBER 22, 2016.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House  
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

23-127

WASHINGTON : 2016

## COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

### FULL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

ROB BISHOP, Utah, *Chairman*

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, Arizona, *Ranking Democratic Member*

DON YOUNG, Alaska	GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, California
LOUIE GOHMERT, Texas	MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, Guam
DOUG LAMBORN, Colorado	JIM COSTA, California
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, Virginia	GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, Northern Mariana Islands
JOHN FLEMING, Louisiana	NIKI TSONGAS, Massachusetts
TOM McCLINTOCK, California	PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, Puerto Rico
GLENN THOMPSON, Pennsylvania	JARED HUFFMAN, California
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, Wyoming	RAUL RUIZ, California
DAN BENISHEK, Michigan	ALAN S. LOWENTHAL, California
JEFF DUNCAN, South Carolina	DONALD S. BEYER JR., Virginia
PAUL A. GOSAR, Arizona	NORMA J. TORRES, California
RAUL R. LABRADOR, Idaho	DEBBIE DINGELL, Michigan
DOUG LAMALFA, California	RUBEN GALLEGO, Arizona
JEFF DENHAM, California	LOIS CAPPAS, California
PAUL COOK, California	JARED POLIS, Colorado
BRUCE WESTERMAN, Arkansas	WM. LACY CLAY, Missouri
GARRET GRAVES, Louisiana	<i>Vacancy</i>
DAN NEWHOUSE, Washington	
RYAN K. ZINKE, Montana	
JODY B. HICE, Georgia	
AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, American Samoa	
THOMAS MACARTHUR, New Jersey	
ALEXANDER X. MOONEY, West Virginia	
CRESENT HARDY, Nevada	
DARIN LAHOOD, Illinois	

On January 6, 2015, pursuant to H.Res. 6, Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah was elected to the Committee.

On January 6, 2015, pursuant to H.Res. 7, Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva of Arizona was elected to the Committee.

On January 13, 2015, pursuant to H.Res. 29, Majority (Republican) Members (25) were elected to the Committee.

On January 13, 2015, pursuant to H.Res. 30, Minority (Democrat) Members (11) were elected to the Committee.

On January 21, 2015, pursuant to H.Res. 40, Minority (Democrat) Members (4) were elected to the Committee.

On April 22, 2015, Rep. Mark Takai of Hawaii resigned from the Committee.

On May 14, 2015, Rep. Bradley Byrne of Alabama resigned from the Committee.

On July 28, 2015, pursuant to H.Res. 387, Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay of Missouri was elected to the Committee.

On September 28, 2015, pursuant to H.Res. 442, Rep. Darin LaHood of Illinois was elected to the Committee.

On September 13, 2016, Rep. Matt Cartwright of Pennsylvania resigned from the Committee.

JASON KNOX, *Staff Director*

TODD UNGERECHE, *Deputy Staff Director*

LISA PITTMAN, *Chief Counsel*

DAVID WATKINS, *Democratic Staff Director*

JOYCELYN COLEMAN, *Calendar Clerk*

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RESOURCES

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ALAN S. LOWENTHAL, California, *Ranking Democratic Member*

LOUIE GOHMERT, Texas	JIM COSTA, California
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, Virginia	NIKI TSONGAS, Massachusetts
JOHN FLEMING, Louisiana	DONALD S. BEYER JR., Virginia
GLENN THOMPSON, Pennsylvania	RUBEN GALLEG0, Arizona
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, Wyoming	LOIS CAPPs, California
DAN BENISHEK, Michigan	JARED POLIS, Colorado
JEFF DUNCAN, South Carolina	<i>Vacancy</i>
PAUL A. GOSAR, Arizona	<i>Vacancy</i>
RAUL R. LABRADOR, Idaho	<i>Vacancy</i>
PAUL COOK, California	<i>Vacancy</i>
GARRET GRAVES, Louisiana	<i>Vacancy</i>
RYAN K. ZINKE, Montana	<i>Vacancy</i>
JODY B. HICE, Georgia	<i>Vacancy</i>
ALEXANDER X. MOONEY, West Virginia	RAUL M. GRIJALVA, Arizona ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )
CRESENT HARDY, Nevada	
ROB BISHOP, Utah ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )	

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

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RAUL R. LABRADOR, Idaho	DEBBIE DINGELL, Michigan
DOUG LAMALFA, California	LOIS CAPPs, California
BRUCE WESTERMAN, Arkansas	JARED POLIS, Colorado
DAN NEWHOUSE, Washington	<i>Vacancy</i>
RYAN K. ZINKE, Montana	<i>Vacancy</i>
JODY B. HICE, Georgia	<i>Vacancy</i>
THOMAS MACARTHUR, New Jersey	<i>Vacancy</i>
CRESENT HARDY, Nevada	RAUL M. GRIJALVA, Arizona ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )
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JEFF DENHAM, California	NORMA J. TORRES, California
PAUL COOK, California	RAUL M. GRIJALVA, Arizona ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )
AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, American Samoa	
ROB BISHOP, Utah ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )	

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BRUCE WESTERMAN, Arkansas	JARED POLIS, Colorado
JODY B. HICE, Georgia	WM. LACY CLAY, Missouri
AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, American Samoa	<i>Vacancy</i>
ALEXANDER X. MOONEY, West Virginia	RAUL M. GRIJALVA, Arizona ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )
DARIN LAHOOD, Illinois	
ROB BISHOP, Utah ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )	

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JARED HUFFMAN, California, *Ranking Democratic Member*

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ROBERT J. WITTMAN, Virginia	JIM COSTA, California
TOM McCLINTOCK, California	RUBEN GALLEG0, Arizona
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, Wyoming	MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, Guam
JEFF DUNCAN, South Carolina	GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, Northern Mariana Islands
PAUL A. GOSAR, Arizona	RAUL RUIZ, California
DOUG LAMALFA, California	ALAN S. LOWENTHAL, California
JEFF DENHAM, California	NORMA J. TORRES, California
GARRET GRAVES, Louisiana	DEBBIE DINGELL, Michigan
DAN NEWHOUSE, Washington	RAUL M. GRIJALVA, Arizona ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )
THOMAS MACARTHUR, New Jersey	
ROB BISHOP, Utah ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )	

## STAFF ROSTER

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TODD UNGERECHT, *Deputy Staff Director*  
MOLLY BLOCK, *Deputy Press Secretary*  
PARISH BRADEN, *Communications Director*  
ILENE CLAUSON, *Director of Operations*  
JOYCELYN COLEMAN, *Calendar Clerk*  
ELISE DANIEL, *Press Secretary*  
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HEATHER DOUGLASS, *Press Assistant*  
MICHAEL FREEMAN, *Counsel*  
REBECCA KONOLIGE, *Staff Assistant*  
ANDREW NAM, *Staff Assistant*  
CHARLES PARK, *Deputy Chief Counsel*  
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ADAM SARVANA, *Communications Director*  
DANIEL TORREZ, *Staff Assistant*  
CRISTINA VILLA, *Manager of Operations*  
DAVID WATKINS, *Staff Director*

### SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

1522 Longworth HOB, 202-225-9297

William Cooper, *Subcommittee Staff Director*  
Joshua Hoffman, *Professional Staff*  
Katharine MacGregor, *Senior Professional Staff*  
Sean Stewart, *Counsel*  
Andrew Vecera, *Counsel*  
Steve Feldgus, *Democratic Senior Energy Policy Advisor*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

1332 Longworth HOB, 202-226-7736

ERICA RHOAD, *Subcommittee Staff Director*  
ROGER BRENT BLEVINS, *Senior Professional Staff*  
ANIELA BUTLER, *Professional Staff*  
TERRY CAMP, *Professional Staff*  
WILL LAYDEN, *Clerk*  
BRANDON BRAGATO, *Democratic Professional Staff*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN, INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

4450 O'Neill FOB, 202-226-9725

CHRISTOPHER FLUHR, *Subcommittee Staff Director*  
MARC ALBERTS, *Professional Staff*  
KENNETH DEGENFELDER, *Legislative Staff*  
ALEXANDER PEREZ, *Clerk*  
CHRIS KAUMO, *Democratic Professional Staff*  
BRIAN MODESTE, *Democratic Counsel*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

4170 O'Neill, FOB, 202-225-7107

ROBERT GORDON, *Subcommittee Staff Director*  
WESLEY GWINN, *Clerk*  
CASEY HAMMOND, *Senior Advisor*  
CHRISTEN HARSHA, *Research Assistant*  
MEGAN OLMSTEAD, *Counsel Christopher*  
CHRISTOPHER SANTINI, *Counsel*  
SANG YI, *Senior Counsel*  
VIC EDGERTON, *Democratic Director of Investigations*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

4120 O'Neill, FOB, 202-225-8331

KIEL WEAVER, *Subcommittee Staff Director*  
WILLIAM BALL, *Professional Staff*  
RICHARD O'CONNELL, *Clerk*  
BRYSON WONG, *Professional Staff*  
MATTHEW MUIRRAGUI, *Democratic Professional Staff*  
MATTHEW STRICKLER, *Democratic Professional Staff*



## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
*December 22, 2016.*

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives,  
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MS. HAAS: Pursuant to Clause 1(d)(1) of rule XI and rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby submit the Report on the Activities of the Committee on Natural Resources for the 114th Congress.

This report summarizes the specific activities of the Committee with respect to its legislative and oversight responsibilities and encompasses the period of January 6, 2015 through January 3, 2017. Also contained herein are submissions from the Democratic Ranking Member, Mr. Raúl Grijalva, which states “Supplemental Views” and “Dissenting Views”.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,  
*Chairman.*



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NATURAL RESOURCES 114TH CONGRESS

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DECEMBER 22, 2016.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
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Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Natural Resources,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

SUPPLEMENTAL AND DISSENTING VIEWS

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COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

The Committee on Natural Resources met on January 28, 2015, for an organizational meeting of the 114th Congress under the direction of Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah. The Committee membership was 44 Members with 26 Republicans and 18 Democrats.

The Committee established five subcommittees: Energy and Mineral Resources (Doug Lamborn of Colorado, Chairman); Federal Lands (Tom McClintock of California, Chairman); Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs (Don Young of Alaska, Chairman); Oversight and Investigations (Louie Gohmert of Texas, Chairman); and Water, Power and Oceans (John Fleming of Louisiana, Chairman).

JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources, as prescribed by clause (m)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House is as follows:

- (1) Fisheries and wildlife, including research, restoration, refuges, and conservation.
- (2) Forest reserves and national parks created from the public domain.
- (3) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands.

- (4) Geological Survey.
- (5) International fishing agreements.
- (6) Interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes.
- (7) Irrigation and reclamation, including water supply for reclamation projects and easements of public lands for irrigation projects; and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects.
- (8) Native Americans generally, including the care and allotment of Native American lands and general and special measures relating to claims that are paid out of Native American funds.
- (9) Insular areas of the United States generally (except those affecting the revenue and appropriations).
- (10) Military parks and battlefields, national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, parks within the District of Columbia, and the erection of monuments to the memory of individuals.
- (11) Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder.
- (12) Mineral resources of the public lands.
- (13) Mining interests generally.
- (14) Mining schools and experimental stations.
- (15) Marine affairs, including coastal zone management (except for measures relating to oil and other pollution of navigable waters).
- (16) Oceanography.
- (17) Petroleum conservation on public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States.
- (18) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain.
- (19) Public lands generally, including entry, easements, and the grazing thereon.
- (20) Relations of the United States with Native Americans and Native American tribes.
- (21) Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline (except ratemaking).

#### RULES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

*(Adopted January 28, 2015)*

##### RULE 1. RULES OF THE HOUSE; VICE CHAIRMEN

###### (a) Applicability of House Rules.

(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives, so far as they are applicable, are the rules of the Committee on Natural Resources (hereinafter in these rules referred to as the “Committee”) and its Subcommittees.

(2) Each Subcommittee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority, direction and rules of the Committee. References in these rules to “Committee” and “Chairman” shall apply to each Subcommittee and its Chairman wherever applicable.

(3) House Rule XI is incorporated and made a part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

(b) Vice Chairmen.—Unless inconsistent with other rules, the Chairman shall appoint Vice Chairmen of the Committee and the Subcommittees. If the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee is not present at any meeting of the Committee or Sub-

committee, as the case may be, the Vice Chairman shall preside. If the Vice Chairman is not present, the ranking Member of the Majority party on the Committee or Subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

#### RULE 2. MEETINGS IN GENERAL

(a) **Scheduled Meetings.**—The Committee shall meet at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month when the House is in session if so noticed by the Chairman under Committee Rule 3(a). The Committee shall also meet at the call of the Chairman subject to advance notice to all Members of the Committee. Special meetings shall be called and convened by the Chairman as provided in clause 2(c)(1) of House Rule XI. Any Committee meeting or hearing that conflicts with a party caucus, conference, or similar party meeting shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member. The Committee may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

(b) **Open Meetings.**—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing of the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be open to the public, except as provided by clause 2(g) and clause 2(k) of House Rule XI.

(c) **Broadcasting.**—Whenever a meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clauses 2(a)(1) and 4 of House Rule XI. The provisions of clause 4(f) of House Rule XI are specifically made part of these rules by reference. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and visual coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings, and maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

(d) **Oversight Plan.**—No later than February 15 of the first session of each Congress, the Committee shall adopt its oversight plans for that Congress in accordance with clause 2(d)(1) of House Rule X.

#### RULE 3. MEETING AND HEARING PROCEDURES IN GENERAL

(a) **Notice and Information for Members and the Public.**

(1) The Chairman shall publicly announce the date, place and subject matter of: (i) a Committee hearing, which may not commence earlier than one week after such notice; or (ii) a Committee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof.

(2) A hearing or meeting may begin sooner if the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting or hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote. In these cases, the Chairman shall publicly announce the meeting or hearing at the

earliest possible time. The Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record and shall promptly make publicly available in electronic form the appropriate information as soon as possible after the public announcement is made.

(3) To the extent practicable, a background memorandum prepared by the Majority staff summarizing the major provisions of any bill being considered by the Committee, including the need for the bill and its effect on current law, will be available for the Members of the Committee and the public no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

(b) Public Availability of Markup Text.—At least 24 hours prior to the markup of any legislation (or at the time of an announcement under paragraph (a)(2) above made within 24 hours before such meeting), the Chairman shall cause the text of such legislation to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(c) Meetings and Hearings to Begin Promptly.—Each meeting or hearing of the Committee shall begin promptly at the time stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(d) Addressing the Committee.—A Committee Member may address the Committee or a Subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration or may question a witness at a hearing only when recognized by the Chairman for that purpose. The time a Member may address the Committee or Subcommittee for any purpose or to question a witness shall be limited to five minutes, except as provided in Committee Rule 4(f). A Member shall limit his remarks to the subject matter under consideration. The Chairman shall enforce the preceding provision.

(e) Quorums.

(1) A majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of any measure or recommendation, the authorizing of a subpoena, the closing of any meeting or hearing to the public under clause 2(g)(1), clause 2(g)(2)(A) and clause 2(k)(5)(B) of House Rule XI, and the releasing of executive session materials under clause 2(k)(7) of House Rule X. Testimony and evidence may be received at any hearing at which there are at least two Members of the Committee present. For the purpose of transacting all other business of the Committee, one third of the Members shall constitute a quorum.

(2) When a call of the roll is required to ascertain the presence of a quorum, the offices of all Members shall be notified and the Members shall have not less than 15 minutes to prove their attendance. The Chairman shall have the discretion to waive this requirement when a quorum is actually present or whenever a quorum is secured and may direct the relevant Committee Staff to note the names of all Members present within the 15-minute period.

(f) Participation of Members in Committee and Subcommittees.—Any Member of the Committee may sit with any Subcommittee during any meeting or hearing, and by unanimous consent of the Members of the Subcommittee, may participate in such meeting or hearing. However, a Member who is not a Member of the Subcommittee may not vote on any matter before the Subcommittee, be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum or raise points of order.

(g) Proxies.—No vote in the Committee or its Subcommittees may be cast by proxy.



(h) Record Votes.—Record votes shall be ordered on the demand of one-fifth of the Members present, or by any Member in the apparent absence of a quorum.

(i) Postponed Record Votes.

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Chairman may, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman shall resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time after reasonable notice, but no later than the next meeting day.

(2) Notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, when proceedings resume on a postponed question under paragraph (1), an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(3) This rule shall apply to Subcommittee proceedings.

(j) Privileged Motions.—A motion to recess from day to day, a motion to recess subject to the call of the Chairman (within 24 hours), and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution if printed copies are available, are nondebatable motions of high privilege.

(k) Layover and Copy of Bill.—No measure or recommendation reported by a Subcommittee shall be considered by the Committee until two calendar days from the time of Subcommittee action. No bill shall be considered by the Committee unless a copy has been delivered to the office of each Member of the Committee requesting a copy. These requirements may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee at the time of consideration of the measure or recommendation.

(l) Access to Dais and Conference Room.—Access to the hearing rooms' daises (and to the conference rooms adjacent to the Committee hearing rooms) shall be limited to Members of Congress and employees of the Committee during a meeting or hearing of the Committee, except that Committee Members' personal staff may be present on the daises if their employing Member is the author of a bill or amendment under consideration by the Committee, but only during the time that the bill or amendment is under active consideration by the Committee. Access to the conference rooms adjacent to the Committee hearing rooms shall be limited to Members of Congress and employees of Congress during a meeting or hearing of the Committee.

(m) Cellular Telephones.—The use of cellular telephones is prohibited on the Committee dais or in the Committee hearing rooms during a meeting or hearing of the Committee.

(n) Motion to go to Conference with the Senate.—The Chairman may offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

#### RULE 4. HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) Written Statement; Oral Testimony.—Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a Subcommittee shall file with the relevant Full Committee Staff or Subcommittee Clerk, at least two working days before the day of his or her appearance, a written statement of their proposed testimony. Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a five-minute summary of the written

statement, unless the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, extends this time period. Subject to the approval of the Committee, the Chairman may waive oral testimony of any witness who has submitted written testimony for the record. In addition, a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the previous calendar years by the witness or by the entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. The disclosure shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Failure to comply with these disclosure requirements may result in the exclusion of the written testimony from the hearing record and/or the barring of an oral presentation of the testimony.

(b) *Minority Witnesses.*—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the Minority party Members on the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those Minority Members before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(c) *Information for Members.*—After announcement of a hearing, the Committee shall make available as soon as practicable to all Members of the Committee a tentative witness list and to the extent practicable the Majority staff shall make publicly available a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing (including relevant legislative reports and other necessary material). In addition, the Chairman shall make available to the Members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter as they are received.

(d) *Subpoenas.*—The Committee or a Subcommittee may authorize and issue a subpoena under clause 2(m) of House Rule XI if authorized by a majority of the Members voting. In addition, the Chairman of the Committee may authorize and issue subpoenas during any period of time in which the House of Representatives has adjourned for more than three days. Subpoenas shall be signed only by the Chairman of the Committee, or any Member of the Committee authorized by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman or Member.

(e) *Oaths.*—The Chairman of the Committee, the Chairmen of the Subcommittees or any Member designated by the Chairman may administer oaths to any witness before the Committee. All witnesses appearing in hearings may be administered the following oath by the Chairman or his designee prior to receiving the testimony: “Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God”

(f) *Opening Statements; Questioning of Witnesses.*

(1) Opening statements by Members may not be presented orally, unless the Chairman or his designee makes a statement, in which case the Ranking Minority Member or his designee may also make

a statement. In addition, the Vice Chairman may make a statement, in which case, a designee of the Ranking Minority Member may also make a statement. If a witness scheduled to testify at any hearing of the Committee is a constituent of a Member of the Committee, that Member shall be entitled to briefly introduce the witness at the hearing.

(2) The questioning of witnesses in Committee and Subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chairman, followed by the Ranking Minority Member and all other Members alternating between the Majority and Minority parties. In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the Majority to Minority Members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in a manner so as not to disadvantage the Members of the Majority or the Members of the Minority. A motion is in order to allow designated Majority and Minority party Members to question a witness for a specified period to be equally divided between the Majority and Minority parties. This period shall not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(g) Materials for Hearing Record.—Any materials submitted specifically for inclusion in the hearing record must address the announced subject matter of the hearing and be submitted to the relevant Full Committee Staff or Subcommittee Clerk no later than 10 business days following the last day of the hearing.

(h) Claims of Privilege.—Claims of common-law privileges made by witnesses in hearings, or by interviewees or deponents in investigations or inquiries, are applicable only at the discretion of the Chairman, subject to appeal to the Committee.

#### RULE 5. FILING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Duty of Chairman.—Whenever the Committee authorizes the favorable reporting of a measure from the Committee, the Chairman or his designee shall report the same to the House of Representatives and shall take all steps necessary to secure its passage without any additional authority needing to be set forth in the motion to report each individual measure. In appropriate cases, the authority set forth in this rule shall extend to moving in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives that the House be resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the measure; and to moving in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives for the disposition of a Senate measure that is substantially the same as the House measure as reported.

(b) Filing.—A report on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House of Representatives is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the relevant Full Committee Staff a written request, signed by a majority of the Members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing with the relevant Full Committee Staff of this request, the Staff shall transmit immediately to the Chairman notice of the filing of that request.

(c) Supplemental, Additional, Dissenting or Minority Views.—Any Member may, if notice is given by any Member at the time a measure or matter is approved by the Committee, file supplemental, additional, dissenting or minority views. These views must

be in writing and signed by each Member joining therein and be filed with the Committee Chief Counsel not less than two additional calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays except when the House is in session on those days) of the time the bill or resolution is approved by the Committee. This paragraph shall not preclude the filing of any supplemental report on any measure or matter that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee on that bill or resolution.

(d) Review by Members.—Each Member of the Committee shall be given an opportunity to review each proposed Committee report before it is filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Nothing in this paragraph extends the time allowed for filing supplemental, additional or minority views under paragraph (c).

(e) Disclaimer.—All Committee or Subcommittee reports printed and not approved by a majority vote of the Committee or Subcommittee, as appropriate, shall contain the following disclaimer on the cover of the report:

“This report has not been officially adopted by the {Committee on Natural Resources} {Subcommittee} and may not therefore necessarily reflect the views of its Members.”

RULE 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES; FULL COMMITTEE  
JURISDICTION; BILL REFERRALS

(a) Subcommittees.—There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee, with the following jurisdiction and responsibilities:

*Subcommittee on Federal Lands*

(1) Measures and matters related to the National Park System and its units, including Federal reserved water rights.

(2) The National Wilderness Preservation System.

(3) Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Trails System, national heritage areas and other national units established for protection, conservation, preservation or recreational development, other than coastal barriers.

(4) Military parks and battlefields, national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, parks in and within the vicinity of the District of Columbia and the erection of monuments to the memory of individuals.

(5) Federal and non-Federal outdoor recreation plans, programs and administration including the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 and the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963.

(6) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain and other historic preservation programs and activities, including national monuments, historic sites and programs for international cooperation in the field of historic preservation.

(7) Matters concerning the following agencies and programs: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program, Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial.

(8) Public lands generally, including measures or matters relating to entry, easements, withdrawals, grazing and Federal reserved water rights.

(9) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands.

(10) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

(11) Forest reservations, including management thereof, created from the public domain.

(12) Public forest lands generally, including measures or matters related to entry, easements, withdrawals, grazing and Federal reserved water rights.

(13) Wildlife resources, including research, restoration, refuges and conservation, and National Wildlife Refuges.

*Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans*

(1) Generation and marketing of electric power from Federal water projects by Federally chartered or Federal regional power marketing authorities.

(2) All measures and matters concerning water resources planning conducted pursuant to the Water Resources Planning Act, water resource research and development programs and saline water research and development.

(3) Compacts relating to the use and apportionment of interstate waters, water rights and major interbasin water or power movement programs.

(4) All measures and matters pertaining to irrigation and reclamation projects and other water resources development and recycling programs, including policies and procedures.

(5) Indian water rights and settlements.

(6) Rights of way over public lands for energy-related transmission.

(7) Fisheries management and fisheries research generally, including the management of all commercial and recreational fisheries (including the reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act), interjurisdictional fisheries, international fisheries agreements, aquaculture, seafood safety, and fisheries promotion.

(8) All matters pertaining to the protection of coastal and marine environments, estuarine protection, and coastal barriers (except coastal zone management).

(9) Oceanography.

(10) Ocean engineering, including materials, technology and systems.

(11) Marine sanctuaries.

(12) U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

(13) All matters regarding Antarctica within the Committee's jurisdiction.

(14) Sea Grant programs and marine extension services.

(15) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

*Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources*

(1) All measures and matters concerning the U.S. Geological Survey, except for the activities and programs of the Water Resources Division or its successor.

(2) All measures and matters affecting geothermal resources.

(3) Conservation of United States uranium supply.

(4) Mining interests generally, including all matters involving mining regulation and enforcement, including the reclamation of mined lands, the environmental effects of mining, and the management of mineral receipts, mineral land laws and claims, long-range mineral programs and deep seabed mining.

(5) Mining schools, experimental stations and long-range mineral programs.

(6) Mineral resources on public lands.

(7) Conservation and development of oil and gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf.

(8) Petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States.

(9) Measures and matters concerning the transportation of natural gas from or within Alaska and disposition of oil transported by the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

(10) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

(11) Coastal zone management.

*Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs*

(1) Measures relating to the welfare of Native Americans, including management of Indian lands in general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds.

(2) All matters regarding the relations of the United States with Native Americans and Native American tribes, including special oversight functions under House Rule X.

(3) All matters regarding Native Alaskans.

(4) All matters related to the Federal trust responsibility to Native Americans and the sovereignty of Native Americans.

(5) All matters regarding insular areas of the United States.

(6) All measures or matters regarding the Freely Associated States.

(7) All matters regarding Native Hawaiians.

*Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations*

(1) Primary and general oversight and investigative authority on all activities, policies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee under House Rule X.

(b) Full Committee.—The following measures and matters shall be retained at the Full Committee:

(1) Environmental and habitat measures of general applicability, including the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.

(2) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Full Committee under this paragraph.

(3) All other measures and matters retained by the Full Committee, including those retained under Committee Rule 6(e).

(4) General and continuing oversight and investigative authority over activities, policies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Full Committee.

(c) Ex-officio Members.—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio Members of each standing Subcommittee to which the Chairman or the Ranking Minority Member have not been assigned. Ex-officio Members shall have the right to fully participate in Subcommittee activities but may not vote and may not be counted in establishing a quorum.

(d) Powers and Duties of Subcommittees.—Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence and report to the Committee on all matters within its jurisdiction. Each Subcommittee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution and effectiveness of those statutes, or parts of statutes, the subject matter of which is within that Subcommittee's jurisdiction; and the organization, operation, and regulations of any Federal agency or entity having responsibilities in or for the administration of such statutes, to determine whether these statutes are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress. Each Subcommittee shall review and study any conditions or circumstances indicating the need of enacting new or supplemental legislation within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. Each Subcommittee shall have general and continuing oversight and investigative authority over activities, policies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

(e) Referral to Subcommittees; Recall.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and for those measures or matters retained at the Full Committee, every legislative measure or other matter referred to the Committee shall be referred to the maximum extent possible to the Subcommittee of jurisdiction within two weeks of the date of its referral to the Committee. If any measure or matter is within or affects the jurisdiction of one or more Subcommittees, the Chairman may refer that measure or matter simultaneously to two or more Subcommittees for concurrent consideration or for consideration in sequence subject to appropriate time limits, or divide the matter into two or more parts and refer each part to a Subcommittee.

(2) The Chairman, with the approval of a majority of the Majority Members of the Committee, may refer a legislative measure or other matter to a select or special Subcommittee. A legislative measure or other matter referred by the Chairman to a Subcommittee may be recalled from the Subcommittee for direct consideration by the Full Committee, or for referral to another Subcommittee, provided Members of the Committee receive one week written notice of the recall and a majority of the Members of the Committee do not object. In addition, a legislative measure or other matter referred by the Chairman to a Subcommittee may be recalled from the Subcommittee at any time by majority vote of the Committee for direct consideration by the Full Committee or for referral to another Subcommittee.

(f) Consultation.—Each Subcommittee Chairman shall consult with the Chairman of the Full Committee prior to setting dates for Subcommittee meetings and hearings with a view towards avoiding

whenever possible conflicting Committee and Subcommittee meetings and hearings.

(g) Vacancy.—A vacancy in the membership of a Subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining Members to execute the functions of the Subcommittee.

#### RULE 7. TASK FORCES, SPECIAL OR SELECT SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Appointment.—The Chairman of the Committee is authorized, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, to appoint Task Forces, or special or select Subcommittees, to carry out the duties and functions of the Committee.

(b) Ex-Officio Members.—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio Members of each Task Force, or special or select Subcommittee if they are not otherwise members. Ex-officio Members shall have the right to fully participate in activities but may not vote and may not be counted in establishing a quorum.

(c) Party Ratios.—The ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members, excluding ex-officio Members, on each Task Force, special or select Subcommittee shall be as close as practicable to the ratio on the Full Committee.

(d) Temporary Resignation.—A Member can temporarily resign his or her position on a Subcommittee to serve on a Task Force, special or select Subcommittee without prejudice to the Member's seniority on the Subcommittee.

(e) Chairman and Ranking Minority Member.—The Chairman of any Task Force, or special or select Subcommittee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee. The Ranking Minority Member shall select a Ranking Minority Member for each Task Force, or standing, special or select Subcommittee.

#### RULE 8. RECOMMENDATION OF CONFEREES

Whenever it becomes necessary to appoint conferees on a particular measure, the Chairman shall recommend to the Speaker as conferees those Majority Members, as well as those Minority Members recommended to the Chairman by the Ranking Minority Member, primarily responsible for the measure. The ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members recommended for conferences shall be no greater than the ratio on the Committee.

#### RULE 9. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) Segregation of Records.—All Committee records shall be kept separate and distinct from the office records of individual Committee Members serving as Chairmen or Ranking Minority Members. These records shall be the property of the House and all Members shall have access to them in accordance with clause 2(e)(2) of House Rule XI.

(b) Availability.—The Committee shall make available to the public for review at reasonable times in the Committee office transcripts of public meetings and hearings, except those that are unrevised or unedited and intended solely for the use of the Committee.

(c) Archived Records.—Records of the Committee which are deposited with the National Archives shall be made available for pub-



lic use pursuant to House Rule VII. The Chairman of the Committee shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of House Rule VII, to withhold, or to provide a time, schedule or condition for availability of any record otherwise available. At the written request of any Member of the Committee, the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination and shall be subject to the same notice and quorum requirements for the conduct of business under Committee Rule 3.

(d) Records of Closed Meetings.—Notwithstanding the other provisions of this rule, no records of Committee meetings or hearings which were closed to the public pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be released to the public unless the Committee votes to release those records in accordance with the procedure used to close the Committee meeting.

(e) Classified Materials.—All classified materials shall be maintained in an appropriately secured location and shall be released only to authorized persons for review, who shall not remove the material from the Committee offices without the written permission of the Chairman.

(f) Committee Information Available for the Public.—In addition to any other requirement of these rules or the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chairman shall cause to be made available publicly in electronic form the following:

(1) a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is taken which shall be posted no later than 24 hours after the vote is taken that shall include:

(i) a copy of the amendment or a detailed description of the motion, order or other proposition; and

(ii) the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, the names of those Members voting present, and the names of any Member not present.

(2) copies of all amendments adopted in Committee by voice vote or unanimous consent within 24 hours of the adoption of the amendment.

(3) the rules of the Committee, once adopted, and any amendments thereto, in accordance with clause 2(a)(2) of House Rule XI.

(4) the statements required under the second sentence of clause 2(g)(5) of House Rule XI, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of the witness, which shall be posted no later than one day after the witness appears before the Committee.

#### RULE 10. COMMITTEE BUDGET AND EXPENSES

(a) Budget.—At the beginning of each Congress, after consultation with the Chairman of each Subcommittee and the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman shall present to the Committee for its approval a budget covering the funding required for staff, travel, and miscellaneous expenses.

(b) Expense Resolution.—Upon approval by the Committee of each budget, the Chairman, acting pursuant to clause 6 of House Rule X, shall prepare and introduce in the House a supporting expense resolution, and take all action necessary to bring about its approval by the Committee on House Administration and by the House of Representatives.

(c) Amendments.—The Chairman shall report to the Committee any amendments to each expense resolution and any related changes in the budget.

(d) Additional Expenses.—Authorization for the payment of additional or unforeseen Committee expenses may be procured by one or more additional expense resolutions processed in the same manner as set out under this rule.

(e) Monthly Reports.—Copies of each monthly report, prepared by the Chairman for the Committee on House Administration, which shows expenditures made during the reporting period and cumulative for the year, anticipated expenditures for the projected Committee program, and detailed information on travel, shall be available to each Member.

#### RULE 11. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) Rules and Policies.—Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of House Rule X, as well as any written personnel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt.

(b) Majority and Nonpartisan Staff.—The Chairman shall appoint, determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative employees of the Committee not assigned to the Minority. The legislative and administrative staff of the Committee not assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of these staff members and delegate any authority he determines appropriate.

(c) Minority Staff.—The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall appoint, determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority within the budget approved for those purposes. The legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate any authority the Ranking Member determines appropriate.

(d) Availability.—The skills and services of all Committee staff shall be available to all Members of the Committee.

#### RULE 12. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

In addition to any written travel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt, all travel of Members and staff of the Committee or its Subcommittees, to hearings, meetings, conferences and investigations, including all foreign travel, must be authorized by the Full Committee Chairman prior to any public notice of the travel and prior to the actual travel. In the case of Minority staff, all travel shall first be approved by the Ranking Minority Member. Funds authorized for the Committee under clauses 6 and 7 of House Rule X are for expenses incurred in the Committee's activities within the United States.

#### RULE 13. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed, by a majority vote of the Committee, provided that written notice of the proposed change has been provided each Member of the Committee prior to the meeting date on which the changes are

to be discussed and voted on consistent with Committee Rule 3(a). A change to the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record no later than 30 days after its approval and made publicly available in electronic form.

#### RULE 14. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chairman may establish procedures and take actions as may be necessary to carry out the rules of the Committee or to facilitate the effective administration of the Committee, in accordance with the rules of the Committee and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

LEGISLATIVE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS REFERRED:	
House Bills .....	605
House Resolutions .....	21
House Concurrent Resolutions .....	4
House Joint Resolutions .....	2
Senate Bills .....	14
Total Number of Legislative Bills and Resolutions Referred .....	646
COMMITTEE MEETING DAYS:	
Full Committee .....	37
(Oversight: 20 Legislative: 2 Markup: 14 Organizational: 1)	
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources .....	28
(Oversight: 18 Legislative: 10)	
Subcommittee on Federal Lands .....	30
(Oversight: 12 Legislative: 18)	
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs .....	21
(Oversight: 7 Legislative: 14)	
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations .....	14
(Oversight: 14)	
Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans .....	22
(Oversight: 11 Legislative: 11)	
Total Number of Committee Meetings Held .....	152
COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:	
Total Number of Bills Ordered Reported .....	117
Total Number of Bill Reports Filed .....	112
Total Number of Bills Passed By the House .....	95
Total Number of Bills Which Failed to Pass the House .....	1
Total Number of Public Laws .....	27
Total Number of Enacted Bills .....	34
Total Number of Public Laws Including Enacted Bills .....	61
Total Number of Printed Hearings .....	55
Total Number of Committee Prints .....	4
LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE:	
Total Number of Executive Communications .....	700
Total Number of Memorials .....	49
Total Number of Petitions .....	6
Total Number of Presidential Messages .....	1
Total Number of House Documents .....	3

#### FULL COMMITTEE

##### I. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

##### A. *Legislative Hearings, Markups and Administrative Business Meetings*

*January 28, 2015*—Full Committee met to organize for the 114th Congress, consider Committee Rules, the Committee Oversight Plan and appoint Committee staff.

*March 24, 2015*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*March 25, 2015*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 152, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 308, To prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts; H.R. 373, To direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes; H.R. 404, To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska; H.R. 533, To revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes; H.R. 979, To designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as “Sky Point”; H.R. 984, To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 1168, To amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1324, To adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes.

*April 29, 2015*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*April 30, 2015*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 774, To strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes; H.R. 1214, To amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes; H.R. 1335, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1991, To extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, and for other purposes.

*June 10, 2015*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*June 11, 2015*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 387, To provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 521, To provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; H.R. 1289, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, and for other purposes; H.R. 1992, To reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes; H.R. 2295, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to identify and designate National Energy Security Corridors for the construction of natural gas pipelines on Federal land, and for other purposes; H.R. 2358, To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to enhance the

reliability of the electricity grid and reduce the threat of wildfires to and from electric transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands by facilitating vegetation management on such lands; and H.R. 2647, To expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes.

*July 8, 2015*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*July 9, 2015*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 487, To allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands; H.R. 959, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes; H.R. 1138, To establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes; H.R. 1554, To require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; H.R. 1937, To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness; H.R. 1949, To provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia; H.R. 2223, To authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, and for other purposes; H.R. 2791, To require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of certain Indian tribes in Oregon, and for other purposes; H.R. 2898, To provide drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes; and S. 501, A bill to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

*September 9, 2015*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*September 10, 2015*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 538, To facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes; H.R. 1541, To amend title 54, United States Code, to make Hispanic-serving institutions eligible for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of preservation training and degree programs; H.R. 1644, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure transparency in the development of environmental regulations, and for other purposes; H.R. 1880, To require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; H.R. 2130, To provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes; H.R. 2168, To make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes; and H.R. 2288, To remove the use restrictions on

certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

*October 7, 2015*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*October 8, 2015*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 974, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations to allow the use of hand-propelled vessels on certain rivers and streams that flow in and through certain Federal lands in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and for other purposes; H.R. 1107, To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets; H.R. 1452, To authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance; H.R. 1820, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes; H.R. 2212, To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes; H.R. 2270, To redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Historic Site within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes; H.R. 2406, To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3382, To amend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to enhance recreational opportunities, environmental restoration activities, and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and for other purposes.

*November 18, 2015*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_, “Protecting America’s Recreation and Conservation Act.”

*February 2, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*February 3, 2016*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 482, To redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes; H.R. 812, To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes; H.R. 890, To correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P16; H.R. 894, To extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act; H.R. 1296, To amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes; H.R. 1475, To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance; H.R. 1815, To facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to provide for the implementation of a conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada; H.R. 2273, To amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir; H.R. 2538, To take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes; H.R.

2857, To facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes; H.R. 2880, To redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; H.R. 3004, To amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission; H.R. 3036, To designate the National September 11 Memorial located at the World Trade Center site in New York City, New York, as a national memorial, and for other purposes; H.R. 3079, To take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 3342, To provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; H.R. 3371, To adjust the boundary of the Kenesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes; H.R. 3620, To amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4119, To authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and for other purposes.

*March 15, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*March 16, 2016*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 87, To modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 295, To reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program; H.R. 329, To amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; H.R. 496, To establish the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area in the State of California, and for other purposes; H.R. 1621, To modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes; H.R. 1838, To establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; H.R. 2009, To provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona; H.R. 2733, To require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes; H.R. 3070, To clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes; H.R. 3211, To provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon; H.R. 3826, To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land ex-

changes in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon; H.R. 4579, To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation, to provide for the shared management of the withdrawn land by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Air Force to facilitate enhanced weapons testing and pilot training, enhance public safety, and provide for continued public access to the withdrawn land, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4680, To prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

*April 13, 2016*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, “Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act”.

*April 13, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only. Note: The Committee adjourned and did not consider H.R. 4900, To establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes.

*May 24, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*May 25, 2016*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 5278, To establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes.

*June 14, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*June 15, 2016*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H. Res. 169, Acknowledging and honoring brave young men from Hawaii who enabled the United States to establish and maintain jurisdiction in remote equatorial islands as prolonged conflict in the Pacific lead to World War II; H.R. 2316, To generate dependable economic activity for counties and local governments containing National Forest System land by establishing a demonstration program for local, sustainable forest management, and for other purposes; H.R. 3062, To prohibit the use of eminent domain in carrying out certain projects; H.R. 3094, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to transfer to States the authority to manage red snapper fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico; H.R. 3212, To amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; H.R. 3480, To expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; H.R. 3650, To authorize States to select and acquire certain National Forest System lands to be managed and operated by the State for timber production and other purposes under the laws of the State, and for other purposes; H.R. 3734, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide support to mining schools, and for other purposes; H.R. 3839, To transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes; H.R. 3843, To authorize for a 7-year period the collection of claim location and maintenance fees, and for other purposes; H.R. 3844, To establish the Energy and Minerals Reclamation Foundation to encourage, obtain, and use gifts, devises, and bequests for projects to reclaim abandoned



mine lands and orphan oil and gas well sites, and for other purposes; H.R. 3881, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest; H.R. 4202, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York; H.R. 4245, To exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; H.R. 4510, To insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes; H.R. 4582, To exclude striped bass from the anadromous fish doubling requirement in section 3406(b)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 4685, To take certain Federal lands located in Tulare County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tule River Indian Tribe, and for other purposes; H.R. 4789, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5244, To provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes.

*July 12, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*July 13, 2016*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 1157, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 2333, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas; H.R. 2817, To amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Historic Preservation Fund; H.R. 4576, To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes; H.R. 5468, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment obligations under Repayment Contracts between the United States and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District; H.R. 5577, To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, and for other purposes; S. 246, A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; and S. 1579, A bill to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

*September 7, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*September 8, 2016*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 3764, To provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes; H.R. 4564, To redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the Na-

tional Park Service as reservation 302 as “Robert Emmet Park”, and for other purposes; H.R. 5032, To allow certain property in the town of Louisa, Virginia, to be used for purposes related to compliance with water quality standards, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5259, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reestablish the Royalty Policy Committee in order to further a more consultative process with key Federal, State, tribal, environmental, and energy stakeholders, and for other purposes.

*September 21, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*September 22, 2016*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 564, To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species, and for other purposes; H.R. 2387, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans; H.R. 5780, To provide greater conservation, recreation, economic development and local management of Federal lands in Utah, and for other purposes; H.R. 5984, To authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes; and S. 3028, A bill to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

*November 15, 2016*—Markup convened for opening statements only.

*November 16, 2016*—Markup reconvened for consideration of H.R. 1219, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes; H.R. 3711, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes; H.R. 4366, To affirm an agreement between the United States and Westlands Water District dated September 15, 2015, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5633, To authorize and implement the water rights compact among the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the State of Montana, and the United States, and for other purposes.

## II. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE FULL COMMITTEE

### A. Oversight Hearings

*March 5, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal.”

*April 22, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Innovations in Safety Since the 2010 Macondo Incident.”

*May 13, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “The Obama Administration’s CEQ Recently Revised Draft Guidance for GHG Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change.”

*May 19, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Empowering State Management of Greater Sage Grouse.”

*July 22, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “An Analysis of the Obama Administration’s Social Cost of Carbon.”

*July 29, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Federal Agencies’ Selective Enforcement of ESA Consultation.”

*August 3, 2015*—Joint oversight field hearing with the Committee on Small Business in Homestead, Florida, on “Restricted Access at Biscayne National Park and Implications for Fishermen, Small Businesses, the Local Economy and Environment.”

*September 15, 2015*—Oversight field hearing in New Orleans, Louisiana, on “The Impacts of Federal Policies on Energy Production and Economic Growth in the Gulf.”

*September 17, 2015*—Joint oversight hearing with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on “EPA’s Animas Spill.”

*September 30, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Respecting State Authority, Responsibilities and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy Development.”

*December 7, 2015*—Oversight field hearing in Riverhead, New York, on “Restoring Atlantic Fisheries and Protecting the Regional Seafood Economy.”

*December 9, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “The Department of the Interior’s Role in the EPA’s Animas Spill.”

*February 25, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Analysis of the Situation in Puerto Rico.”

*March 1, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal.”

*April 19, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Recent Changes to Endangered Species Critical Habitat Designation and Implementation.”

*June 1, 2016*—Oversight field hearing in East Millinocket, Maine, on “Elevating Local Voices and Promoting Transparency for a Potential Monument Designation in Maine.”

*June 22, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Investigating the Appropriate Role of NEPA in the Permitting Process.”

*July 26, 2016*—Oversight field hearing in North Las Vegas, Nevada, on “Improving Federal Land Management and Use to Better Serve Las Vegas Valley Communities.”

*September 21, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Impacts of the Obama CEQ’s Final Guidance for GHG Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change.”

*October 4, 2016*—Oversight field hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on “Tribal Prosperity and Self-Determination through Energy Development.”

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

### I. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### A. Legislative Hearings

*May 14, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1644, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure transparency in the development of environmental regulations, and for other purposes.

*May 20, 2015*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, “National Energy Security Corridors Act”.

*June 25, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1937, To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness.

*November 4, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 3843, To authorize for a 7-year period the collection of claim location and maintenance fees, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3844, To establish the Energy and Minerals Reclamation Foundation to encourage, obtain, and use gifts, devises, and bequests for projects to reclaim abandoned mine lands and orphan oil and gas well sites, and for other purposes.

*December 14, 2015*—Field hearing held in Idaho Springs, Colorado, on H.R. 3734, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide support to mining schools, and for other purposes.

*April 19, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 3881, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest.

*June 14, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 5259, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reestablish the Royalty Policy Committee in order to further a more consultative process with key Federal, State, tribal, environmental, and energy stakeholders, and for other purposes.

*July 6, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 5577, To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, and for other purposes.

*July 13, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 2663, To promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes.

*November 15, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 866, To achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land; and H.R. 1484, To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal lands to the State of Nevada in fulfillment of the Nevada Statehood Enabling Act, and for other purposes.

## II. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

### A. Oversight Hearings

*March 17, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposals.”

*March 18, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Effect of the President’s FY 2016 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Office of Surface Mining on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy Production, State Programs and Deficit Reduction.”

*March 24, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Mission of the U.S. Geological Survey in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal.”

*March 26, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Effect of the President’s FY 2016 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service’s Energy and Minerals Programs on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy and Minerals Production and Deficit Reduction.”

*April 15, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Future Impacts of President Obama’s Offshore Energy Plan.”

*June 16, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Arctic Resources and American Competitiveness.”

*July 8, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “The Helium Stewardship Act and the Path Forward.”

*July 14, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “The Fundamental Role of Safe Seismic Surveying in OCS Energy Exploration and Development.”

*July 15, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “The Future of Hydraulic Fracturing on Federally Managed Lands.”

*July 28, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Federal Implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act.”

*December 8, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Ensuring Certainty for Royalty Payments on Federal Resource Production.”

*January 12, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Exploring Energy Challenges and Opportunities Facing Puerto Rico”.

*March 2, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Impact of the President’s FY 2017 Budget on the Energy and Mineral Leasing and Production Missions of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).”

*March 23, 2016*—Oversight hearing on the “Effect of the President’s FY 2017 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Office of Surface Mining on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy Production, State Programs and Deficit Reduction.”

*April 27, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Bureau of Land Management’s Regulatory Overreach into Methane Emissions Regulation.”

*May 19, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Examining Deficiencies in Transparency at the Department of the Interior.”

*May 25, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Exploring 21st Century Mining Safety, Environmental Control, and Technological Innovation.”

*July 12, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Opportunities and Challenges of Developing the Mancos Shale Resource.”

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

### I. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### A. Legislative Hearings

*May 20, 2015*—Joint hearing held with the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, “To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.”

*June 3, 2015*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, “Returning Resilience to Our Overgrown, Fire-prone National Forests Act of 2015.”

*June 16, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 482, To redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes; H.R. 496, To establish the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area in the State of California, and for other purposes; H.R. 959, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes; H.R. 1138, To establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho

and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes; H.R. 1554, To require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2223, To authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, and for other purposes.

*July 14, 2015*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, “To amend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to enhance recreational opportunities, environmental restoration activities, and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and for other purposes. “Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015”; and H.R. 2270, To redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Historic Site within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes.

*September 11, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 3036, To designate the National September 11 Memorial located at the World Trade Center site in New York City, New York, as a national memorial, and for other purposes.

*October 28, 2015*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, “Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Modernization Act.”

*November 4, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1815, To facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to provide for the implementation of a conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada; and H.R. 3342, To provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes.

*December 2, 2015*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_. “National Park Service Centennial Act.”

*December 9, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1838, To establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3668, To codify in law and expand certain off-highway vehicle recreation areas in the State of California, to designate as wilderness certain public lands in the State of California administered by the Bureau of Land Management, to expand the Death Valley National Park Wilderness and the San Geronio Wilderness in San Bernardino National Forest, to ensure the conservation and necessary management of wildlife in these wilderness areas, to establish the Mojave Trails Special Management Area in the State, and for other purposes.

*February 11, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 87, To modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker’s Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 295, To reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program; H.R. 1621, To modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2817, To amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Historic Preservation Fund.

*February 25, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 2316, To generate dependable economic activity for counties and local governments containing National Forest System land by establishing a demonstration program for local, sustainable forest management, and for other purposes; H.R. 3650, To authorize States to select and acquire certain National Forest System lands to be managed and operated by the State for timber production and other purposes under the laws of the State, and for other purposes; H.R. 3826, To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon; H.R. 4510, To insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4579, To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation, to provide for the shared management of the withdrawn land by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Air Force to facilitate enhanced weapons testing and pilot training, enhance public safety, and provide for continued public access to the withdrawn land, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land, and for other purposes.

*April 28, 2016*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, “Locally-elected Officials Cooperating with Agencies in Land Management Act” (LOCAL Management Act).

*May 12, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 3565, To expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument, and for other purposes; H.R. 3839, To transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes; H.R. 4233, To eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County’s rocks and small islands, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5132, To adjust the eastern boundary of the Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness Study Area in the State of Oregon to facilitate fire prevention and response activities to protect adjacent private property, and for other purposes.

*May 24, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 3480, To expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; H.R. 4202, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York; H.R. 4789, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5244, To provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes.

*June 23, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 2167, To amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans, to

help restore natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources of the United States, to train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, to promote the value of public service, and for other purposes; H.R. 2333, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas; H.R. 4387, To establish the Tule Lake National Historic Site in the State of California, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5114, To establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in the United States in national service positions to protect, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes.

*September 14, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 5780, To provide greater conservation, recreation, economic development and local management of Federal lands in Utah, and for other purposes.

*November 15, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 5718, To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire and to convey certain lands or interests in lands in Utah, and for other purposes.

*November 30, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 799, To revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 3683, To amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5129, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue permits for recreation services on lands managed by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

## II. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

### A. Oversight Hearings

*March 17, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the National Park Service in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal.”

*March 19, 2015*—Joint oversight hearing with the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal.”

*March 24, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposals.”

*April 15, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Federal Land Acquisition and its Impacts on Communities and the Environment.”

*April 23, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “The Devastating Impacts of Wildland Fires and the Need to Better Manage our Overgrown, Fire-prone National Forests.”

*May 14, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Litigation and Increased Planning’s Impact on Our Nation’s Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests.”

*July 23, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “New and Innovative Ideas for the Next Century of Our National Parks.”



*September 29, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “State, Local, and Tribal Approaches to Forest Management: Lessons for Better Management of our Federal Forests.”

*January 22, 2016*—Oversight field hearing in St. George, Utah, on “Ensuring Local Input, Legal Consistency and Multi-Use Resource Management in St. George BLM Planning.”

*March 22, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service in the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal.”

*April 20, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Exploring Current Natural Resource Research Efforts and the Future of America’s Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.”

*June 22, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Challenges and Potential Solutions for BLM’s Wild Horse & Burro Program.”

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN, INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

##### I. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

###### A. *Legislative Hearings*

*April 14, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 329, To amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; H.R. 521, To provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; and H.R. 812, To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes.

*June 10, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 487, To allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands; H.R. 2212, To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2387, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans.

*June 17, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1157, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 2386, To provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2538, To take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes.

*July 15, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1028, To provide for the implementation of the negotiated property division regarding Former Fort Wingate Depot Activity in McKinley County, New Mexico, and for other purposes; H.R. 2684, To restore tribal economic development opportunity for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas on terms that are equal and fair, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2733, To require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

*July 22, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1880, To require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; and H.R. 2388, To reverse the designation by the Secretary of

the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture of certain communities in the State of Alaska as nonrural.

*September 29, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 286, To extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; and H.R. 872, To extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe.

*October 28, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 3764, To provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes (Part I).

*November 4, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 2009, To provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona; H.R. 2719, To amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian tribes to further achievement of tribal coastal zone objectives, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3079, To take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes.

*December 8, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 3764, To provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes (Part II).

*February 24, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 3477, To enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States; and H.R. 3599, To take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes.

*May 18, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 4289, To provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes; and S. 246, A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

*June 14, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 4685, To take certain Federal lands located in Tulare County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tule River Indian Tribe, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5379, To prescribe procedures for effective consultation and coordination by Federal agencies with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding Federal Government activities that impact tribal lands and interests to ensure that meaningful tribal input is an integral part of the Federal decisionmaking process.

*July 6, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 4531, To approve an agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau, and for other purposes.

*July 12, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 5406, To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve access to tribal health care by providing for systemic Indian Health Service workforce and funding allocation reforms, and for other purposes.

II. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN,  
INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

A. *Oversight Hearings*

*March 18, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Funding Priorities for and the United States’ Responsibilities concerning Indians, Alaska Natives, and Insular Areas in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, Office of Insular Affairs, and Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.”

*April 22, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “The Obama Administration’s Part 83 Revisions and How They May Allow the Interior Department to Create Tribes, not Recognize Them.”

*May 14, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Inadequate Standards for Trust Land Acquisition in the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.”

*June 24, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Examining Procedures Regarding Puerto Rico’s Political Status and Economic Outlook.”

*February 2, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Need for the Establishment of a Puerto Rico Financial Stability and Economic Growth Authority.”

*March 22, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Funding Priorities and Impacts on Indian Country and Insular Areas.”

*September 13, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Reviewing the Economic Impacts from the Implementation of the Commonwealth-only Worker Program in the Northern Mariana Islands under Public Law 110–229.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

I. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

A. *Oversight Hearings*

*April 29, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Zero Accountability: The Consequences of Politically Driven Science.”

*May 20, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “State Perspectives on the Status of Cooperating Agencies for the Office of Surface Mining’s Stream Protection Rule.”

*June 24, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “GAO Report Documents BLM’s Chronic Mismanagement of Wind and Solar Reclamation Bonds.”

*July 28, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Accountability, Policies, and Tactics of Law Enforcement within the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service.”

*February 24, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Imposition of New Regulations Through the President’s Memorandum on Mitigation.”

*March 17, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Implementation of the Department of the Interior’s Law Enforcement Records System.”

*April 28, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Consequences of Federal Land Management along the U.S. Border to Rural Communities and National Security.”

*May 12, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Local and State Perspectives on BLM’s Draft Planning 2.0 Rule.”

*May 24, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Investigating the Culture of Corruption at the Department of the Interior.”

*June 23, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Administration’s Response to Findings of Unethical and Criminal Conduct at the Department of the Interior.”

*July 7, 2016*—Oversight hearing held on “State Perspectives on BLM’s Draft Planning 2.0 Rule.”

*July 14, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Status of Ivanpah and Other Federal Loan-Guaranteed Solar Energy Projects on Bureau of Land Management Lands.”

*September 21, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Status of the Federal Government’s Management of Wolves.”

*December 6, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Examining Decades of Data Manipulation at the United States Geological Survey.”

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

### I. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### A. Legislative Hearings

*May 20, 2015*—Joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Federal Lands on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, “To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.”

*May 20, 2015*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, “Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act.”

*June 25, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1107, To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets; H.R. 1406, To make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; H.R. 2273, To amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir; and H.R. 2749, To amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978.

*July 23, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 564, To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species, and for other purposes; H.R. 1772, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a nonregulatory program to build on and help coordinate funding for restoration and protection efforts of the 4-State Delaware River Basin region, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2168, To make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes.

*October 22, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 3094, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to transfer to States the authority to manage red snapper fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.

*October 28, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1219, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes; H.R. 1296, To amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3062, To prohibit the use of eminent domain in carrying out certain projects.

*February 2, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 3070, To clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4245, To exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

*March 1, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 4576, To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

*April 20, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 1869, To provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes; H.R. 2993, To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize funding for water recycling projects in areas experiencing severe, extreme, or exceptional drought, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4582, To exclude striped bass from the anadromous fish doubling requirement in section 3406(b)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, and for other purposes.

*May 24, 2016*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, To authorize and implement the water rights compact among the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the State of Montana, and the United States, and for other purposes; H.R. 4366, To affirm an agreement between the United States and Westlands Water District dated September 15, 2015, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5217, To affirm “The Agreement Between the United States and Westlands Water District” dated September 15, 2015, “The Agreement Between the United States, San Luis Water District, Panoche Water District and Pacheco Water District”, and for other purposes.

*June 23, 2016*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_\_, To authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes; H.R. 5032, To allow certain property in the town of Louisa, Virginia, to be used for purposes related to compliance with water quality standards, and for other purposes; H.R. 5430, To exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana; and H.R. 5468, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment obligations under Repayment Contracts between the United States and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District.

II. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

A. Oversight Hearings

*March 19, 2015*—Joint oversight hearing with the Subcommittee on Federal Lands on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal.”

*March 24, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Power Marketing Administrations and USGS Water Division in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal.”

*April 14, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “Proposed Federal Water Grabs and Their Potential Impacts on States, Water and Power Users, and Landowners.”

*September 29, 2015*—Oversight hearing on “The Potential Implications of Pending Marine National Monument Designations.”

*February 10, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Costly Impacts of Predation and Conflicting Federal Statutes on Native and Endangered Fish Species.”

*February 24, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The 2016 California Water Supply Outlook During the El Niño and Three Years of Restricted Water Deliveries.”

*March 22, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Examining the Missions and Impacts of the President’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Power Marketing Administrations.”

*April 13, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Empowering States and Western Water Users Through Regulatory and Administrative Reforms.”

*April 27, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Realizing the Potential of Hydropower as a Clean, Renewable and Domestic Energy Resource.”

*May 17, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “The Implications of President Obama’s National Ocean Policy.”

*July 12, 2016*—Oversight hearing on “Changing Demands and Water Supply Uncertainty in California.”

SUMMARY OF OVERSIGHT AND LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FULL COMMITTEE

Chaired by Rep. Rob Bishop (UT–01), the Committee on Natural Resources worked to rein in burdensome regulatory policies on U.S. industries, oversee American energy production and mining on federal lands, examine regulations related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and strengthen our economic security by expanding and protecting access to our energy, water and mineral resources. The Committee pursued legislation to increase and improve public access to our publically owned lands, restore sound forest and rangeland management practices, and reduce excessive and restrictive federal land acquisition. The Committee also focused on legislation promoting job creation and economic growth and prosperity in Tribal,

Alaska Native and U.S. Insular communities. Numerous hearings were held, and, with the creation of a new Oversight and Investigation subcommittee, aggressive oversight of the Executive Branch and agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction was pursued. The focus of these oversight efforts was to achieve job creation and economic growth, reducing spending and ensuring responsible use of taxpayer resources, and protecting public access to public lands and waters for recreation and economic development. Finally, the Committee continued its work toward enhancing water and power supplies, reducing litigation and providing water certainty, eliminating conflicting federal requirements, promoting fishing access in domestic and international waters, instilling federal transparency and accountability and empowering states, and providing thorough oversight of federal regulations and proposals that threaten American jobs, water and electricity rates, and economic growth.

#### FULL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS (20 TOTAL)

*March 5, 2015—“Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal.”*

- The hearing focused on agency priorities and accountability, appropriate use of taxpayer and ratepayer spending, as well as the future missions of the Department, its bureaus and sub-agencies.

*April 22, 2015—“Innovations and Safety since the 2010 Macondo Incident.”*

- This hearing focused on how the impacts of the April 20, 2010 Macondo oil spill have completely changed the regulatory playing field for offshore energy development in the United States and why it is important that layers of federal rulemakings and notices are not duplicative—and do not degrade the symbiotic goal of safe operations and increased exploration and production.

*May 13, 2015—“The Obama Administration’s CEQ Recently Revised Draft Guidance for GHG Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change.”*

- This NEPA hearing sought to address the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Revised Draft Guidance document and its effects on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions regarding all federal actions including land and resource management actions, transportation, energy, forestry, and a host of other economic activities. Unfortunately, the CEQ Guidance, as written, is likely to result in significant increased costs, delays, and uncertainty for a host of economic and energy-related activities nationwide.

*May 19, 2015—“Empowering State Management of Greater Sage Grouse”*

- The hearing focused on examining the efforts of states to protect the endangered Greater Sage Grouse. It also functioned as a platform to give states the opportunity to explain their role as wildlife managers, and to support true cooperation between the federal agencies and state and local governments. Witnesses included state officials from Utah, Idaho, and Colorado who have worked at the ground level on sage-grouse conservation efforts.

*July 22, 2015—“An Analysis of the Obama Administration’s Social Cost of Carbon.”*

- This hearing more specifically addressed concerns about the lack of transparency of the Administration’s Draft Guidance to give

instructions to federal agencies on the inclusion of GHG emissions in their NEPA reviews including concerns about the considerable uncertainty, arbitrary assumptions and questionable accuracy of the models used to develop the Social Cost of Carbon, and the inputs for the models.

*July 29, 2015—“Federal Agencies’/Selective Enforcement of ESA Consultation”*

- The hearing focused on the ESA; namely its requirement for consultation with FWS and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under section 7 when any discretionary federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat. Discussion in the hearing centered around the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who, while acknowledging it “works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on consultation for protection of endangered species through a Memorandum of Agreement,” did not consult with FWS on effects its rules for carbon emissions from new and existing power plants may have on listed species, including endangered manatees. Witnesses included officials from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and DOI.

*August 3, 2015—Field Hearing in Homestead, Florida on “Restricted Access at Biscayne National Park and Implications for Fishermen, Small Businesses, the Local Economy and Environment.”*

- This hearing focused on the General Management Plan for Biscayne National Park issues by the National Park Service (NPS). This plan includes a 10,502 acre Marine Reserve Zone which would be closed to all commercial and recreational fishing, including more than one-third of the Park’s hard bottom habitat for reef fishing. Traditionally fishing and other harvesting activities had been governed by state law even though the Park is part of a federal agency. NPS claimed to be working in collaboration with state agencies, but the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission opposed the plan.

*September 15, 2015—Field Hearing in New Orleans, Louisiana on “The Impacts of Federal Policies on Energy Production and Economic Growth in the Gulf.”*

- This hearing highlighted offshore energy production in the Gulf of Mexico since the Macondo incident, including industry safety reforms in the Gulf, Arctic, and eventually in the Atlantic. This hearing brought to light the need for the federal government to strike an appropriate balance in order to ensure that offshore production continues in a safe operating environment for the benefit of American energy consumers.

*September 17, 2015—“EPA’s Animas Spill” (Joint hearing with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform)*

- The hearing that was held jointly with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that focused on the involvement of the EPA, the circumstances surrounding the spill, and the resulting effects and subsequent response efforts by multiple federal agencies. The “EPA’s Animas Spill” had one of the highest Member turnouts and was one of the highest profile hearings for the Committee during the 114th Congress. Witnesses included EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, representatives from the Navajo



Nation and Ute Tribes, and state officials from New Mexico and Colorado.

*September 30, 2015—“Respecting State Authority, Responsibilities and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy Development.”*

- This hearing focused on the sweeping and growing impact of the federal government’s regulations and policies on states, specifically on improving coordination between the federal government and western states, and a need for the government to defer to state authority in areas of state experience and expertise. Specific focus is drawn on the federal government’s mismanagement of western national forests, water resources, and Native American issues.

*December 7, 2015—Field Hearing in Riverhead, NY “Restoring Atlantic Fisheries and Protecting the Regional Seafood Economy.”*

- This hearing focused on challenges relating to the management, access to and science of key commercial and recreational fisheries in parts of the Atlantic region. Industry leaders and stakeholders expressed concerns about conflicting science on affected fisheries stocks as it has inhibited access to the resources for both commercial and recreational fishing. Specific attention was given to the lack of science and inadequate data collection used in the management of key species, as well as other potential federal regulatory issues in the region that could hurt the regional seafood economy.

*December 9, 2015—“The Department of the Interior’s Role in the EPA’s Animas Spill”*

- This follow up hearing covered the actions of DOI before, during and after the disaster and how its responsibilities were managed, and the released the Bureau of Reclamation’s (BOR) technical review of the incident. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell testified at the hearing and received questions from the Committee.

*February 25, 2016—“The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Analysis of the Situation in Puerto Rico.”*

- The aim of the third Full Committee hearing on Puerto Rico was primarily focused on the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s plan to address the Commonwealth’s economic and fiscal crisis through a legislative plan submitted to Congress involving four interrelated elements that the Administration believes are necessary to address Puerto Rico’s fiscal crisis and restore economic growth. The four are summarized as follows: (1) access to debt restructuring, (2) implementation of strong independent oversight to improve Puerto Rico’s fiscal governance, (3) “adequate” treatment to Medicaid benefits, and (4) promotion of economic measures aimed at promoting growth.

*March 1, 2016—“Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal.”*

- The hearing focused on providing budgetary oversight for the President’s fiscal year 2017 (FY17) budget request and other spending as it relates to the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Committee heard testimony for Secretary Jewell, and focused on agency priorities, budget accountability, and appropriate use of taxpayer and ratepayer spending. In the hearing, the Committee addressed the disappointing trend of runaway federal spending, along with

the increase in federal fees and taxes aimed at dis-incentivizing American energy research and development.

*April 19, 2016—“Recent Changes in Endangered Species Critical Habitat Designation and Implementation”*

- This hearing focused on recent final rules and policy from FWS and NOAA’s Fisheries Service that amended regulations and policy regarding critical habitat under the ESA. These included new definitions codified at 50 CFR § 424.02, significantly, new definitions for the term “geographical area occupied by the species” and the term “physical or biological features,” as well as a finalized revised regulatory definition of “destruction or adverse modification” as codified at 50 CFR § 424.02. The Services also issued a new policy regarding the use of exclusions, notably exclusions on federal land and water under Section 4(b)(2) of the ESA. Witnesses included the Director of FWS, Dan Ashe, as well as a former DOI Solicitor, a county administrator, and the Endangered Species Recovery Director at the Center for Biological Diversity.

*June 1, 2016—“Elevating Local Voices and Promoting Transparency for a Potential Monument Designation in Maine.”*

- The hearing focused on the potential designation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, later designated by President Obama in August of 2016. The Committee heard testimony about how a designation would disrupt several existing uses important to local citizens and communities including hunting, snowmobiling, forest management and road and trail access to recreation. The Committee heard opposition from the Governor of Maine, elected national, state, and local officials, recreation and sportsmen’s groups, and members of the public. The hearing highlighted the lack of transparency and local input in the administration’s designation of the National Monument, demonstrating its abuse of authority under the Antiquities Act.

*June 22, 2016—“Investigating the Appropriate Role of NEPA in the Permitting Process.”*

- This hearing examined whether NEPA provides the best framework to evaluate and demonstrate compliance with other regulatory and statutory requirements. The hearing highlighted the Gateway Pacific Terminal (Gateway), proposed by Pacific International Holdings, LLC (PIH) and the Pebble Mine located within the Pebble Deposit in Bristol Bay Watershed in Alaska, as examples for why the NEPA permitting process has significant gaps in the way it is administered via federal agencies.

*July 26, 2016—“Improving Federal Land Management and Use To Better Serve Las Vegas Valley Communities.”*

- The hearing focused on providing oversight for the Federal Land Management for the Las Vegas valley and the surrounding communities.

*September 21, 2016—“The Impacts of the Obama CEQ’s Final Guidance for GHG Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change.”*

- This NEPA hearing focused on likely impacts of the Final Guidance on a host of American economic and energy-related projects, permitting and activities. Specific attention was given to the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), “direct” and “indirect” language, and the “lifecycle analysis” concept in the Final Guidance.

*October 4, 2016*—Field Hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico on “*Tribal Prosperity and Self-Determination through Energy Development.*”

- The Committee held an oversight field hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the development of tribal energy resources and the creation of jobs on Indian lands. While Indian lands contain vast energy resources, actions by the Obama Administration have prevented many tribes from developing resources, creating jobs, and improving their local tribal economies. Since taking office, the Obama Administration has implemented numerous roadblocks to Indian energy development. The Subcommittee has continued vigorous oversight of the Administration in order to shine light on these policies and ensure accountability.

#### FULL COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS (2 TOTAL)

*November 18, 2015*—Discussion Draft of the “*Protecting America’s Recreation and Conservation Act (PARC Act).*”

- The discussion draft of the PARC Act reauthorized and reformed the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Specifically, the draft significantly increased the amount of available funds to states, local governments, and cities for vital recreation projects; limited the amount of funds and area available for federal land acquisition; eliminated the use of eminent domain and condemnation for land acquisition; ensured funds addressed growing deferred maintenance and operations backlogs; established an offshore oil and gas pilot program and technology hub and provided STEM-focused higher education grants; and provided additional resources for the Payment In-Lieu of Taxes program.

*April 13, 2016*—Discussion Draft of the “*Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act.*”

- The Discussion Draft was later introduced as H.R. 5278, “*Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act.*”

- H.R. 5278, as amended, passed the House by recorded vote on 6/09/2016.

- H.R. 5278 became Public Law 114–184 on 6/30/2016.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Chaired by Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO–05), the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee worked this Congress to rein in burdensome regulatory policies on U.S. industries, oversee American energy production and mining on federal lands, examine regulations related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and strengthen our economic security by expanding and protecting access to our energy and mineral resources.

#### *Examining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)*

Throughout the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee held a series of Full Committee hearings on the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s Guidance for Federal Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in NEPA Reviews. In December 2014, the Obama Administration’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), released a 31-page Revised Draft Guidance document to provide federal agencies with guidance on when and how to consider the effects of green-

house gas (GHG) emissions and climate change in their evaluation of all proposed Federal actions.

The first Full Committee NEPA hearing focused on the lack of transparency of the Guidance's instructions to agencies on the inclusion of GHG emissions in their NEPA reviews. The Subcommittee also addressed the Revised Draft Guidance's sweeping application of CEQ's Social Cost of Carbon model that sought to further quantify GHG emissions through a variety of arbitrary assumptions, including estimates of temperature sensitivities, discount rates, and a time horizon.

Despite numerous industry and public complaints, including incompatibility with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circular A-4, CEQ has sought to force "voluntary" consideration of GHG emissions through NEPA environmental reviews leading to an inefficient and outdated process that needs to be fundamentally examined in the upcoming Congress.

#### *Promoting Coal and Mineral Production on Federal Lands*

The Subcommittee also worked to ensure agency transparency and accountability regarding regulations aimed at undermining private control of mineral rights, manufacturing competitiveness, and strategic mineral production. In October 2015, the House passed H.R. 1937, the "*National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2015*," which would allow the United States to more efficiently develop our nation's strategic and critical minerals and streamline the permitting process for mineral development.

The House also passed H.R. 1644, "*STREAM Act*," to ensure transparency in the development of environmental regulations and to ensure greater legal certainty for industry to invest in future projects.

In September of 2016, the House passed H.R. 3881, the "*Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2016*." This act would repeal unnecessary rulemaking authority from the Mineral Rights Leasing Act for the Alleghany National Forest, and prevents the Forest Service from interpreting statutory authority in a way that infringes upon private property rights.

#### *Expanding Offshore Energy Production*

Despite record lows in the Obama Administration's five-year offshore leasing plans and its blanket regulatory policies like the Arctic Rule and Well Control Rule, industry leaders continue to innovate and drive economic growth forward by investing millions of dollars in technologies to safely and efficiently develop offshore resources in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

Seismic surveying is one such cutting edge technology that is used to discover vast energy potential (both renewable and traditional sources) in the OCS. In January 2009, the Department of the Interior first initiated the regulatory process to allow seismic surveying in the Atlantic OCS; and over seven years later, not a single permit has been granted. Regardless of the increase in mitigation measures and bureaucratic delays facing industry action, seismic surveying has been a decades-long tool used to safely and efficiently acquire scientific data regarding the potential resources located in federal lands off U.S. coasts.

Another innovative technology modernizing offshore energy production is the creation of an internet-based oil and gas lease sale. There has been a bipartisan push for the Department of the Interior to modernize the offshore leasing process while ensuring all data is made publicly available. H.R. 5577, “*Innovation in Offshore Leasing Act*,” amends the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales. H.R. 5577 passed the House in September 2016.

#### *Expanding Onshore Energy Production*

The Subcommittee held several oversight and legislative hearings to protect and expand onshore American energy production.

During the Obama Administration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has sought to stretch its statutory limits by promulgating rule making on federal lands through its hydraulic fracturing rule and methane and waste prevention rule. Both of these rules have been staunchly opposed by industry and tribal groups alike for its regulatory conflicts with state regulation and federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Not only are the costs of implementation and expected delays underestimated, but many energy-abundant western states—which account for 94 percent of all federal land—are disproportionately impacted and subject to a proliferation of litigation that adversely impact the states’ statutorily-defined jurisdictional roles and economies.

Overshadowing the need to efficiently deliver energy resources and prevent waste, the BLM has refused to address pipeline rights-of-way delays on BLM lands—the most common sense tool to prevent waste of natural gas. In October 2015, the House passed H.R. 2295, “National Energy Security Corridors Act,” to provide the Secretary of the Interior with the authority to negotiate rights-of-way for natural gas pipelines on National Park System lands in addition to issuing streamlined permits for National Energy Security Corridors. This bill seeks to address obstacles created by the lack of current access from state and private lands across federal lands.

#### *Addressing Puerto Rico’s Energy Infrastructure*

The Subcommittee also worked on several fronts to address the fiscal crisis facing the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

In January 2016, the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing focusing on the circumstances leading to the current financial crisis faced by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA). PREPA has faced significant challenges starting with its bureaucratic organizational structure, reliance on outdated energy infrastructure, and contributions in lieu of taxes (CILT) that have provided free electricity to approximately 20% of PREPA’s customers.

In order for Puerto Rico to properly address its growing debt crisis and stimulate economic growth, PREPA must: (1) adjust its “base rate charge” to ensure it covers debt service and operational costs, including CILT payments; (2) update its reliance on outdated oil-fired power plants and diversify its energy portfolio through the utilization of Power Purchase Operating Agreements (PPOA); and (3) address the workplace culture and operations within PREPA.

PREPA’s financial restructuring agreement is contingent on a number of third party actors including the Puerto Rican legislature

that must adhere to specific deadlines if the restructuring agreement is to be approved.

FULL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS (EMR THE LEAD) (8 TOTAL)

*April 22, 2015—“Innovations and Safety since the 2010 Macondo Incident.”*

- This Full Committee hearing focused on how the impacts of the April 20, 2010 Macondo oil spill have completely changed the regulatory playing field for offshore energy development in the United States and why it is important that layers of federal rulemakings and notices are not duplicative—and do not degrade the symbiotic goal of safe operations and increased exploration and production.

*May 13, 2015—“The Obama Administration’s CEQ Recently Revised Draft Guidance for GHG Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change.”*

- This Full Committee NEPA hearing sought to address the CEQ Revised Draft Guidance document and its effects on GHG emissions regarding all federal actions including land and resource management actions, transportation, energy, forestry, and a host of other economic activities. Unfortunately, the CEQ Guidance, as written, is likely to result in significant increased costs, delays, and uncertainty for a host of economic and energy-related activities nationwide.

*July 22, 2015—“An Analysis of the Obama Administration’s Social Cost of Carbon.”*

- This Full Committee hearing more specifically addressed concerns about the lack of transparency of the Administration’s Draft Guidance to give instructions to federal agencies on the inclusion of GHG emissions in their NEPA reviews including concerns about the considerable uncertainty, arbitrary assumptions and questionable accuracy of the models used to develop the Social Cost of Carbon, and the inputs for the models.

*September 15, 2015—Field Hearing in New Orleans, Louisiana on “The Impacts of Federal Policies on Energy Production and Economic Growth in the Gulf.”*

- This Full Committee field hearing highlighted offshore energy production in the Gulf of Mexico since the Macondo incident, including industry safety reforms in the Gulf, Arctic, and eventually in the Atlantic. This hearing brought to light the need for the federal government to strike an appropriate balance in order to ensure that offshore production continues in a safe operating environment for the benefit of American energy consumers.

*September 30, 2015—“Respecting State Authority, Responsibilities and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy Development.”*

- This Full Committee hearing focused on the sweeping and growing impact of the federal government’s regulations and policies on states, specifically on improving coordination between the federal government and western states, and a need for the government to defer to state authority in areas of state experience and expertise. Specific focus is drawn on the federal government’s mismanagement of western national forests, water resources, and Native American issues.

February 25, 2016—*“The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Analysis of the Situation in Puerto Rico.”*

- The aim of the third Full Committee hearing on Puerto Rico primarily focused on the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s plan to address the Commonwealth’s economic and fiscal crisis through a legislative plan submitted to Congress involving four interrelated elements that the Administration believes are necessary to address Puerto Rico’s fiscal crisis and restore economic growth. The four are summarized as follows: (1) access to debt restructuring; (2) implementation of strong independent oversight to improve Puerto Rico’s fiscal governance; (3) “adequate” treatment to Medicaid benefits; and (4) promotion of economic measures aimed at promoting growth.

June 22, 2016—*“Investigating the Appropriate Role of NEPA in the Permitting Process.”*

- This Full Committee NEPA hearing examined whether NEPA provides the best framework to evaluate and demonstrate compliance with other regulatory and statutory requirements. The hearing highlighted the Gateway Pacific Terminal (Gateway), proposed by Pacific International Holdings, LLC (PIH) and the Pebble Mine located within the Pebble Deposit in Bristol Bay Watershed in Alaska, as examples for why the NEPA permitting process has significant gaps in the way it is administered via federal agencies.

September 21, 2016—*“The Impacts of the Obama CEQ’s Final Guidance for GHG Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change.”*

- This final Full Committee NEPA hearing focused on likely impacts of the Final Guidance on a host of American economic and energy-related projects, permitting and activities. Specific attention was given to the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), “direct” and “indirect” language, and the “lifecycle analysis” concept in the Final Guidance.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES (10 SUBCOMMITTEE AND 1 FULL COMMITTEE TOTAL)

May 14, 2015—H.R. 1644, *“Supporting Transparent Regulatory and Environmental Actions in Mining Act.”*

- H.R. 1644, as amended, passed the House by recorded vote on 1/12/16.

May 20, 2015—Discussion Draft of the *“National Energy Security Corridors Act.”*

- This draft became H.R. 2295, which passed the House on 12/3/2015 via H.R. 8, *“North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.”*

June 25, 2015—*“National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2015.”*

- H.R. 1937 passed the House by recorded vote on 10/22/15.

November 4, 2015—H.R. 3843, *“Locatable Minerals Claim Location and Maintenance Fees Act”* and H.R. 3844, *“Energy and Minerals Reclamation Foundation Establishment Act of 2015.”*

December 14, 2015—H.R. 3734, *“Mining Schools Enhancement Act.”*

April 13, 2016—Full Committee Legislative Hearing on a Discussion Draft of the *“Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act.”*

*April 19, 2016—H.R. 3881, “Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2016.”*

- H.R. 3881, as amended, passed the House by recorded vote on 9/6/2016.

*June 14, 2016—H.R. 5259, “Certainty for States and Tribes Act.”*

*July 6, 2016—H.R. 5577, “Innovation in Offshore Leasing Act.”*

- H.R. 5577, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 9/6/2016.

*July 13, 2016—H.R. 2663, “Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2015.”*

*November 15, 2016—H.R. 1484, “Honor the Nevada Enabling Act of 1864 Act” and H.R. 866, “Federal Land Freedom Act of 2015.”*

#### OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES (18 TOTAL)

*March 17, 2015—“Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposals.”*

- This hearing focused on the budget proposals put forward by the BOEM and BSEE, which are charged with overseeing the safe and expedient exploration and production of our domestic resources on the outer Continental Shelf (OCS), as well as ONRR, which is charged with the collection of revenue on federal and tribal land.

*March 18, 2015—“Effect of the President’s FY 2016 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Office of Surface Mining on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy Production, State Programs and Deficit Reduction.”*

- This hearing focused on agency priorities and accountability, appropriate use of taxpayer and ratepayer spending, as well as the future missions of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). The OSMRE’s budget request for fiscal year (FY) FY16 increases federal taxes and fees and shifts federal spending in a manner that dis-incentivizes energy production on both federal and private lands.

*March 24, 2015—“Examining the Spending Priorities and Mission of the U.S. Geological Survey in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal.”*

- This hearing focused on agency mission and priorities other than water resources and the biological service. The Subcommittee specifically questioned the United States Geological Survey’s (USGS) request for an investment in critical minerals activities and pointed to its lack of data transparency, especially in regards to the Greater Sage Grouse.

*March 26, 2015—“Effect of the President’s FY 2016 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service’s Energy and Minerals Programs on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy and Minerals Production and Deficit Reduction.”*

- This hearing focused on the budget proposals put forward by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), with particular focus on each entity’s leasing activities, as well as their exploration and production of energy.



*April 15, 2015—“Examining the Future Impacts of President Obama’s Offshore Energy Plan.”*

- This hearing focused on the 2017–2022 Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (“five-year plan”) and the impacts this plan will have on state and local communities as well as our national economy. The Subcommittee paid specific attention to the importance of diversifying exploration and production to new offshore areas given the fact that less than 2% of the 1.71 billion federal OCS acres were under lease.

*June 16, 2015—“Arctic Resources and American Competitiveness.”*

- This hearing focused on the importance of Arctic offshore energy development to Alaskan natives, the State of Alaska, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, and to our nation’s goal of energy security and independence. Specific attention was given to the Department of Interior’s Arctic Rule that would have likely made these valuable offshore resources not economically feasible to develop.

*July 8, 2015—“The Helium Stewardship Act and the Path Forward.”*

- This hearing focused on how the BLM has implemented the Helium Stewardship Act, and how the BLM’s management of the federal helium reserves could better align with the goals of the Act. Highlights at this hearing were the BLM’s misinterpretation and misapplication of the Helium Stewardship Act that has driven several long-time purchasers of helium from the BLM to obtain helium from Algeria, Qatar, and Russia which undermines American market competitiveness.

*July 14, 2015—“The Fundamental Role of Safe Seismic Surveying in OCS Energy Exploration and Development.”*

- This hearing focused on the cutting edge technology currently used in the field of seismic surveying to ascertain data on potential offshore energy resources. The hearing also focused on the important role seismic research plays in moving forward with future offshore energy development in the Atlantic OCS and provided an update into the federal permitting process for seismic surveying.

*July 15, 2015—“The Future of Hydraulic Fracturing on Federally Managed Lands.”*

- This hearing focused on the BLM’s final hydraulic fracturing rule, notably how it duplicates state efforts, causes unnecessary delays and burdens to operators, and is premised on questionable authority. Specific attention was aimed at addressing the rule’s variance provision that permits the BLM the opportunity to adopt and interpret state rules on federal lands.

*July 28, 2015—“Federal Implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act.”*

- This hearing explored the effects of the Coastal Zone Management Act as implemented by the federal government and exercised at the state and local level. The hearing demonstrated how the Act works at the federal, state and local level, and the impacts that state coastal zone management plans have on federally-permitted activities.

*December 8, 2015—“Ensuring Certainty for Royalty Payments on Federal Resource Production.”*

- This hearing focused on the Office of Natural Resources Revenue's (ONRR) proposed rule concerning the valuation of produced federal onshore oil, natural gas, and coal for royalty purposes, as well as ONRR's reinterpretation of existing regulations as to when produced natural gas is in marketable condition.

*January 12, 2016—“Exploring Energy Challenges and Opportunities Facing Puerto Rico.”*

- This hearing focused on the circumstances leading to the current financial crisis faced by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA). More specifically, the Subcommittee addressed PREPA's reliance on outdated energy infrastructure, contributions in lieu of taxes, workplace deficiencies, and the organizational structure of PREPA that has promoted bureaucracy and politics over a meritocracy.

*March 2, 2016—“The Impact of the President's FY 2017 Budget on the Energy and Mineral Leasing and Production Missions of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).”*

- This hearing focused on the FY 2017 budget proposals put forward by BOEM, the BSEE, and the BLM—the three major federal agencies at the Department of the Interior charged with overseeing the safe and expedient exploration and production of domestic resources on both offshore and onshore federal lands. In particular, the Subcommittee attempted to address why leasing and energy production on federal lands has paled in comparison to growth rates on state and private lands.

*March 23, 2016—“Effect of the President's FY 2017 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Office of Surface Mining on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy Production, State Programs and Deficit Reduction.”*

- This hearing focused on agency priorities and accountability, appropriate use of taxpayer and ratepayer spending, as well as the future missions of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). OSMRE has proposed no new solutions and is doubling down on past practices that shift federal spending in a manner that dis-incentivizes energy production on both federal and private lands.

*April 27, 2016—“Bureau of Land Management's Regulatory Overreach into Methane Emissions Regulation.”*

- This hearing focused on a recent regulation issued by the BLM regarding methane on federal lands. The Subcommittee specifically addressed the claim that BLM has authority under the Clean Air Act and why it refuses to address pipeline rights-of-way delays on BLM lands—the most common sense tool in their toolshed to prevent waste of natural gas.

*May 19, 2016—“Examining Deficiencies in Transparency at the Department of the Interior.”*

- This hearing focused on investigating concerns regarding fair access to data, studies, reports, and other kinds of information used in the federal rulemaking process. The recent proliferation of federal regulations issued by the Department of the Interior highlights the need for increased data transparency across all sub-agencies. These regulatory restrictions on federal land have put states,

industry, and local communities and their citizens in tough positions.

*May 25, 2016—“Exploring 21st Century Mining Safety, Environmental Control, and Technological Innovation.”*

- This hearing focused on the state of the modern mining industry and contemporary techniques, technologies, and practices of 21st century mines. Attention was given to the multitude of federal and state agencies which regulate and enforce numerous health and safety laws and how industry and other stakeholders must demonstrate that they will be good stewards of the land, air, and water resources.

*July 12, 2016—“Opportunities and Challenges to Developing the Mancos Shale Resource.”*

- This hearing focused on the science and policy of energy development on public lands in the Mancos Shale of western Colorado and nearby areas. Recent findings indicate that the Mancos Shale contains recoverable energy resources that are more than 40 times the original USGS assessment of reserves. Also being discussed are recent policies and decisions by the BLM that have increased the costs and unpredictability of operating on public lands, making it more difficult and expensive to access resources such as those found in the Mancos Shale region.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

Chaired by Rep. Tom McClintock (CA-04), the Federal Lands Subcommittee worked this Congress to fight for increased public access to our publically owned lands, the restoration of sound forest and rangeland management practices, and the reduction of excessive and restrictive federal land acquisition.

##### *Restoring Public Access to Public Lands*

The Subcommittee worked this Congress to ensure public access to public lands for recreational enjoyment and economic development. The Subcommittee travelled to East Millinocket, Maine, North Las Vegas, Nevada, and St. George, Utah for field hearings to investigate how Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) policies prevented economic growth, historic uses of land, and recreational opportunities. The Subcommittee focused on restoring sensible access for America’s sportsmen and women to ensure they could hunt, fish, shoot, hike, and recreate on public lands. The House passed H.R. 2406, “*SHARE Act*,” to protect sportsmen’s second amendment rights and reduce regulations prohibiting recreational activities on public lands. In the NPS’ Centennial year, the Subcommittee also worked to promote new and innovative ideas for the management of our national parks. In particular, the House passed H.R. 4680, “*National Park Service Centennial Act*” to improve visitor experiences at national parks and reduce the \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog in the NPS.

##### *Promoting Sound Management of Public Lands*

The Subcommittee focused on promoting sound management of public lands, particularly within the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the BLM. The Subcommittee held several hearings examining the impact of litigation on national forests, the consequences of cat-

astrophic wildfires, tribal, local, and state forestry practices, and the ways that forest health degrade when there is a lack of active management. The House passed H.R. 2647, “*Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015*,” to return resiliency and promote health in our fire-prone, overgrown national forests. The Subcommittee routinely promoted policies to streamline timber harvests for forest health, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and the reduction of catastrophic wild-fire, insects, and disease as well as reduce litigation on collaborative management projects.

*Making the Federal Government a Good Neighbor to Local Communities*

One of the Subcommittee’s top priorities is ensuring that the federal government acts as a good neighbor to local communities with public lands. The Subcommittee worked to prevent buffer zones that limit activities outside of national parks in all bills considered by the Committee, enhance collaboration between tribes and the federal government over Bears Ears in Utah, and expand popular programs that benefited states and local communities. The Subcommittee held a hearing on a discussion draft of the “*LOCAL Management Act*” to empower state and local entities and require the Federal Government to engage in more collaborative and cooperative relationships with these agencies. The Subcommittee also promoted unprecedented cooperation between local tribes in San Juan County, Utah, and the federal government in order to protect the area known as Bears Ears in Utah. The Committee passed H.R. 5780, “*Utah Public Lands Initiative Act*,” to facilitate that cooperation as well as the transfer and consolidation of federal and state lands in Utah to enhance conservation protections, economic development, and recreational opportunities. Lastly, the Full Committee held a hearing on a discussion draft of the “*PARC Act*” to reauthorize and reform the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Subcommittee draft proposed limiting harmful land acquisitions and the use of eminent domain and expanded the stateside program to benefit local communities.

*Reducing the Federal Footprint and Curtailing Federal Regulatory Overreach*

Throughout the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee successfully reported several bills that also passed the House. These bills exchanged or conveyed land from the federal government to local communities, resulting in new potential recreational and economic opportunities for rural communities. The Subcommittee demonstrated the negative impact increased federal land acquisitions have on local communities and the environment and pushed to limit this authority in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Subcommittee also investigated egregious examples of government overreach and passed bills to prevent federal land grabs in northern Texas along the Red River and in Northern Louisiana around Lake Bistineau. The Subcommittee considered several other bills to achieve this goal including H.R. 1214, “*National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015*,” H.R. 2316, “*Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act*,” and H.R. 3650, “*State National Forest Management Act of 2015*.”

## FULL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS (4 TOTAL)

*March 5, 2015—“Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal.”*

- The hearing focused on agency priorities and accountability, appropriate use of taxpayer and ratepayer spending, as well as the future missions of the Department, its bureaus and sub-agencies.

*March 1, 2016—“Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal.”*

- The hearing focused on providing budgetary oversight for the President’s fiscal year 2017 (FY17) budget request and other spending as it relates to the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Committee heard testimony for Secretary Jewell, and focused on agency priorities, budget accountability, and appropriate use of taxpayer and ratepayer spending. At the hearing, Committee Members addressed the disappointing trend of runaway federal spending, along with the increase in federal fees and taxes aimed at disincentivizing American energy research and development.

*June 1, 2016—Field Hearing in East Millinocket, Maine held on “Elevating Local Voices and Promoting Transparency for a Potential Monument Designation in Maine.”*

- The hearing focused on the potential designation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, later designated by President Obama in August of 2016. The Committee heard testimony about how a designation would disrupt several existing uses important to local citizens and communities including hunting, snowmobiling, forest management and road and trail access to recreation. Committee Members heard opposition from the Governor of Maine, elected national, state, and local officials, recreation and sportsmen’s groups, and members of the public. The hearing highlighted the lack of transparency and local input in the administration’s designation of the National Monument, demonstrating its abuse of authority under the Antiquities Act.

*July 26, 2016—Field hearing held in Las Vegas, Nevada on “Improving Federal Land Management and Use to Better Serve Las Vegas Valley Communities.”*

- The hearing focused on providing oversight for the Federal Land Management for the Las Vegas valley and the surrounding communities.

## FULL COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS (1 TOTAL)

*November 18, 2015—Legislative hearing held a Discussion Draft of the “Protecting America’s Recreation and Conservation Act (PARC Act).”*

- The discussion draft of the PARC Act reauthorized and reformed the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Specifically, the draft significantly increased the amount of available funds to states, local governments, and cities for vital recreation projects; limited the amount of funds and area available for federal land acquisition; eliminated the use of eminent domain and condemnation for land acquisition; ensured funds addressed growing deferred maintenance and operations backlogs; established an offshore oil and gas pilot program and technology hub and provided STEM-

focused higher education grants; and provided additional resources for the Payment In-Lieu of Taxes program.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS  
(18 TOTAL)

*May 20, 2015*—Joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans held on a Discussion Draft of a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was introduced as the “*Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015 (SHARE Act)*.” Later introduced as H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act included thirteen individual legislative efforts to increase opportunities for hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters; eliminate regulatory impediments and safeguard against new regulations that impede outdoor sporting activities; and protect Second Amendment rights.

- H.R. 2406, as amended, passed the House by recorded vote on 2/26/2016.

*June 3, 2015*—Discussion Draft of “*The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015*.” Later introduced as H.R. 2647, the bill addressed the growing economic and environmental threats of catastrophic wild-fire and sought to improve the health and resiliency of our fire-prone, overgrown national forests. The bill simplified environmental process requirements, reduced project planning times and reduced the cost of implementing forest management projects while still ensuring robust protection of the environment.

- H.R. 2647, as amended, passed the House by recorded vote on 7/09/2015.

*June 16, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 482, “*Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2015*”; H.R. 496, “*Alabama Hills National Scenic Area Establishment Act*”; H.R. 959, “*Medgar Evers House Study Act*”; H.R. 1138, “*Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act*”; H.R. 1554, “*Elkhorn Ranch and White River National Forest Conveyance Act of 2015*”; and H.R. 2223, “*Crags, Colorado Land Exchange Act of 2015*.”

- H.R. 482, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 3/22/2016.
- H.R. 496, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 5/23/2016.
- H.R. 959, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 9/16/2015.
- H.R. 1138 passed the House by voice vote on 7/27/2015.
- H.R. 1138 became Public Law 114–46 on 8/07/2015.
- H.R. 1554 passed the House by voice vote on 9/16/2015.
- H.R. 2223 passed the House by voice vote on 9/16/2015.

*July 14, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 2270, “*Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act*”; and a Discussion Draft of H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, “*To amend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to enhance recreational opportunities, environmental restoration activities, and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and for other purposes*.”

- H.R. 2270, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 11/30/2015.

- H.R. 2270 became Public Law 114–101 on 12/18/2015.  
*September 11, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 3036, “*9/11 Memorial Act.*”
- H.R. 3036, as amended, passed the House by recorded vote on 2/09/2016.  
*October 28, 2015*—Hearing held on a Discussion Draft of the “*Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Modernization Act.*”
- *November 4, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1815, “*Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act*”; and H.R. 3342, To provide for the stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana.
  - H.R. 1815, as amended, passed the House by recorded vote on 6/07/2016.  
*December 2, 2015*—Hearing held on a discussion draft of the “*National Park Service Centennial Act.*”
  - The draft was later introduced as H.R. 4680, “National Park Service Centennial Act.”
  - H.R. 4680, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 12/06/2016.
  - H.R. 4680, as amended, passed the Senate on 12/10/2016.
  - H.R. 4680, as amended, was presented to the President on 12/14/2016.  
*December 9, 2015*—Hearing held on H.R. 1838, “*Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act*”; and H.R. 3668, “*California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act.*”
  - H.R. 1838, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 7/05/2016.  
*February 11, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 87, “*Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker’s Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act*”; H.R. 295, *To reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program*; H.R. 1621, *To modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes*; and H.R. 2817, “*National Historic Preservation Amendments Act.*”
  - H.R. 87, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 6/07/2016.
  - H.R. 295, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 9/12/2016.  
*February 25, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 2316, “*Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act*”; H.R. 3650, “*State National Forest Management Act of 2015*”; H.R. 3826, “*Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act*”; H.R. 4510, “*Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act*”; and H.R. 4579, “*Utah Test and Training Range Encroachment Prevention and Temporary Closure Act.*”
  - H.R. 3826, as amended, passed the House by recorded vote on 6/08/2016.
  - H.R. 4510, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 9/06/2016.  
*April 28, 2016*—Hearing held on Discussion Draft of the “*Locally-elected Officials Cooperating with Agencies in Land Management Act (LOCAL Management Act).*”
  - *May 12, 2016*—Hearing held on H.R. 3565, “*California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act*”; H.R. 3839, “*Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act*”; H.R. 4233, To eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Or-

ange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5132, "*Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act.*"

- H.R. 3839, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 9/06/2016.

May 24, 2016—Hearing held on H.R. 3480, "*Fort Frederica National Monument Boundary Expansion Act*"; H.R. 4202, "*Fort Ontario Study Act*"; H.R. 4789, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5244, "*Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act.*"

- H.R. 3480, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 9/06/2016.

- H.R. 4202, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 9/06/2016.

- H.R. 4789 passed the House by voice vote on 9/06/2016.

- H.R. 5244, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 7/05/2016.

June 23, 2016—Hearing held on H.R. 2167, "*Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2015*"; H.R. 2333, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas; H.R. 4387, "*Tule Lake National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2016*"; and H.R. 5114, "*21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2016.*"

September 14, 2016—Hearing held on H.R. 5780, "*Utah Public Lands Initiative Act.*"

November 15, 2016—Hearing held on H.R. 5718, "*Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act.*"

November 30, 2016—Hearing held on H.R. 5129, "*GO Act*"; H.R. 799, "*North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act*"; and H.R. 3683, "*African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2015.*"

#### OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS (12 TOTAL)

March 17, 2015—"*Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the National Park Service in the President's FY 2016 Budget Proposal.*"

March 19, 2015—Joint hearing held with the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans on "*Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the President's FY 2016 Budget Proposal.*"

March 24, 2015—"*Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the President's FY 2016 Budget Proposal.*"

April 15, 2015—"*Federal Land Acquisition and Its Impacts on Communities and the Environment.*"

- The hearing focused on federal land acquisition through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and whether increased land acquisition is consistent with the Fund's original statutory mission. The hearing highlighted the adverse impact federal land acquisi-



tion has on counties' budgets and the federal land management agencies' growing maintenance and operations backlogs.

*April 23, 2015—“The Devastating Impacts of Wildland Fires and the Need to Better Manage Our Overgrown, Fire-prone National Forests.”*

- This hearing was the first in a series of hearings to help restore sound management to our fire-prone, overgrown National Forests. The hearing highlighted some of the devastating consequences of catastrophic wildland fires including reduced watershed health, diminished wildlife habitat, property destruction and fatalities, as well as the debilitating impact forest fires currently have on the Forest Service budget. The Committee heard testimony explaining how a lack of active forest management directly contributes to the growing number, size, and intensity of these catastrophic fires.

*May 14, 2015—“Litigation and Increased Planning’s Impact on Our Nation’s Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests.”*

- This hearing was the second in a series of hearings to help restore sound management to our fire-prone, overgrown national forests. The hearing focused on the impact of increased frivolous litigation, the Forest Service’s response to this increased litigious environment, added requirements by other agencies and the impact on our nation’s national forests.

*July 23, 2015—“New and Innovative Ideas for the Next Century of Our National Parks.”*

- In celebration of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016, the Committee held a hearing to focus on new and innovative ideas for generating funding for the National Park System, outside of congressional appropriations, including increasing park visitation, enhancing guest services, and promoting recreational opportunities within parks. Another key concern was addressing the many challenges the National Park Service faces in its Centennial year, chief among them being the twelve billion dollar deferred maintenance and operations backlog.

*September 29, 2015—“State, Local, and Tribal Approaches to Forest Management: Lessons for Better Management of our Federal Forests.”*

- This hearing was the third in a series of hearings to help restore sound management to our fire-prone, overgrown national forests. The hearing focused on additional approaches to improve the health of our nation’s national forests that are being carried out under state, local, and tribal laws and regulations.

*January 22, 2016—Field hearing held in St. George, Utah on “Ensuring Local Input, Legal Consistency and Multiple-Use Resource Management in St. George BLM Planning.”*

- The hearing focused on gathering community input and providing oversight for the BLM’s management plans in the area. The Subcommittee heard testimony about how the current plan would disrupt several existing uses important to local citizens and communities including hunting, snowmobiling, forest management and road and trail access to recreation.

*March 22, 2016—“Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service in the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal.”*

*April 20, 2016—“Exploring Current Natural Resource Research Efforts and the Future of America’s Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.”*

*June 22, 2016—“Challenges and Potential Solutions for BLM’s Wild Horse & Burro Program.”*

- During this hearing, the Subcommittee heard testimony on the issues and challenges facing the Bureau of Land Management’s management of wild horses and burros on federal lands across the West and the associated impacts on rangeland health, wildlife habitat, livestock ranching, agricultural development, and other natural resources. Specifically, the Subcommittee highlighted how the threat of litigation from animal rights’ groups as well as long-standing Congressional appropriations language severely limited the Bureau’s ability to sell or humanely dispose of certain horses. As a result, taxpayers are spending more than \$49 million dollars a year to house over 45,000 horses in long-term holding facilities and more than 67,000 horses, far over the recommended number of 26,715 that currently roam on Western rangelands. The Subcommittee examined new potential solutions and authorities for the Bureau of Land Management in order to remedy this situation and improve the health of our horses and rangelands.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN, INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

Chaired by Rep. Don Young of Alaska, the Subcommittee focused this Congress on promoting job creation and economic growth and prosperity in Tribal, Alaska Native and U.S. Insular communities.

#### *Tribal Prosperity through Energy and Natural Resources*

In September 2015, the Natural Resources Committee adopted and favorably reported H.R. 538, “*Native American Energy Act*,” a bill sponsored by Subcommittee Chairman, Don Young. The bill would streamline or eliminate burdensome and duplicative government regulations and increase the opportunity for Indian tribes to develop energy resources on their own land.

In April 2016, the U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive energy package which included S. 209, “*Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2015*.” Both House and Senate Indian energy bills were considered in a formal House-Senate conference on S. 2012, “*North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2016*.”

In October 2016, the Committee held a Full Committee oversight field hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the development of tribal energy resources and the creation of jobs on Indian lands. While Indian lands contain vast energy resources, actions by the Obama Administration have prevented many tribes from developing resources, creating jobs, and improving their local tribal economies. Since taking office, the Obama Administration has implemented numerous roadblocks to Indian Energy development. The Subcommittee has continued vigorous oversight of the Administration in order to shine light on these policies and ensure accountability.

#### *Trust Asset Reform*

In February 2016, the House passed H.R. 812, “*Indian Trust Asset Reform Act*.” On June 22, 2016 the bill was enacted into Public Law 114–178. The Act reaffirms the federal government’s duty

to promote tribal self-determination by setting forth a process by which an Indian tribe may opt to assume direct control over its trust assets. While tribes over the last 40 years have increased their capacity to administer federal funds and services, most of their lands and tribal funds continue to be held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior, an arrangement that is often a hindrance to Indian prosperity. Some statutes require the Secretary to perform comprehensive control over an Indian asset in a manner that exposes taxpayers to enormous liabilities if the Secretary mismanages trust assets. In these cases, the Secretary's primary concern is risk avoidance, which may benefit the taxpayer but not the tribe. Other statutes authorize the Secretary to perform merely basic administrative duties for Indians with no enforceable fiduciary standards. Accordingly, an Indian trust asset could be underutilized or even mismanaged with no meaningful remedy available to the beneficial owner of that asset.

H.R. 812 (P.L. 114-178), allows a tribe to assume responsibility for the management of its trust assets as long as federal liability is not thereby increased.

#### *Federal Recognition of Indian Nations*

In April 2015, the Subcommittee began a series of oversight hearings into whether the Obama Administration exceeded its authority in the federal recognition of tribes. On July 1, 2015, the Bureau of Indian Affairs finalized a controversial rule to revise the "Part 83" recognition regulations (regulations codified in 25 C.F.R. Part 83). At an April 22, 2015, Subcommittee hearing, the then-proposed rule was the focus of criticism from bipartisan Members of the House and Senate, and from several federally recognized tribes. Though the Government Accountability Office, Members of Congress, federally recognized tribes, and other interest holders (states and local governments) for years have criticized the Part 83 process for being inefficient, inconsistent, and lacking transparency, there have been virtually no requests from Congress or federally recognized tribes for the Administration to relax the criteria or lower the evidentiary standards a petitioner must meet to be acknowledged as a tribe. In October of 2015, Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) introduced a bill, H.R. 3764, "*Tribal Recognition Act of 2015*."

H.R. 3764 recognizes and reasserts Congress' appropriate, superior role over the formation of Indian policy by establishing a basis for the Secretary to examine the evidence submitted by groups seeking recognition as tribes, and for the determination on extending recognition to be reserved only to the Congress. In September 2016, the Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill reported, as amended.

The criteria contained in the bill reflect the major parts of the "old" Part 83 criteria as they existed before the 2015 revisions. Under the bill, the Secretary shall not have any power to recognize a tribe (except as expressly authorized by Act of Congress), and the Part 83 rule shall have no force or effect.

Recognition of a tribe is a solemn act of the United States government, with long-term consequences not only to a tribe's members, but to other tribes, and to states and non-Indian citizens. This makes recognition a question for the political—or legislative—

branch. A tribe is eligible for a variety of federal services and benefits, including operation of a casino on its lands, and absolute sovereign immunity against anyone except the federal government. It usually obtains federal protection in controversies where states, local governments, or private citizens are adverse parties. A tribe may exercise special political authority over its territory and its Indian members. Land acquired in trust for a tribe divests state and local government jurisdiction over such property. A tribe is not deemed to be a party to the Constitution and as a result, an individual under a tribe's civil or criminal jurisdiction does not possess on that tribe's lands any of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, except as provided by Congress.

These unique tribal powers and immunities exist through centuries of treaties and statutes enacted in and by the Congress.

#### *Indian Child Welfare*

In June of 2015, the House passed H.R. 1168, "*Native American Children's Safety Act*," sponsored by Rep. Kevin Cramer. The Act amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act by prohibiting any foster care placement and foster care license until the tribal social services agency preforms a criminal background check of foster parents and employees. The companion bill to H.R. 1168, S. 184, was signed into law in June 2016. This bill was the continued effort of the subcommittee to address numerous reports by the media and tribal members that over several years, incidents of child abuse, neglect, and death were at epidemic levels on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota.

#### *Tribal Forest Management*

In September of 2015, the House passed H.R. 2791, "*Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act*," which was sponsored by Rep. Peter DeFazio. The bill requires land to be held in trust for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and another trust for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. The bill also amends the Coquille Restoration Act to remove the Department of the Interior's jurisdiction of the Coquille Forest.

The lack of active federal forest management has destroyed tens of thousands of jobs, deprived rural counties of revenue, and made our national forests increasingly susceptible to devastating wildfires and invasive species. Tribal forest managers continue to be more effective at using their limited resources to better protect forest health, prevent catastrophic wildfires and create jobs.

#### *Oversight of the Indian Health Service*

For decades, federally-run Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities have been plagued by low-quality health care, accusations of impropriety, nepotism, and corruption. To make matters worse, the tribes served by the Great Plains area are generally located on large rural reservations that are plagued by long-term systemic non-healthcare problems like high unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse, a youth suicide epidemic, housing shortages, and lack of education.

In response, Congress permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act through the Affordable Care Act in 2010. However, since that time, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Services (CMS) continues to find serious health deficiencies at several IHS hospitals. CMS has terminated its provider contract with the Omaha-Winnebago Indian Health Service Hospital in Nebraska, while several in South Dakota were put on notice that their performance was potentially deficient.

The troubles come when Congress has continued to increase the IHS budget almost each year since 2010, often exceeding the President's budget request since taking office. Since 2008, funding for the IHS has increased by more than 50 percent. The House's fiscal year (FY) 2017 proposed appropriation sits at approximately \$1 billion over FY 2010 levels, yet the dangerous situation in the Great Plains area and the staffing shortage problem throughout the twelve IHS areas continues to exist if not grow. The Subcommittee remains extremely concerned about what this Administration has done to better the healthcare system for Indian tribes.

In June of 2016, Rep. Kristi Noem introduced H.R. 5406, "*Helping Ensure Accountability, Leadership, and Trust in Tribal Healthcare Act.*" On July 13, 2016, the Subcommittee held a legislative hearing on the bill, receiving favorable testimony. Though the bill does not address every problem plaguing the IHS, the Subcommittee will continue strong oversight in this area.

#### *Restoring Tribal Homelands*

The Subcommittee continued to exercise its legislative authority to review and move bills to place excess federal land into trust for Indian tribes. Restoring tribal homelands continues to be a priority of the Subcommittee, working alongside federal, local and tribal stakeholders.

- H.R. 2733, "*Nevada Native Nations Land Act.*" In October 2016, the bill was enacted into Public Law 114-232, which placed into trust approximately 71,000 total acres of federal land for 6 tribes in the state of Nevada.

- H.R. 1880, "*Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act.*" In October 2015, the Senate companion bill was enacted into Public Law 114-69, which placed 4 tracts of federal land totaling approximately 11.11 acres, into trust for the benefit for 19 pueblos in New Mexico.

- H.R. 2212, To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes. In June 2016, the bill was enacted into Public Law 114-181, which placed approximately 301 acres of federal land into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria in California.

- H.R. 3079, To take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes. In July 2016, the House passed H.R. 3079 which places into trust approximately 80 acres of U.S. Forest Service land located in Tuolumne County, California for the benefit the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians.

#### *Puerto Rico*

Puerto Rico is in the midst of a fiscal crisis that Congress, through the leadership of this Committee, has taken concrete measures to resolve. The island has accumulated over \$110 billion in combined debt and unfunded pension liabilities, and has seen a

10 percent decline in population over the past decade. Puerto Rico's local politicians have accelerated the crisis on the island through the passage of harmful legislation, including the imposition of a moratorium on the payment of debt. Due to the realities facing the island, and the inability of its local politicians to bring order and transparency, immediate congressional action was required. Because Puerto Rico is a United States territory and its residents are United States citizens, Congress has the responsibility and authority to make all needful rules and regulations for Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico's situation underscores the necessity for Congressional action, and highlights the purpose of the Committee on Natural Resources' efforts to address the crisis. On May 18, 2016, Congressman Sean P. Duffy introduced H.R. 5278, "*Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act* (PROMESA)." H.R. 5278 represents the second iteration of PROMESA, the first being H.R. 4900, and incorporates solutions to the Puerto Rico crisis learned from the testimony received during the Committee's four hearings, as well as concerns raised by Members and stakeholders commenting on H.R. 4900.

The Committee's first oversight hearing, "*Exploring Energy Challenges and Opportunities Facing Puerto Rico*" was held by the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on January 12, 2016. The hearing identified the need for energy and infrastructure development on the island, and highlighted the current deficiencies plaguing the island. For instance, Puerto Rico is hampered by permitting inefficiencies, with the World Bank having ranked Puerto Rico as 135th out of 189 countries for ease of 'Dealing with Construction Permits.' PROMESA in Title V addresses both the bureaucratic processes that hinder development on the island, and promotes the infusion of private capital to spur economic development. The Oversight Board established in PROMESA has the opportunity to fast-track infrastructure projects by co-opting existing Puerto Rico laws, thus providing project proponents with the assurances of regulatory certainty.

The Natural Resources Committee's second oversight hearing, "*The Need for the Establishment of a Puerto Rico Financial Stability and Economic Growth Authority*" was held by the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs on February 2, 2016. The hearing outlined the need for an independent oversight board to oversee Puerto Rico's fiscal and governmental activities. At that hearing, the Natural Resources Committee received testimony from former Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams who had previously served as an officer of the D.C. Board. Mayor Williams described the successes of the D.C. Board, and the challenges a similar board would face if instituted over Puerto Rico. Other testimony highlighted the limited oversight and transparency of actions within Puerto Rico's governmental entities, such as the failure of Puerto Rico's government to provide any audited financials for the past two fiscal years, and the lack of institutional control. As such, Titles I and II of PROMESA remedy the deteriorating health of Puerto Rico's finances and economy—at no net cost to the U.S. taxpayer—through the establishment of an Oversight Board for the territory.

The third hearing, "*U.S. Department of the Treasury's Analysis of the Situation in Puerto Rico*," held at the Full Committee on Feb-

ruary 25, 2016, provided valuable testimony as to why Puerto Rico needed access to debt restructuring. Counsellor Antonio Weiss with the U.S. Department of the Treasury informed the Natural Resources Committee as to the unsustainability of Puerto Rico's debt and the disorderly state of Puerto Rico's financials. Therefore, Titles III and VI of H.R. 5278 provide Puerto Rico's indebted entities with the management of the Oversight Board, and the opportunity to restructure their debts in a fair and equitable manner for their respective creditors.

The final hearing was a Full Committee legislative hearing on a discussion draft on what became H.R. 4900 on April 13, 2016. The hearing alerted the Natural Resources Committee to a number of concerns expressed by stakeholders, such as the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and Members of the Committee. H.R. 5278 addresses many of the concerns raised to the Committee during the hearing and provides a workable solution that will ensure Puerto Rico regains access to capital markets and achieves fiscal responsibility and transparency.

In June 2016, the House passed H.R. 5278. The language of H.R. 5278 was incorporated into S. 2328, which was enacted as Public Law 114–187 on June 30, 2016.

#### *Republic of Palau*

On September 3, 2010, the Obama Administration and the Government of Palau made an agreement to renew the compact for which Congress has yet to provide funding. H.R. 4531, To approve an agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau, and for other purposes, would approve the agreement and provide funding for it. The review agreement made in 2010 between the U.S. and the Republic of Palau calls for the U.S. to provide \$229 million to Palau through the year 2024. However, since the agreement has not been brought into force, the Department of the Interior has been making annual payments of approximately \$13.1 million a year since 2010, totaling \$92 million in discretionary funding thus far. At a July 6, 2016, legislative hearing, the Subcommittee heard testimony from the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Insular Affairs, the Honorable Esther Kia'aina, as well as from the Ambassador of Palau, His Excellency Hersey Kyota. Dr. David Gootnick, M.D., Director of International Affairs and Trade, U.S. Government Accountability Office also provided testimony at this hearing.

#### FULL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS (1 TOTAL)

*October 4, 2016—Field Hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico on “Tribal Prosperity and Self-Determination through Energy Development”*

- The Full Committee held an oversight field hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the development of tribal energy resources and the creation of jobs on Indian lands. While Indian lands contain vast energy resources, actions by the Obama Administration have prevented many tribes from developing resources, creating jobs, and improving their local tribal economies. Since taking office, the Obama Administration has implemented numerous roadblocks to Indian energy development. The Subcommittee has continued vig-

orous oversight of the Administration in order to shine light on these policies and ensure accountability.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN,  
INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS (14 TOTAL)

*April 14, 2015*—H.R. 329, “*Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015*”; H.R. 521, To provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; and H.R. 812, “*Indian Trust Asset Reform Act*.”

- H.R. 812, as amended, was passed by the House by voice vote on 2/24/16.

- H.R. 812, as amended, became Public Law 114–178 on 6/22/2016.

*June 10, 2015*—H.R. 487, To allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands; H.R. 2212, To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2387, “*Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act*.”

- H.R. 487 was passed by the House by voice vote on 9/16/2015.

- H.R. 487 became Public Law 114–127 on 2/29/2016.

- H.R. 2212, as amended, was passed by the House by voice vote on 11/30/2015.

- H.R. 2212, as amended, became Public Law 114–181 on 6/22/2016.

*June 17, 2015*—H.R. 1157, “*Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2016*”; H.R. 2386, “*Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act*”; and H.R. 2538, “*Lytton Rancheria Homelands Act of 2015*.”

*July 15, 2015*—H.R. 1028, “*Return of Certain Lands at Fort Wingate to The Original Inhabitants Act*”; H.R. 2684, “*Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Settlement Act*”; and H.R. 2733, “*Nevada Native Nations Lands Act*.”

- H.R. 2733, as amended, was passed by the House by voice vote on 06/07/2016.

- H.R. 2733, as amended, became Public Law 114–232 on 10/07/2016.

*July 22, 2015*—H.R. 1880, “*Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act*”; and H.R. 2388, “*Subsistence Access Management Act of 2015*.”

*September 29, 2015*—H.R. 286, “*Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2015*”; and H.R. 872, “*Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2015*.”

*October 28, 2015*—H.R. 3764, “*Tribal Recognition Act of 2015*.” (Part I of II)

*November 4, 2015*—H.R. 2009, “*Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Conveyance Act*”; H.R. 2719, “*Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act*”; and H.R. 3079, To take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes.

- H.R. 2009, as amended, was passed by the House by voice vote on 06/07/2016.



- H.R. 3079, as amended, was passed by the House by voice vote on 07/05/2016.

*December 8, 2015— H.R. 3764, “Tribal Recognition Act of 2015.” (Part II of II)*

*February 24, 2016—H.R. 3477, “Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act”; and H.R. 3599, “Eastern Band Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act.”*

*May 18, 2016—H.R. 4289, To provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes; and S. 246, “Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act.”*

- S. 246, as amended, was passed by the House by voice vote on 09/12/2016.

- S. 246, as amended, became Public Law 114–244 on 10/14/2016.

*June 14, 2016—H.R. 4685, “Tule River Indian Reservation Land Trust, Health, and Economic Development Act”; and H.R. 5379, “Requirements, Expectations, and Standard Procedures for Executive Consultation with Tribes Act.”*

- H.R. 4685 was passed by the House by voice vote on 07/05/2016.

- The text of H.R. 4685, as passed by the House, was incorporated into S. 612, “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.”

- S. 612 passed the House on 12/08/2016, and the Senate agreed to House amendment on 12/12/2016.

- S. 612 was presented to the President on 12/14/2016.

*July 6, 2016—H.R. 4531, To approve an agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau, and for other purposes.*

*July 12, 2016—H.R. 5406, “Helping Ensure Accountability, Leadership, and Trust in Tribal Healthcare Act.”*

#### OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN, INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS (7 TOTAL)

*March 18, 2015—“Funding Priorities for and the United States’ Responsibilities concerning Indians, Alaska Natives, and Insular Areas in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, Office of Insular Affairs, and Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.”*

- The hearing concerned the President’s budget request covering services and programs for Native Americans provided by four agencies in two Departments, as follows: In the Department of the Interior—Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST), and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA). In the Department of Health and Human Services, it concerned the Indian Health Service (IHS). The President’s Budget request for Indian programs largely proposes to spend more money without proposing fundamental changes in federal laws and policies that have led to severe poverty, unemployment, and health problems in many tribal and Alaska Native village communities.

*April 22, 2015—“The Obama Administration’s Part 83 Revisions and How They May Allow the Interior Department to Create Tribes, Not Recognize Them.”*

- Federal recognition regulations under Part 83 were created by the Department of the Interior, not Congress, even though Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution delegates only to Congress the power to regulate Indian affairs. As a result, a political question (i.e., extending political relations to an Indian tribe) reserved to Congress has been converted by the Department into a kind of entitlement under which a petitioner must meet Department-invented criteria. The recognition of new tribes has profound consequences on the federal budget, on existing recognized tribes, on state civil, criminal, and tax jurisdiction, and on individual rights.

*May 14, 2015—“Inadequate Standards for Trust Land Acquisition in the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.”*

- The purpose of this oversight hearing was to examine whether or not there should be any meaningful statutory conditions imposed on the Secretary’s power to acquire trust land, and what the policy and Constitutional risks may be if Congress fails to enact such conditions.

*June 24, 2015—“Examining procedures regarding Puerto Rico’s political status and economic outlook.”*

- The Subcommittee examined the link between the current economic conditions of the island and the unresolved issue of its political status. One area of specific interest is whether economic conditions would improve, decline further, or show no effect with a change in Puerto Rico’s political status.

*February 02, 2016—“The Need for the Establishment of a Puerto Rico Financial Stability and Economic Growth Authority.”*

- The purpose of this hearing was to provide commentary on a possible solution to the Puerto Rican debt crisis, which will emphasize improved management policies and long-term sustainability.

*March 22, 2016—“The President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Funding Priorities and Impacts on Indian Country and Insular Areas.”*

- The hearing concerned the President’s budget request covering services and programs for Native Americans and Insular Areas of the United States provided by four agencies in two Departments, including the BIA, OST, and OIA within the Department of the Interior, and the IHS within the Department of Health and Human Services.

*September 13, 2016—“Reviewing the economic impacts from the implementation of the Commonwealth-only worker program in the Northern Mariana Islands under Public Law 110-229.”*

- The purpose of this hearing was to discuss the Commonwealth-only worker program and the effects the implementation is having on the current economic state of the Commonwealth.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations was created in the 114th Congress with the expressed purpose of ensuring a specific focus on aggressive oversight of the Executive Branch. The focus of these oversight efforts was on promoting job creation and economic growth, reducing spending and ensuring responsible use of taxpayer resources, and protecting public access to public lands and waters for recreation and economic development.

Chaired by the Honorable Louie Gohmert (TX-01), the Subcommittee took seriously its responsibility to conduct oversight of

the Executive Branch and examined numerous Obama Administration policies, regulations, and actions; most notably at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its various sub-agencies, The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), The Department of Justice (DOJ), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Through investigations and oversight hearings, the Subcommittee sought answers from the Administration on behalf of the American people and promoted accountability and transparency.

#### *Department of the Interior*

During the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee focused on a myriad of issues across the Department of the Interior. Major and ongoing issues that the Subcommittee continues to investigate include the EPA's Gold King Mine Spill in the Animas River, the DOI's continued lack of movement and accountability on addressing ongoing ethics concerns; the promulgating of new rules and regulations by the various sub-agencies, and how they utilize and interpret existing rules; agency law enforcement on federal lands; analysis of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSMRE) Stream Protection Rule; the National Park Service's (NPS) response to findings of mismanagement at Effigy Mounds National Monument; and issues of data manipulation at the U.S. Geological Service's (USGS) laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado.

#### *Subcommittee Reports*

The Subcommittee also contributed to the increased education of House Members and staff, as well as the public, on various issues under the Natural Resources Committee's jurisdiction through various reports and projects. In the 114th, the Subcommittee commissioned a *Congressional Research Service (CRS) report* on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), NPS, and the USFS deferred maintenance backlog. The major undertaking of the Subcommittee during the 114th was its investigation into actions and missteps from the EPA that facilitated the Gold King Mine Spill into the Animas River and subsequent actions by both EPA and DOI after the spill. These efforts culminated into a report issued by the Committee. Another major accomplishment of the Subcommittee was the creation of the *Federal Footprint Map*, which utilizes continuously updating data direct from the agencies themselves to complete layers and legends detailing the roughly 640 million acres of land that the federal government currently owns, particularly in western states. The Subcommittee also provided whistleblowers a means to contact the Subcommittee via website.

#### *Endangered Species Act*

The Subcommittee also focused on various issues regarding the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the species and communities that the law affects. The ESA was created over four decades ago in 1973. Since that time, over 1,500 U.S. domestic species and subspecies have been added to the endangered list and only a small fraction of species has ever been removed as a result of successful conservation activities. The Subcommittee led Full Committee

hearings on the consultation requirements of Section 7 of the ESA, also commissioning a *CRS report* on the issue; as well as recent policy changes for critical habitat designation and implementation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS ON THE GOLD KING MINE SPILL (1 JOINT COMMITTEE HEARING—1 FULL COMMITTEE HEARING—11 LETTERS SENT)

Over the course of the 114th Congress, the EPA’s Gold King Mine Spill in the Animas River has been the Subcommittee’s largest undertaking, as the Subcommittee has been at the forefront of the multiple Congressional investigations that have occurred since the event occurred in August of 2015. Major highlights of the Subcommittee’s involvement in the Animas River Spill include two hearings, numerous document requests, document analysis, and continued correspondence with agency officials and representatives. The Natural Resources Committee also issued subpoenas to the Department of Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers, and requested an analysis of the Bureau of Reclamation’s (BOR) technical review by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). This work culminated into the Subcommittee issuing a *report* detailing the Subcommittee’s findings regarding agency reviews on the event, actions and missteps by EPA that led to the incident, and resulting effects and subsequent response efforts by the agencies involved. The Subcommittee has continued efforts, through further review of new document productions, fact-finding, and interactions with the agencies.

*Joint Full Committee Hearing on the Gold King Mine Spill*

*September 17, 2015—“EPA’s Animas Spill”* (Joint hearing with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform).

- The Subcommittee spearheaded a Full Committee hearing that was held jointly with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that focused on the involvement of the EPA, the circumstances surrounding the spill, and the resulting effects and subsequent response efforts by multiple federal agencies. The “*EPA’s Animas Spill*” had one of the highest Member turnouts and was one of the highest profile hearings for the Natural Resources Committee during the 114th Congress. Witnesses included EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, representatives from the Navajo Nation and Ute Tribes, and state officials from New Mexico and Colorado.

*Full Committee Hearing on the Gold King Mine Spill*

*December 9, 2015—“The Department of the Interior’s Role in the EPA’s Animas Spill.”*

- The Subcommittee spearheaded a follow up Full Committee hearing to actions of DOI before, during and after the disaster and how its responsibilities were managed, and the released BOR’s technical review of the incident. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell testified at the hearing and received questions from the Full Committee.

- The EPA’s Office of Inspector General (EPA–OIG) eventually advised staff from several Congressional Committees that the OIG provided evidence of criminal violations of the Clean Water Act and that an EPA official had provided false information to investigators

to DOJ. The Natural Resources Committee's report had asserted that EPA's actions were in violation of the Clean Water Act and that officials with the agency had provided contradictory and misleading statements.

*Additional Actions Taken By the Subcommittee Regarding the Gold King Mine Spill*

- Between *August 31, 2015–September 3, 2015*, the Subcommittee issued document request letters to EPA, DOI, and the contractor working for EPA at the site, Environmental Restoration. The agencies and subcontractor responded multiple times with extensive document productions.

- On *December 9, 2015*, the Subcommittee sent a letter to the GAO requesting that they review the scope, objectivity, and thoroughness of BOR's technical review.

- On *December 10, 2015*, the Subcommittee sent a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding peer review comments from the Corp for BOR's technical review.

- On *December 18, 2015*, the Subcommittee sent the EPA–OIG a letter regarding EPA's potential interference with the OIG's review of the incident.

- On *February 17, 2016*, the Subcommittee issued subpoenas both to DOI and the Army Corp of Engineers demanding outstanding documents that the agencies had not been compliant in sending to that point.

- On *September 14, 2016*, the Subcommittee issued a letter to FWS that focused on the toxic plume's effect on endangered species and the EPA's failure to consult on its Gold King Mine activities. To most of these letters, the Subcommittee received responses from the agencies in question; granted the agencies, more-often than not, took far longer than the deadline set by the Subcommittee in the request letter.

- On *October 12, 2016*, Full Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (UT–01) and Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Committee, Jason Chaffetz (UT–03), sent a joint letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch requesting a briefing on DOJ's declination to pursue evidence of criminal acts that the EPA–OIG had referred to DOJ.

- On *October 24, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent another letter to FWS following up on the letter sent on September 14, 2016.

- Over the course of the Subcommittee's over-a-yearlong investigation, over 100,000 pages of records were analyzed.

FULL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS  
(O&I—LEAD: 3 TOTAL)

*May 19, 2015—“Empowering State Management of Greater Sage Grouse.”*

- The Subcommittee held a Full Committee hearing that focused on examining the efforts of states to protect the endangered Greater Sage Grouse. It also functioned as a platform to give states the opportunity to explain their role as wildlife managers, and to support true cooperation between the federal agencies and state and local governments. Witnesses included state officials from Utah, Idaho, and Colorado who have worked at the ground level on sage-grouse conservation efforts.

*July 29, 2015—“Federal Agencies’ Selective Enforcement of ESA Consultation.”*

- The Subcommittee held a Full Committee hearing that focused on the ESA; namely its requirement for consultation with FWS and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under section 7 when any discretionary federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat. Discussion in the hearing centered around EPA, which, while acknowledging it “works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on consultation for protection of endangered species through a Memorandum of Agreement,” did not consult with FWS on effects its rules for carbon emissions from new and existing power plants may have on listed species, including endangered manatees. Witnesses included officials from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and DOI.

- For the *FY2016 Joint Budget hearing* held by the Subcommittees on Federal Lands and Water, Power, and Oceans, the Subcommittee sent a preparatory letter to FWS to inform Director Dan Ashe that he would be asked questions regarding whether or not EPA asked FWS to engage in section 7 consultation on EPA’s proposed Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New Stationary Sources rule. At the budget hearing, Director Ashe confirmed that they had not.

- *Additional Actions:* On *April 2, 2015*, the Subcommittee followed up with FWS regarding Director Ashe’s confirmation at the joint budget hearing that EPA had not entered Section 7 consultation with FWS. In the letter, questions were asked regarding this failure by EPA to enter into consultation. FWS responded to the questions. On *June 11–15th, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent document request letters to EPA, including a joint letter with Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), requesting that the agency both detail its decision not to consider whether consultation was appropriate and to detail the ground level effects of their new rules on ESA-listed habitat. EPA responded to these requests, and the Subcommittee reviewed the over 1,000 documents that they submitted. On *July 13, 2016*, the Committee sent a document request letter to the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) requesting communications with FWS and EPA.

- The Subcommittee also had a *report commissioned* on ESA Sec. 7 consultation from CRS.

*April 19, 2016—“Recent Changes in Endangered Species Critical Habitat Designation and Implementation.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing that focused on recent final rules and policy from FWS and NOAA’s Fisheries Service that amended regulations and policy regarding critical habitat under the ESA. These included new definitions codified at 50 CFR § 424.02, significantly, new definitions for the term “geographical area occupied by the species” and the term “physical or biological features,” as well as a finalized revised regulatory definition of “destruction or adverse modification” as codified at 50 CFR § 424.02. The Services also issued a new policy regarding the use of exclusions, notably exclusions on federal land and water under Section 4(b)(2) of the ESA. Witnesses included the Director of FWS, Dan Ashe, as well as a former DOI Solicitor, a county administrator,

and the Endangered Species Recovery Director at the Center for Biological Diversity.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS (14 TOTAL)

*April 29, 2015—“Zero Accountability: The Consequences of Politically Driven Science.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing that focused on improving the transparency of federal agencies where science intersects with policy making. Examples detailing poor and improper use of science in decision-making by agencies provided by the Committee included Point Reyes Oyster Farm, poor management of whooping cranes in Texas, and the prioritization of the Houston Toad over timely disaster relief in Bastrop County, Texas. Witnesses included the owner of the Drake’s Bay Oyster Company, Bastrop County’s Commissioner, and a Texas Public Policy Foundation Scholar.

*May 20, 2015—“State Perspectives on the Status of Cooperating Agencies for the Office of Surface Mining’s Stream Protection Rule.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing detailing that, in 2010, OSMRE, as the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the Stream Buffer Zone Rule (SBZR) rewrite, entered into memoranda of understanding (MOU) with a number of states, affording cooperating agency status to the signatory states for environmental impact statement (EIS) activities under NEPA for the Stream Protection rulemaking. However, OSMRE has excluded the states from the NEPA process in contradiction of both NEPA regulations and their MOUs. The hearing focused on the perspectives of those cooperating state agencies on the environmental review process. Witnesses for the hearing included state officials from a number of states affected by the drafting of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). During the hearing, the official testifying on behalf of West Virginia announced that West Virginia would be withdrawing its status as a cooperating agency.

- *Additional Actions:* On April 2, 2015, the Subcommittee sent a document request letter to OSMRE regarding the lack of “meaningful participation” afforded to the 11 States that entered into a MOU with the agency to participate in the development of an EIS. To this, the Subcommittee received three responses from OSMRE. On July 15, 2015, the Subcommittee sent a letter to the GAO requesting information regarding the development of the SBZR and the responsibilities of OSMRE under NEPA. To this, GAO sent a response letter.

*June, 24, 2015—“GAO Report Documents BLM’s Chronic Mismanagement of Wind and Solar Reclamation Bonds.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing analyzing the BLM’s repeated failure to ensure that bonds for renewable energy projects on federal land were sufficient to cover reclamation costs, accurately tracked, and securely stored. Focus was on recently released report from the GAO that followed up on a previous request from the Natural Resources Committee to examine BLM’s policies for the bonding of wind and solar projects on federal lands. GAO found that BLM has inconsistent policies governing bonds for renewable energy projects, routinely fails to properly track and store such bonds, and has limited assurance that bonds for wind and solar projects on federal lands will cover reclamation costs. Witnesses for the hearing included officials from GAO and DOI.

- *Additional Actions:* On May 1, 2015, the subcommittee sent letters to BLM and the Department of the Interior’s Office of the Inspector General (DOI–OIG) asking questions regarding a number of reclamation bonds for renewable energy projects that were removed from a safe and shredded at the Rawlins, Wyoming Field Office. To this, both BLM and DOI–OIG sent responses.

*July 28, 2015—“Accountability, Policies, and Tactics of Law Enforcement within the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing regarding accountability, policies, and tactics of law enforcement within DOI and the USFS. The hearing focused on an increasing lack of cooperation between county and federal law enforcement authorities, as well as conflicts rooted in altercations between federal agents and private landowners and other citizens, which are increasing in frequency. Witnesses included a local county sheriff, a legal scholar who specializes in criminal law, and a member of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

*February 24, 2016—“The Imposition of New Regulations Through the President’s Memorandum on Mitigation.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing analyzing the President’s new Memorandum issued to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), DOI, EPA, and NOAA requiring sweeping changes to their policies regarding mitigation of natural resource impacts from approved projects and activities. Specifically, the new policy requires agencies considering the permitting of projects to incorporate a standard of ensuring a “net benefit” or at minimum “no net loss” of important, scarce, or sensitive natural resources before a permit can be issued. Witnesses included officials from DOI, USDA, and CEQ.

*March 17, 2016—“Implementation of the Department of the Interior’s Law Enforcement Records System.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing that focused on the DOI’s progress in deploying the Incident Management, Analysis, and Reporting System (IMARS), a law enforcement database system. The hearing looked to address why, after spending approximately \$100 million on the program, IMARS has still not been deployed across the entirety of DOI and is not effectively linked to other agencies, such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The witness for this hearing was an official from the DOI.

- *Additional Actions:* On *February 23, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent a letter to DOI requesting answers to questions regarding the delayed implementation of the IMARS system. The Subcommittee received a response to this inquiry. To this, the Subcommittee followed up with another letter on *March 24, 2016* requesting more information. DOI also responded to this request.

*April 28, 2016—“The Consequences of Federal Land Management Along the U.S. Border to Rural Communities and National Security.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing that focused on the challenges to maintaining rural communities and securing the border under federal land management regimes. Witnesses included DOI’s Interagency Borderland Coordinator, Jon Andrew, as well as a County Commissioner and two local ranchers who had previous dealings with illegal drug-trafficking on their property.



- *Additional Actions:* On *March 27, 2015*, the Subcommittee sent document requests to both DOI and DHS requesting information from both agencies detailing their interactions, with a focus on the impediments that DOI's restrictive laws and regulations place on DHS in securing the border. Both agencies replied, and the committee analyzed roughly 9,000 pages of documents provided over multiple productions.

*May 12, 2016—“Local and State Perspectives on BLM’s Draft Planning 2.0 Rule.”*

- The Subcommittee held an oversight hearing that focused on BLM's publishing of its proposed Resources Management Planning Rule, which is part of its Planning 2.0 initiative. The hearing's intention was to provide an opportunity for affected local and state governments to present their concerns about BLM's proposed planning rule. Witnesses included state and local officials from three states set to be effected by Planning 2.0, including Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

*May 24, 2016—“Investigating the Culture of Corruption at the Department of the Interior.”*

- The Subcommittee held a hearing that focused on both reports released by DOI-OIG detailing multiple instances of misconduct within the Department and its sub-agencies, as well as how DOI's culture and ethics structure have contributed to an environment in which ethics violations are commonplace, particularly on the part of political appointees. Witnesses at the hearing included DOI-OIG's Deputy Inspector General, Mary Kendall, and the Department of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor's (DOI-OIS) Deputy Solicitor of Law, Edward Keable. DOJ refused to testify at the hearing.

- *Additional Actions:* On *May 19, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent a request letter to DOI-OIG requesting copies of recently released reports detailing multiple incidents of ethics violations and misuse/inappropriate use of federal utilities. On *May 31, 2016*, the Subcommittee followed up with a request for a recent report detailing the actions of a BLM official, who was personally involved in a land transaction where he stood to make substantial financial gain. On *June 7, 2016*, the Subcommittee followed up with DOI-OIG again to requested investigative reports from DOI on concerns regarding alleged contract steering at NPS and failure to disclose employment at the FWS. DOI-OIG provided these reports.

*June 23, 2016—“The Administration’s Response to Findings of Unethical and Criminal Conduct at the Department of the Interior.”*

- The Subcommittee held a follow up hearing with the purpose of examining how DOI holds its employees accountable, why so many serious ethics violations have recently come to light, the relationship between DOJ and OIG, and how DOJ handles OIG referrals. Witnesses included FWS' Director of Policy, Steve Guertin, and DOI-OIG Deputy Inspector General, Mary Kendall. DOJ again refused to testify at the hearing.

- Several months after the subcommittee hearings DOJ announced that its Public Integrity Section was prosecuting one the individuals highlighted during the hearings. Two US Attorney's offices had declined to pursue the matter when originally presented the DOI-OIG's report and DOJ had refused to provide a witness at the hearing.

- *Additional Actions:* On October 18, 2016, the Subcommittee sent a letter to DOI–OIG requesting a copy of a recent report detailing allegations against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of improper awarding of grants to an outside group.

July 7, 2016—“*State Perspectives on BLM’s Draft Planning 2.0 Rule.*”

- The Subcommittee held a follow-up hearing that looked to provide a further opportunity for more groups likely to be affected by BLM’s new resource management planning rule to discuss their concerns with the Subcommittee. Witnesses included the Secretary of Land and Mineral Management at DOI, Jim Lyons, as well as the Executive Director of the Western Governors Association, a Utah state official, and stakeholders from Colorado and Nevada.

July 14, 2016—“*The Status of Ivanpah and other Federal Loan-Guaranteed Solar Energy Projects on Bureau of Land Management Lands.*”

- The Subcommittee held a hearing that focused on the performance of the Obama Administration’s significant taxpayer investments in solar energy projects on public lands managed by BLM; using the Ivanpah Solar Generating Facility to demonstrate the lack of return on large taxpayer investment, and the adverse effects of these projects on the environment, notably protected species. Witnesses included energy experts and a BLM official.

September 21, 2016—“*The Status of the Federal Government’s Management of Wolves.*”

- The Subcommittee held a hearing that focused on the status of federal and state wolf management and recovery efforts in the United States and the intentions of FWS to expand wolf reintroduction. The Subcommittee found federal management of wolves to be a failure, with the agency failing to work effectively with states and local stakeholders in wolf recovery efforts. One of the most attended hearings of 2016, nine Members of Congress requested to be included by unanimous consent for the opportunity to question witnesses. Witnesses included state officials from North Carolina, New Mexico, and Idaho, as well as the Deputy Director from FWS, Steve Guertin, and ranchers who have negatively been affected by wolf introduction.

December 6, 2016—“*Examining Decades of Data Manipulation at the United States Geological Survey.*”

- The Subcommittee held a hearing that examined data manipulation that occurred at the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) Energy Resources Program (ERP) Geochemistry Laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado, as well as the failures of USGS management to implement effective quality controls which allowed the manipulation to go undetected for nearly two decades as well as management’s role in fostering a “toxic” work environment and failure to take necessary corrective actions. The hearing also focused on the still indeterminate impacts the manipulated data yielded on law and policy and USGS was unable to provide the Subcommittee with a definitive list of the laws policies or projects affected by the data manipulation. The witness for this hearing was Deputy Director of the USGS, Mr. William Workheiser, who, in his oral statement to the Natural Resources Committee, mentioned the incident as his “lowest moment [in] 30 years of Federal service at USGS.”

- *Additional Actions:* On *August 29, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent a document preservation letter to USGS related to a course of continuous data manipulation that occurred at the USGS's ERP Geochemistry Laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado between 1996 and 2014. The data manipulation, along with the laboratory's management failures, were the subject of two separate Department of Interior Office of Inspector General' reports as well as a Department of Interior Scientific Integrity Review Panel report which concluded a "chronic pattern of scientific misconduct" existed at the laboratory and recommended the lab's immediate closure. The Subcommittee followed up with a second letter to USGS on *September 23, 2016*, that made 30 separate information and document requests related to the data manipulation that occurred between 1996 and 2014.

#### ADDITIONAL ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE

##### *Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*

- On *February 6, 2015*, the Subcommittee sent a letter to DOI requesting information regarding DOI's purpose for and involvement at the conference, as well as the delegation that represented them there.

##### *Northern Long—Eared Bat (NLEB)*

- On *March 4, 2015*, the Subcommittee wrote a letter to FWS concerning the potential listing of the Northern long-eared Bat on the Endangered Species list, and the 4(d) rule that accompanied the listing. The Natural Resources Committee argued that the proposed 4(d) rule provides inadequate protections to both long-standing and new activities that are vital to communities throughout the bat's extensive range. After a non-responsive answer from FWS providing a link to the proposed listing on their website, the Subcommittee followed up with another letter on *March 30, 2016*, requesting a more substantial follow-up. FWS followed up on the request from the subcommittee.

##### *EPA—National Ambient Air Quality Standard*

- On *June 10, 2015*, the Subcommittee and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (SST) sent a document request letter to the NPS regarding EPA's regulatory proposal to lower the existing 75 parts per billion (ppb) ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (ozone NAAQS) to 65–70 ppb, and its effects on the further classification of parks as "non-attainment areas", triggering control requirements under the Clean Air Act. NPS responded to this letter, though the response did not meet the parameters of the original request.

- The Subcommittee and the Committee on SST followed up with another letter to NPS encouraging a more comprehensive response regarding requested documents. To this, NPS sent a series of three separate responses to both Committees.

##### *NPS Mismanagement—Effigy Mounds*

- On *August 30, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent a letter to the DOI requesting a staff-level briefing on an NPS after action review of

severe mismanagement at the Effigy Mounds National Park. The mismanagement centered around the park staff's failure "to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and/or the National Environmental Policy Act on at least 78 projects using \$3,368,704 in federal funds," which included the construction of an extensive boardwalk on sensitive American Indian burial sites. This mismanagement occurred for more than 10 years. DOI responded to the committee's invitation. After the Subcommittee initiated oversight of the matter, NPS implemented the requirement that all superintendents be trained in implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act.

*Mitigation in Migratory Birds Treaty Act*

- On *November 18, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent a document request letter to FWS regarding the use of voluntary payments by energy developers to mitigate impacts on migratory birds. Specifically, the Subcommittee inquired about FWS processes used to determine dollar amounts for voluntary mitigation contributions and the third party fiduciaries that receive the contribution funds.

*Tribal Theft*

- On *November 18, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent a letter to DOI-OIG requesting unredacted copies of investigative reports concerning matters related to alleged theft and mismanagement of tribal funds.

*FWS International Affairs Program*

- On *October 18, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent a letter to DOI-OIG requesting unredacted copies of an investigative report concerning the awarding of a single-source cooperative agreement, intended to further Executive Order 13648, to a private company by FWS' International Affairs program. Specifically, the Subcommittee's investigation has centered upon whether senior FWS officials impermissibly influenced procurement staff into awarding a \$256,100 single-source cooperative agreement to a private company, after being connected to the company by an individual who is well-connected in the animal conservation community.

*Tribal Settlement Claims*

- On *December 7, 2016*, the Subcommittee sent a letter to DOI requesting documents regarding the United States' settlement of a lawsuit by the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations in *The Chickasaw Nation and The Choctaw Nation v. United States Department of the Interior, et al.* Specifically, the Subcommittee was interested in DOI's decision-making process in settling the case, as well as ensuring that any potential conflicts of interest were properly addressed prior to the settlement.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

The Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans worked towards enhancing water and power supplies, reducing litigation and providing water certainty, eliminating conflicting federal requirements, promoting fishing access in domestic and international waters, instilling federal transparency and accountability and empowering states, and providing oversight of federal regulations and

proposals that threaten American jobs, water and electricity rates, and economic growth.

#### *Enhancing Water and Power Supplies*

Natural and man-made drought throughout the United States has dramatic impacts on the economy, and regional cultures and ways of life. To that end, the Natural Resources Committee and the House passed H.R. 2898, “*Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015*,” authored by Rep. David Valadao (CA–21). The first six titles of the bill aimed to help alleviate the man-made drought caused, in part, by water being diverted from farms to the ocean. The remaining five titles provided innovative financing measures, streamlining the permitting process for building new water storage and protecting state-issued water rights from federal permitting schemes.

Existing drought conditions, along with regulations on new and existing infrastructure, have exacerbated water and power supply uncertainty throughout the West. The Subcommittee focused on a number of bills aimed at overcoming drought. One bill, H.R. 2273, authored by Rep. Cynthia Lummis (WY–At Large), authorizes the Interior Secretary to study, design, plan and construct improvements to the Fontenelle Dam in Wyoming in order to add more storage capacity. The House passed the bill in July 2016, after Subcommittee consideration.

The Subcommittee also focused on H.R. 2358, “*Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act*.” This bipartisan bill, authored by Reps. Ryan Zinke (MT–At Large) and Kurt Schrader (OR–05), promotes federal land management agency consistency, accountability, and timely decision making as it relates to protecting electricity transmission and distribution lines on federal lands. The bill passed the House with bipartisan support in early December 2015 as part of a broader energy package.

Moreover, in early December 2016, S. 612, “*Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act*” passed both the House and Senate with bipartisan support. Title III of the bill includes multiple provisions from the Natural Resources Committee that bring drought relief for California and the West, by expanding water storage and delivery.

#### *Reducing Litigation and Providing Water Certainty*

Providing water certainty was another key goal for the Subcommittee, particularly as it relates to longstanding Indian water rights claims and litigation. As such, Full Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (UT–01) sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and former Attorney General Eric Holder in February 2015 that outlined the process the Natural Resources Committee followed when considering future Indian water rights claims legislation. In September 2015, the Administration responded to the letter conveying support for H.R. 1296, To amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes, a bill introduced by Rep. Duncan Hunter (CA–50) that seeks to end an Indian water rights dispute in southern California.

As previously mentioned, in addition to S. 612’s efforts to bring drought relief for California and the West, the bill also contains

provisions from the Natural Resources Committee that deliver positive outcomes for Native Americans on a range of important water resources development projects and approval of long-standing water rights settlement agreements.

As another way of providing water supply and financial certainty, the Subcommittee held a hearing and the Natural Resources Committee passed H.R. 5468, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment obligations under Repayment Contracts between the United States and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, a bill sponsored by Chairman Rob Bishop. The bill would allow the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District in Utah to prepay its repayment contract obligations to the federal government, which will reduce the burden on local resources, help bring financial certainty to the District, and bring early revenue to the federal government as a result of accelerated repayments.

The Subcommittee held several oversight hearings this Congress on the impacts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) regulation and the U.S. Forest Service's Groundwater Directive. These proposals could have significant negative impacts on water and power ratepayers and property owners, states and localities. As a consequence, these policies have disincentivized some water users from constructing additional water infrastructure and hindered their ability to meet the public's water supply needs. The initial groundwater directive was withdrawn and efforts to reintroduce it have been unsuccessful. WOTUS currently is being challenged in federal court.

#### *Providing Regulatory Certainty and Eliminating Conflicting Federal Requirements*

Predation by invasive species poses a serious ecological problem in many river systems in the West, and the Subcommittee worked to eliminate conflicting federal requirements that restrict population control efforts. Such species threatened by predation include the Endangered Species Act-listed Delta smelt and subpopulations of steelhead and salmon in California and the Pacific Northwest. The House passed a bipartisan bill, H.R. 4582, "*Save our Salmon Act*," authored by Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-10) which amends the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to exclude striped bass from the statute's population doubling goal.

The Subcommittee also worked to ensure local communities could access necessary potable water from sources unavailable due to bureaucratic red tape. The Town of Louisa, Virginia has struggled to provide clean drinking water for its citizens after it was discovered that its drinking water was contaminated, but the National Park Service refuses to allow the town to use a small parcel of land, acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars, to create a well to dilute the contaminated water supply. H.R. 5032, To allow certain property in the town of Louisa, Virginia, to be used for purposes related to compliance with water quality standards, and for other purposes, exempts the park from federal land conversion restrictions so that the town can have access to a safe and reliable source of water.

*Protecting and Promoting Fishing Access*

The Subcommittee considered many bills this Congress aimed at protecting fishing access and returning state waters to local control. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1335, “*Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act*.” This bill, introduced by Rep. Don Young (AK–At Large), makes key reforms to the Magnuson-Stevens Act—the primary law regulating federal fisheries management. H.R. 1335 increases transparency in federal fisheries agency decisions, empowers regional decision making, and improves recreational fishing data and access through requiring state data into federal assessments. The bill also ensures access to marine resources by affirming that the Magnuson-Stevens Act shall remain the ultimate authority over federal fisheries management even within the bounds of a Marine National Monument or Marine Sanctuary.

The Subcommittee worked to reduce barriers to and encourage use of our ocean resources. The House passed H.R. 3070, “*EEZ Transit Zone Clarification and Access Act*,” introduced by Rep. Lee Zeldin (NY–01). The bill, as amended, allows and regulates recreational striped bass fishing in the Block Island Transit Zone and ensures that the bill will not impact federal permits in such waters. The House also passed H.R. 4245, To exempt exportation of certain echinoderms and mollusks from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, sponsored by Rep. Chellie Pingree (ME–01), which would exempt certain echinoderms and mollusks from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act.

Executive overreach, through both executive fiat and agency actions, has restricted access to fisheries and taken a toll on local economies. The Administration initiated the development of a sweeping multi-agency federal management plan for oceans, which culminated in July 2010 when President Obama issued Executive Order 13547 creating the National Ocean Council, which is required to develop a framework for coastal and marine spatial planning consistent with the objectives laid out in the Executive Order. These priorities include marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management. Rep. Bradley Byrne (AL–01) successfully offered an amendment preventing federal funds from being used to execute actions under the National Ocean Policy to the fiscal year 2017 Interior Department appropriations bill.

The Subcommittee conducted vigorous oversight into President Obama’s use of the Antiquities Act to designate Marine National Monuments. Full Committee Chairman Rob Bishop and Subcommittee Chairman John Fleming and others subsequently sent a letter to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Council on Environmental Quality echoing bipartisan requests for additional information regarding a proposed monument off the coast of Maine as well as additional opportunities for local input in what has otherwise not been a transparent process.

Federal agencies have overstepped their bounds and subverted local management of state water resources. The Subcommittee conducted oversight into the General Management Plan for Biscayne National Park in Florida which was proposed in June 2015. This plan includes 10,502 acres in state waters that would be closed to

all commercial and recreational fishing—despite opposition from the State of Florida and others.

*Federal transparency and accountability and empowering states*

Local and state agencies and stakeholders often have the best understanding of how to manage their own resources, and the Subcommittee worked to promote transparency in federal agencies and empower states to create solutions that suit the specific needs for water and power of local communities. One such measure, H.R. 3062, “*APPROVAL Act*,” authored by Rep. Steve Womack (AR–03) and supported by the Arkansas Congressional delegation, requires state approval before federal eminent domain is used under a specific authority authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This bill passed the Natural Resources Committee in June 2016. In a similar effort to keep the federal government accountable, the Subcommittee heard testimony on H.R. 1219, “*Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2015*.” The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Cole (OK–04) reduces the federal estate by allowing a water district in Oklahoma to own two federal buildings and land that it has paid for and has operated and maintained for decades. This reduces the administrative burden on both the water district and the United States, and gives the water district more local control of its facilities.

Bureau of Reclamation projects are required to implement unfunded mitigation measures for species listed in the Endangered Species Act, resulting in significant direct and indirect costs that are covered by ratepayers. H.R. 1869, “*Environmental Compliance Cost Transparency Act of 2015*” was introduced by Subcommittee Vice-Chair Paul Gosar (AZ–04). The bill requires the four federal Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) to estimate and report in monthly billing statements the total costs of each of their wholesale customer’s share of any federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife.

The Subcommittee considered other transparency measures as well such as H.R. 1107, “*Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act*.” This bipartisan bill, also authored by Rep. Gosar (AZ–04), requires the Secretary of the Interior to publish reports detailing specific rehabilitation needs at Bureau of Reclamation facilities. This will afford Congress, states and localities and water and power users with the necessary information to make informed decisions on aging infrastructure. The Natural Resources Committee passed the bill in October 2015.

FULL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS (WPO THE LEAD) (2 TOTAL)

*August 3, 2015—Field Hearing in Homestead, Florida on “Restricted Access at Biscayne National Park and Implications for Fishermen, Small Businesses, the Local Economy and Environment.”*

- This hearing focused on the General Management Plan for Biscayne National Park issues by the National Park Service (NPS). This plan includes a 10,502 acre Marine Reserve Zone which would be closed to all commercial and recreational fishing, including more than one-third of the Park’s hard bottom habitat for reef fishing. Traditionally fishing and other harvesting activities had been governed by state law even though the Park is part of a federal agen-



cy. NPS claimed to be working in collaboration with state agencies, but the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission opposed the plan.

*December 7, 2015*—Field Hearing in Riverhead, New York on “*Restoring Atlantic Fisheries and Protecting the Regional Seafood Economy.*”

- This hearing focused on challenges relating to the management, access to and science of key commercial and recreational fisheries in parts of the Atlantic region. Industry leaders and stakeholders expressed concerns about conflicting science on affected fisheries stocks as it has inhibited access to the resources for both commercial and recreational fishing. Specific attention was given to the lack of science and inadequate data collection used in the management of key species, as well as other potential federal regulatory issues in the region that could hurt the regional seafood economy.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS (11 TOTAL)

*May 20, 2015*—Joint legislative hearing with the Subcommittee on Federal Lands on a Discussion Draft of the “*SHARE Act.*”

- This bill passed the House on 12/3/2015 via H.R. 8, “*North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.*”

*May 20, 2015*—Discussion Draft of the “*Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act.*”

- This bill passed the House on 12/3/2015 via H.R. 8, “*North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.*”

*June 25, 2015*—H.R. 1107, “*Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act*”; H.R. 1406, “*New Mexico Navajo Water Settlement Technical Corrections Act*”; H.R. 2273, To amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir; and H.R. 2749, “*Dam Authorization, Maintenance, and Safety (DAMS) Act of 2015.*”

- H.R. 2273, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 07/05/2016.

*July 23, 2015*—H.R. 564, “*Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act*”; H.R. 1772, “*Delaware River Basin Conservation Act of 2015*”; and H.R. 2168, “*West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act.*”

- H.R. 2168, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 10/06/2015.

- The modified text of H.R. 1772 passed the House on 12/08/2016 via S. 612, “*Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.*”

- S. 612 passed the House on 12/08/2016, and the Senate agreed to House amendment on 12/12/2016.

- S. 612 was presented to the President on 12/14/2016.

*October 22, 2015*—H.R. 3094, “*Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority Act.*”

*October 28, 2015*—H.R. 1219, “*Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2015*”; H.R. 1296, To amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes”; and H.R. 3062, “*Assuring Private Property Rights Over Vast Access to Land (APPROVAL) Act.*”

- H.R. 1296, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 09/22/2016.
- The text of H.R. 1296, as passed by the House, was incorporated into S. 612, “*Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.*”
- S. 612 passed the House on 12/08/2016, and the Senate agreed to House amendment on 12/12/2016.
- S. 612 was presented to the President on 12/14/2016.
- February 2, 2016*—H.R. 3070, “*EEZ Clarification Act,*” and H.R. 4245, to exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- H.R. 3070, as amended, passed the House under suspension of the rules on 06/07/2016.
- H.R. 4245, as amended, passed the House under suspension of the rules on 09/06/2016.
- March 1, 2016*—H.R. 4576, “*Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act.*”
- H.R. 4576, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 09/12/2016.
- April 20, 2016*—H.R. 1869, “*Environmental Compliance Cost Transparency Act of 2015*”; H.R. 2993, “*Water Recycling Acceleration Act of 2015*”; and H.R. 4582, “*Save Our Salmon Act.*”
- H.R. 4582, as amended, passed the House by voice vote on 07/05/2016.
- The text of H.R. 4582, as passed by the house, was incorporated into S. 612, “*Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.*”
- S. 612 passed the House on 12/08/2016, and the Senate agreed to House amendment on 12/12/2016.
- S. 612 was presented to the President on 12/14/2016.
- May 24, 2016*—H.R. 4366, “*San Luis Unit Drainage Resolution Act*”; H.R. 5217, “*San Luis Unit Drainage Resolution Act*”; and a Discussion Draft of “*Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act of 2016.*”
- The Discussion Draft of “*Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act of 2016*” was later introduced as H.R. 5633, “*Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act.*”
- The modified text of H.R. 5633 passed the House on 12/08/2016 via S. 612, “*Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.*”
- S. 612 passed the House on 12/08/2016, and the Senate agreed to House amendment on 12/12/2016.
- S. 612 was presented to the President on 12/14/2016.
- June 23, 2016*—H.R. 5032, To allow certain property in the town of Louisa, Virginia, to be used for purposes related to compliance with water quality standards, and for other purposes; H.R. 5430, “*Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act of 2016*”; H.R. 5468, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment obligations under Repayment Contracts between the United States and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District; and a Discussion Draft of “*Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement Act.*”
- H.R. 5468, as reported, passed the House on 12/08/2016 via S. 612, “*Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.*”
- The Discussion Draft of “*Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement Act*” was later introduced as H.R.

5984, “*Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement Act.*”

- H.R. 5984, as reported, passed the House on 12/08/2016 via S. 612, “*Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.*”
- S. 612 passed the House on 12/08/2016, and the Senate agreed to House amendment on 12/12/2016.
- S. 612 was presented to the President on 12/14/2016.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS (11 TOTAL)

*March 19, 2015*—Joint Oversight Budget hearing with the Subcommittee on Federal Lands titled “*Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal.*”

- This hearing focused on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (FWS) and NOAA’s budget requests for FY 2016. Special attention was given to FWS listing of species under the Endangered Species Act while lacking in recovery and de-listing efforts. Further focus was placed on NOAA’s failure to focus on its fundamental mission, producing data and science regarding fish stocks, and instead emphasizing atmospheric and regulatory programs.

*March 24, 2015*—“*Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Power Marketing Administrations and USGS Water Division in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal.*”

- This hearing focused on agency priorities and accountability among the Bureau of Reclamation, the four Power Marketing Administrations, and the U.S. Geological Survey’s Water program. Special attention was given to curtailed water deliveries and hydropower generation due to drought, litigation and federal regulation. Additional focus was given to conservation, operating efficiencies and new storage that could alleviate the situation.

*April 14, 2015*—“*Proposed Federal Water Grabs and Their Potential Impacts on States, Water, and Power Users, and Landowners.*”

- This hearing focused on actions and proposals from the Obama Administration such as the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Waters of the U.S.” and the U.S. Forest Service’s “Groundwater Directive”. These rules have negative impacts on water and power ratepayers, states, and localities. There was also a focus on these policies being counterproductive towards local conservation and groundwater recharge efforts.

*September 29, 2015*—“*The Potential Implications of Pending Marine National Monument Designations.*”

- This hearing focused on the impacts of existing Marine National Monuments and plans for designations off the coasts of Alaska and Cape Cod in New England. Special attention was given to President Obama’s significant expansion of existing Marine Monuments and the Administration’s lack of transparency when considering utilizing broad authority under the Antiquities Act.

*February 10, 2016*—“*The Costly Impacts of Predation and Conflicting Federal Statutes on Native and Endangered Fish Species.*”

- This hearing focused on redundant federal regulations and conflicting statutes that prevent the recovery of ESA-listed species. Predation by non-native species depresses these critical populations

and federal laws that encourage recovery of endangered species often include similar protections for the predators at the heart of the problem. These conflicting laws have resulted in perpetual litigation and regulatory uncertainty.

*February 24, 2016—“The 2016 California Water Supply Outlook During the El Niño and Three Years of Restricted Water Deliveries.”*

- This hearing focused on the continuing drought in California, its impacts state-wide and nationwide and ways Congress can help overcome it. These topics were considered in context of historic levels of precipitation that did not yield greater water deliveries for water users due to regulations aimed at protecting the Delta smelt.

*March 22, 2016—“Examining the Missions and Impacts of the President’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Power Marketing Administrations.”*

- This hearing focused on the President’s fiscal year 2017 budget requests and other spending for FWS, NOAA, Bureau of Reclamation and the Power Marketing Administrations. There was a specific focus on decreased water exports to water rights holders and drastically increased requests for NOAA and the Department of the Interior as a whole.

*April 13, 2016—“Empowering States and Western Water Users Through Regulatory and Administrative Reforms.”*

- This hearing focused on regulatory uncertainty and red tape that has dis-incentivized investment in new water infrastructure. Specific attention was given to proposals to empower states to create regulatory certainty and to transfer water projects to local water users.

*April 27, 2016—“Realizing the Potential of Hydropower as a Clean, Renewable and Domestic Energy Resource.”*

- This hearing focused on the potential of hydropower as a clean, renewable and emissions-free source of power. Hydropower is capable of providing base-load power where wind and solar sources are intermittent. Due to environmental concerns, hydropower development has become stagnant. The major themes of this hearing were how to expand hydropower and reform the regulatory process to incentivize future investment.

*May 17, 2016—“The Implications of President Obama’s National Ocean Policy.”*

- This hearing focused on President Obama’s National Ocean Policy. The Administration initiated the development of a sweeping multi-agency federal management plan for oceans, which culminated in July 2010 when President Obama issued Executive Order 13547. Legislation implementing major national ocean policy failed to pass during three successive Congresses and this hearing sought to understand the impact this policy would have on coastal and inland communities.

*July 12, 2016—“Changing Demands and Water Supply Uncertainty in California.”*

- This hearing focused on separate, sometimes conflicting, proposed actions by FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which could significantly impact the availability of water for multiple uses in California. Despite historic precipitation, many

water users will likely experience another year of restricted water deliveries due to these proposals and existing regulations.



## APPENDIX I

### PRINTED HEARINGS

*114-1*—Oversight Hearing on “Proposed Federal Water Grabs and Their Potential Impacts on States, Water and Power Users, and Landowners.” April 14, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

*114-2*—Oversight Hearing on “Examining the Future Impacts of President Obama’s Offshore Energy Plan.” April 15, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources)

*114-3*—Oversight Hearing on “Innovations in Safety Since the 2010 Macondo Incident.” April 22, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

*114-4*—Oversight Hearing on “The Obama Administration’s Part 83 Revisions and How They May Allow the Interior Department to Create Tribes, not Recognize Them.” April 22, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs)

*114-5*—Oversight Hearing on “Zero Accountability: The Consequences of Politically Driven Science.” April 29, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

*114-6*—Oversight Hearing on “The Obama Administration’s CEQ Recently Revised Draft Guidance for GHG Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change.” May 13, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

*114-7*—Oversight Hearing on “Empowering State Management of Greater Sage Grouse” May 19, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

*114-8*—Legislative Hearing on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_, “National Energy Security Corridors Act”. May 20, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources)

*114-9*—Legislative Hearing on Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_, “The Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act”. May 20, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

*114-10*—Oversight Hearing on “State Perspectives on the Status of Cooperating Agencies for the Office of Surface Mining’s Stream Protection Rule.” May 20, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

*114-11*—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1157, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 2386, To provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2538, To take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes. June 17, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs)

*114-12*—Oversight Hearing on “GAO Report Documents BLM’s Chronic Mismanagement of Wind and Solar Reclamation Bonds.” June 24, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

*114-13*—Oversight Hearing on “Examining Procedures Regarding Puerto Rico’s Political Status and Economic Outlook.” June 24, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs)

*114-14*—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1937, To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness. June 25, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources)

*114-15*—Oversight Hearing on “The Future of Hydraulic Fracturing on Federally Managed Lands.” July 15, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources)

*114-16*—Oversight Hearing on “An Analysis of the Obama Administration’s Social Cost of Carbon.” July 22, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

*114-17*—Oversight Hearing on “Accountability, Policies, and Tactics of Law Enforcement within the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service.” July 28, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

*114-18*—Oversight Hearing on “Federal Agencies’ Selective Enforcement of ESA Consultation.” July 29, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

*114-19*—Oversight Field Hearing in New Orleans, Louisiana on “The Impacts of Federal Policies on Energy Production and Economic Growth in the Gulf.” September 15, 2015, New Orleans, Louisiana. (Full Committee)

*114-20*—Joint Oversight Hearing with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on “EPA’s Animas Spill.” September 17, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee and Committee on Oversight and Government Reform)

*114-21*—Oversight Hearing on “The Potential Implications of Pending Marine National Monument Designations.” September 29, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

*114-22*—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3094, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to transfer to states the authority to manage red snapper fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. October 22, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

*114-23*—Legislative Hearings on H.R. 3764, To provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes. October 28, 2015 (Part 1); December 8, 2015 (Part 2), Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs)

*114-24*—Legislative Hearing on Discussion Draft, H.R. \_\_\_\_, “National Park Service Centennial Act.” December 2, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Federal Lands)



114-25—Oversight Hearing on “The Department of the Interior’s Role in the EPA’s Animas Spill.” December 9, 2015, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

114-26—Legislative Field Hearing in Idaho Springs, Colorado, on H.R. 3734, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide support to mining schools, and for other purposes. December 14, 2015, Idaho Springs, Colorado. (Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources)

114-27—Oversight Hearing on “Exploring Energy Challenges and Opportunities Facing Puerto Rico.” January 12, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources)

114-28—Oversight Field Hearing in St. George Utah, on “Ensuring Local Input, Legal Consistency and Multi-Use Resource Management in St. George BLM Planning.” January 22, 2016, St. George, Utah. (Subcommittee on Federal Lands)

114-29—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3070, To clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4245, To exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. February 2, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

114-30—Oversight Hearing on “The Need for the Establishment of a Puerto Rico Financial Stability and Economic Growth Authority.” February 2, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs)

114-31—Oversight Hearing on “The Costly Impacts of Predation and Conflicting Federal Statutes on Native and Endangered Fish Species.” February 10, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

114-32—Oversight Hearing on “The 2016 California Water Supply Outlook During the El Niño and Three Years of Restricted Water Deliveries.” February 24, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

114-33—Hearing on “The Imposition of New Regulations Through the President’s Memorandum on Mitigation.” February 24, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

114-34—Hearing on “The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Analysis of the Situation in Puerto Rico.” February 25, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

114-35—Oversight Hearing on “Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal.” March 1, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

114-36—Legislative Hearing on H.R. \_\_\_, “Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act.” April 13, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

114-37—Oversight Hearing on “Recent Changes to Endangered Species Critical Habitat Designation and Implementation.” April 19, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

114-38—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3881, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest. April 19, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources)

114-39—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1869, To provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes; H.R. 2993, To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize funding for water recycling projects in areas experiencing severe, extreme, or exceptional drought, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4582, To exclude striped bass from the anadromous fish doubling requirement in section 3406(b)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, and for other purposes. April 20, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

114-40—Oversight Hearing on “Realizing the Potential of Hydropower as a Clean, Renewable and Domestic Energy Resource.” April 27, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

114-41—Oversight Hearing on “The Consequences of Federal Land Management along the U.S. Border to Rural Communities and National Security.” April 28, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

114-42—Oversight Hearing on “Local and State Perspectives on BLM’s Draft Planning 2.0 Rule.” May 12, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

114-43—Oversight Hearing on “The Implications of President Obama’s National Ocean Policy.” May 17, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

114-44—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4366, To affirm an agreement between the United States and Westlands Water District dated September 15, 2015, and for other purposes; H.R. 5217, To affirm “The Agreement Between the United States and Westlands Water District” dated September 15, 2015, “The Agreement Between the United States, San Luis Water District, Panoche Water District and Pacheco Water District”, and for other purposes; and Discussion Draft H.R. \_\_\_, “Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act of 2016”. May 24, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

114-45—Oversight Hearing on “Investigating the Culture of Corruption at the Department of the Interior.” May 24, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

114-46—Oversight Field Hearing in East Millinocket, Maine, on “Elevating Local Voices and Promoting Transparency for a Potential Monument Designation in Maine.” June 1, 2016, East Millinocket, Maine. (Full Committee)

114-47—Oversight Hearing on “The Administration’s Response to Findings of Unethical and Criminal Conduct at the Department of the Interior.” June 23, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

*114-48*—Oversight Hearing on “State Perspectives on BLM’s Draft Planning 2.0 Rule.” July 7, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

*114-49*—Oversight Hearing on “Changing Demands and Water Supply Uncertainty in California.” July 12, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans)

*114-50*—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 5406, To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve access to tribal health care by providing for systemic Indian Health Service workforce and funding allocation reforms, and for other purposes. July 12, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs)

*114-51*—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 5780, To provide greater conservation, recreation, economic development and local management of Federal lands in Utah, and for other purposes. September 14, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Federal Lands)

*114-52*—Oversight Hearing on “The Impacts of the Obama CEQ’s Final Guidance for GHG Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change.” September 21, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Full Committee)

*114-53*—Oversight Hearing on “The Status of the Federal Government’s Management of Wolves.” September 21, 2016, Washington, D.C. (Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

*114-54*—Oversight Field Hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on “Tribal Prosperity and Self-Determination through Energy Development.” October 4, 2016, Santa Fe, New Mexico. (Full Committee)

*114-55*—Oversight Hearing on “Examining Decades of Data Manipulation at the United States Geological Survey.”



## APPENDIX II

### LEGISLATION PASSED/FAILED TO PASS THE HOUSE

#### BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT PASSED THE HOUSE

*[Asterisk (\*) denotes bills that the Committee on Natural Resources was not the lead Committee]*

01/09/2015—H.R. 3\*, To approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. Passed House by a vote of 266–153, 1 Present.

02/03/2015—H.R. 596\*, To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 239–186.

03/26/2015—H.R. 2\*, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 392–37. (*Public Law 114–10*)

04/28/2015—H.R. 373, To direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 413–0.

04/28/2015—H.R. 984, To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

04/28/2015—H.R. 1324, To adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes. Passed House by a vote of 381–30.

05/19/2015—H.R. 2353\*, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. Passed House by a vote of 387–35, 1 Present. (*Public Law 114–21*)

06/01/2015—H.R. 404, To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska. Passed House by voice vote.

06/01/2015—H.R. 533, To revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–28*)

06/01/2015—H.R. 979, To designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as “Sky Point”. Passed House by voice vote.

06/01/2015—H.R. 1168, To amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks

before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

06/01/2015—H.R. 1335, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 225–152.

07/09/2015—H.R. 2647\*, To expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 262–167.

07/13/2015—H.R. 387, To provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

07/15/2015—H.R. 3038\*, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. Passed House by a vote of 312–119.

07/16/2015—H.R. 2898, To provide drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 245–176.

07/27/2015—H.R. 774, To strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–81*)

07/27/2015—H.R. 1138, To establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–46*)

07/29/2015—H.R. 3236\*, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, and for other purposes. Passed House by a vote of 385–34, 1 Present. (*Public Law 114–41*)

09/16/2015—H.R. 487, To allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–127*)

09/16/2015—H.R. 959, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/16/2015—H.R. 1214, To amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 403–0.

09/16/2015—H.R. 1289, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, Cali-

fornia, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/16/2015—H.R. 1554, To require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

09/16/2015—H.R. 1949, To provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia. Passed House by a vote of 402–0.

09/16/2015—H.R. 2223, To authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

09/16/2015—H.R. 2791, To require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of certain Indian tribes in Oregon, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

09/16/2015—S. 501\*, A bill to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–57*)

09/18/2015—S. 764\*, A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes. Passed House with an amendment pursuant to H.Res. 421.

09/25/2015—H.R. 348\*, To provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes. Passed House by a vote of 233–170.

10/06/2015—H.R. 2168, To make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

10/08/2015—H.R. 538, To facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 254–173.

10/22/2015—H.R. 1937, To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 254–177.

10/27/2015—H.R. 3819\*, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–73*)

11/02/2015—H.R. 2494\*, To support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–231*)

11/16/2015—H.R. 3996\*, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–87*)

11/30/2015—H.R. 1541, To amend title 54, United States Code, to make Hispanic-serving institutions eligible for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of preservation training and degree programs. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

11/30/2015—H.R. 2212, To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-181*)

11/30/2015—H.R. 2270, To redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 413-2. (*Public Law 114-101*)

11/30/2015—H.R. 2288, To remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 407-0.

12/09/2015—H.R. 2130, To provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes. Passed House by a vote of 253-177.

01/12/2016—H.R. 1644, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure transparency in the development of environmental regulations, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 235-188.

02/09/2016—H.R. 890, To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-128*)

02/09/2016—H.R. 3036, To designate the National September 11 Memorial located at the World Trade Center site in New York City, New York, as a national memorial, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 387-12.

02/24/2016—H.R. 812, To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-178*)

02/24/2016—H.R. 1475, To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-230*)

02/24/2016—H.R. 2880, To redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

02/24/2016—H.R. 3004, To amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-233*)

02/24/2016—H.R. 3371, To adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

02/24/2016—H.R. 3620, To amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.



02/26/2016—H.R. 2406, To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 242–161.

03/22/2016—H.R. 482, To redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

03/22/2016—H.R. 2857, To facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

03/22/2016—H.R. 4119, To authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

05/23/2016—H.R. 496, To establish the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area in the State of California, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

06/07/2016—H.R. 87, To modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

06/07/2016—H.R. 1815, To facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to provide for the implementation of a conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 360–7.

06/07/2016—H.R. 2009, To provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

06/07/2016—H.R. 2733, To require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114–232*)

06/07/2016—H.R. 3070, To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to permit striped bass fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone transit zone between Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

06/08/2016—H.R. 3826, To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 401–2.

06/09/2016—H.R. 5278, To establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 291–127. (*See S. 2328, Public Law 114–187*)

06/09/2016—S. 2328, A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, pursuant to H. Res. 770 (Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 5278, to establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumental-

ities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes). *Note:* H.R. 5278 became S. 2328 pursuant to H. Con. Res. 135 (Directing the Secretary of the Senate to make technical corrections in the enrollment of S. 2328), which passed the Senate on June 29, 2016 by a vote of 68–20. (*Public Law 114–187*)

07/05/2016—H.R. 1838, To establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

07/05/2016—H.R. 2273, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskaadee Project to enable the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

07/05/2016—H.R. 3079, To take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

07/05/2016—H.R. 3844, To establish the Bureau of Land Management Foundation to encourage, obtain, and use gifts, devises, and bequests for projects for the benefit of, or in connection with, activities and services of the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

07/05/2016—H.R. 4582, To exclude striped bass from the anadromous fish doubling requirement in section 3406(b)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

07/05/2016—H.R. 4685, To take certain Federal lands located in Tulare County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tule River Indian Tribe, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

07/05/2016—H.R. 5244, To provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/06/2016—H.R. 3480, To expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/06/2016—H.R. 3839, To transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/06/2016—H.R. 3881, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 395–3.

09/06/2016—H.R. 4202, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/06/2016—H.R. 4245, To exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/06/2016—H.R. 4510, To insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the

Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/06/2016—H.R. 4789, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

09/06/2016—H.R. 5577, To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/12/2016—H.R. 295, To reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/12/2016—H.R. 4576, To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/12/2016—S. 246\*, A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-244*)

09/12/2016—S. 1579\*, A bill to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-221*)

09/21/2016—H. Con. Res. 122\*, Supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally. House agreed to the resolution, as amended, by voice vote.

09/22/2016—H.R. 1296, To amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

09/22/2016—H.R. 4564, To redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as “Robert Emmet Park”, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

09/26/2016—H.R. 845\*, To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-245*)

09/28/2016—H.R. 5303\*, To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 399–25.

12/05/2016—S. 3395\*, A bill to require limitations on prescribed burns. (*Public Law 114-275*)

12/06/2016—H.R. 4680, To prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting

and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-289*)

12/06/2016—H.R. 6401, To amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands. Passed House voice vote.

12/07/2016—H.R. 329, To amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

12/07/2016—H.R. 1219, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by a vote of 412-1.

12/07/2016—H.R. 3711, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes. Passed House, as amended, by voice vote.

12/07/2016—H.R. 6400, To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey. Passed House by voice vote. (*Public Law 114-314*)

12/07/2016—S. 3028, A bill to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness. Passed House by a vote of 401-8, 2 Present. (*Public Law 114-272*)

12/08/2016—H.R. 6452, To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes. Passed House by unanimous consent. (*Public Law 114-xxx*)

#### BILL THAT FAILED TO PASS THE HOUSE

11/16/2015—H.R. 308, To prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts. Failed to pass House under suspension of the rules by vote of 263-146.

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*Public Law 114-xxx\**: Designates a bill that was presented and signed by the President, but not assigned a Public Law number prior to filing the Activities Report.

## APPENDIX III

### PUBLIC LAWS ENACTED

*[Asterisk (\*) denotes bills that were not referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, but contain provisions under the jurisdiction of the Committee]*

Public Law 114–10: H.R. 2, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes. *(Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015)*

Public Law 114–21: H.R. 2353, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. *(Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015)*

Public Law 114–28: H.R. 533, To revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

Public Law 114–41: H.R. 3236, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, and for other purposes. *(Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015)*

Public Law 114–46: H.R. 1138, To establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes. *(Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act)*

Public Law 114–56: S. 230\* (H.R. 521), A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska.

Public Law 114–57: S. 501 (H.R. 1406), A bill to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes. *(New Mexico Navajo Water Settlement Technical Corrections Act)*

Public Law 114–69: S. 986\* (H.R. 1880), A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico. *(Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act)*

Public Law 114–73: H.R. 3819, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. *(Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015)* and *(Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015)*

Public Law 114–81: H.R. 774, To strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes. (*Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015*)

Public Law 114–87: H.R. 3996, To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. (*Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015, Part II*)

Public Law 114–92: S. 1356\* (H.R. 477), An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes. (*National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016*)

Public Law 114–94: H.R. 22\* (H.R. 3462), To amend title 46, United States Code, and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act with respect to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, and for other purposes. (*Sport Fish Restoration and Recreational Boating Safety Act of 2015*)

Public Law 114–101: H.R. 2270, To redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes. (*Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act*)

Public Law 114–113: H.R. 2029\* (H.R. 2749), Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016*)

Public Law 114–120: H.R. 4188\* (H.R. 325, H.R. 2284), To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes. (*Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015*)

Public Law 114–127: H.R. 487, To allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

Public Law 114–128: H.R. 890, To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida. (*To correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P16*)

Public Law 114–165: S. 184\* (H.R. 1168), A bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes. (*Native American Children's Safety Act*)

Public Law 114–178: H.R. 812, To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes. (*Indian Trust Asset Reform Act*)

Public Law 114–181: H.R. 2212, To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes.

Public Law 114–187: S. 2328 (H.R. 5278), A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes. *Note:* The short title, as enacted, became Puerto

Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (*PROMESA*)

Public Law 114–221: S. 1579 (H.R. 3477), A bill to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States. (*Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act*)

Public Law 114–230: H.R. 1475, To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance. (*Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act*)

Public Law 114–231: H.R. 2494, To support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes. (*Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016*)

Public Law 114–232: H.R. 2733, To require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes. (*Nevada Native Nations Land Act*)

Public Law 114–233: H.R. 3004, To amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

Public Law 114–244: S. 246, A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes. (*Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act*)

Public Law 114–245: H.R. 845, To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes. (*National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act*)

Public Law 114–289: H.R. 4680 (H.R. 2817), To prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes. (*National Park Service Centennial Act*)

Public Law 114–314: H.R. 6400, To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey.

Public Law 114–xxx: H.R. 6452 (H.R. 3269), To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes. (*Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act*)

Public Law 114–272: S. 3028 (H.R. 5397), A bill to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness. (*Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act*)

Public Law 114–275: S. 3395 (H.R. 6029), A bill to require limitations on prescribed burns. (*Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016*)

Public Law 114–322: S. 612\* (H.R. 387, H.R. 1296, H.R. 1772, H.R. 2086, H.R. 2898, H.R. 3079, H.R. 3382, H.R. 4131, H.R. 4685,

H.R. 5468, H.R. 5633, H.R. 5765, H.R. 5984), A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”. (*Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, or the WIIN Act*)

Public Law 114–262: S. 817\* (H.R. 3211), A bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

Public Law 114–263: S. 818\* (H.R. 3212), A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

Public Law 114–xxx: S. 2943\* (H.R. 202, H.R. 1621, H.R. 4579), An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes. (*National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017*)

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\*Public Law 114–xxx: Designates a bill that was presented and signed by the President, but not assigned a Public Law number prior to filing the Activities Report.



APPENDIX IV

COMMITTEE PRINTS

FIRST SESSION

114–A Rules for the Committee on Natural Resources, 114th Congress (Adopted: January 28, 2015)

114–B The Unveiling and Presentation of the Official Portrait of the Honorable Richard W. Pombo, Former Chairman, Committee on Resources (Ceremony: July 28, 2015)

SECOND SESSION

114–C Natural Resources Committee Activities Report, 114th Congress (First and Second Sessions, 2015–2016)

114–D Natural Resources Committee Legislative Calendar, 114th Congress (First and Second Sessions, 2015–2016)



## APPENDIX V

### COMMITTEE BILL REPORTS FILED

*House Report 114–75, Part 1, (H.R. 373)*, To direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114–76 (H.R. 404)*, To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska.

*House Report 114–77 (H.R. 533)*, To revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114–78 (H.R. 984)*, To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114–79 (H.R. 1168)*, To amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114–80 (H.R. 1324)*, To adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114–81 (H.R. 979)*, To designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as “Sky Point”.

*House Report 114–84 (H.R. 152)*, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

*House Report 114–95 (H.R. 308)*, To prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts.

*House Report 114–116 (H.R. 1335)*, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114–140, Part 1, (H.R. 1214)*, To amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114–151, Part 1, (H.R. 1991)*, To extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-173 (H.R. 387)*, To provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-185, Part 2, (H.R. 2647)*, To expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-197, Part 1, (H.R. 2898)*, To provide drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-197, Part 2, (H.R. 2898)*, To provide drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes. (Supplemental Report)

*House Report 114-212, Part 1, (H.R. 774)*, To strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-213 (H.R. 1289)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-217, Part 1, (H.R. 521)*, To provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska.

*House Report 114-229 (H.R. 1138)*, To establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-236 (H.R. 1992)*, To reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-250 (H.R. 487)*, To allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

*House Report 114-251 (H.R. 959)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-252 (H.R. 1949)*, To provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia.

*House Report 114-253, Part 1, (H.R. 1937)*, To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness.

*House Report 114-254 (H.R. 2791)*, To require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of certain Indian tribes in Oregon, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-255 (S. 501)*, A bill to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-257 (H.R. 1554)*, To require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-258 (H.R. 2223)*, To authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-271 (H.R. 1880)*, To require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

*House Report 114-274 (H.R. 2168)*, To make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-275 (H.R. 1541)*, To amend title 54, United States Code, to make Hispanic-serving institutions eligible for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of preservation training and degree programs.

*House Report 114-276 (H.R. 538)*, To facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-277 (H.R. 1644)*, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure transparency in the development of environmental regulations, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-285 (H.R. 2295)*, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to identify and designate National Energy Security Corridors for the construction of natural gas pipelines on Federal land, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-286 (H.R. 2288)*, To remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-287, Part 1, (H.R. 2358)*, To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to enhance the reliability of the electricity grid and reduce the threat of wildfires to and from electric transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands by facilitating vegetation management on such lands.

*House Report 114-314 (H.R. 2212)*, To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-327 (H.R. 2130)*, To provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-335 (H.R. 2270)*, To redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-366 (H.R. 1107)*, To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets.

*House Report 114-373 (H.R. 974)*, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations to allow the use of hand-propelled vessels on certain rivers and streams that flow in and through certain Federal lands in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-374 (H.R. 1452)*, To authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance.

*House Report 114-377, Part 1, (H.R. 2406)*, To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-404, Part 1, (H.R. 3382)*, To amend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to enhance recreational opportunities, environmental restoration activities, and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-416 (H.R. 3036)*, To designate the National September 11 Memorial located at the World Trade Center site in New York City, New York, as a national memorial, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-417 (H.R. 890)*, To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida.

*House Report 114-430 (H.R. 3004)*, To amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

*House Report 114-431 (H.R. 2880)*, To redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-432 (H.R. 812)*, To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-433 (H.R. 1475)*, To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

*House Report 114-434 (H.R. 3371)*, To adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-435 (H.R. 3620)*, To amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-441 (H.R. 4119)*, To authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-442 (H.R. 482)*, To redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-446 (H.R. 1820)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-447 (H.R. 2857)*, To facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-448 (H.R. 3079)*, To take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-450 (H.R. 2273)*, To amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir.

*House Report 114-479 (H.R. 1815)*, To facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to provide for the implementation of a conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada.

*House Report 114-487 (H.R. 2733)*, To require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-514 (H.R. 3826)*, To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon.

*House Report 114-515, Part 1, (H.R. 894)*, To extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act.

*House Report 114-516 (H.R. 87)*, To modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-517 (H.R. 3070)*, To clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-549 (H.R. 295)*, To reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program.

*House Report 114-550 (H.R. 2009)*, To provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona.

*House Report 114-562, Part 1, (H.R. 1621)*, To modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-563 (H.R. 3211)*, To provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

*House Report 114-575 (H.R. 496)*, To establish the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area in the State of California, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-576, Part 1, (H.R. 4680)*, To prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-585 (H.R. 1838)*, To establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-602, Part 1, (H.R. 5278)*, To establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-633 (H.R. 2538)*, To take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-647 (H.R. 4582)*, To exclude striped bass from the anadromous fish doubling requirement in section 3406(b)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-649 (H.R. 4685)*, To take certain Federal lands located in Tulare County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tule River Indian Tribe, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-650 (H.R. 5244)*, To provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-651 (H.R. 3844)*, To establish the Bureau of Land Management Foundation to encourage, obtain, and use gifts, devises, and bequests for projects for the benefit of, or in connection with, activities and services of the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-658 (H.R. 3734)*, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide support to mining schools, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-688 (H.R. 4202)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York.

*House Report 114-689 (H.R. 4510)*, To insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-690 (H.R. 4789)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-700 (H.R. 3212)*, To amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-701 (H.R. 3480)*, To expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-711 (H.R. 3881)*, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest.

*House Report 114-712, Part 1, (H.R. 4245)*, To exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

*House Report 114-713 (H.R. 5577)*, To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, and for other purposes.



*House Report 114-714, Part 1, (H.R. 3839)*, To transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-715 (H.R. 1157)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-716 (H.R. 3342)*, To provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-717, Part 1, (H.R. 3843)*, To authorize for a 7-year period the collection of claim location and maintenance fees, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-718 (H.R. 4576)*, To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-719 (H.R. 5468)*, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment obligations under Repayment Contracts between the United States and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District.

*House Report 114-720 (H. Res. 169)*, Acknowledging and honoring brave young men from Hawaii who enabled the United States to establish and maintain jurisdiction in remote equatorial islands as prolonged conflict in the Pacific led to World War II.

*House Report 114-721, Part 1, (S. 1579)*, A bill to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

*House Report 114-722 (S. 246)*, A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-740 (H.R. 2817)*, To amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Historic Preservation Fund.

*House Report 114-747 (H.R. 1296)*, To amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-750 (H.R. 4564)*, To redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park", and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-820 (H.R. 2333)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas.

*House Report 114-821 (H.R. 5984)*, To authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-822 (S. 3028)*, A bill to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

*House Report 114-828, Part 1, (H.R. 329)*, To amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of

1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-829 (H.R. 5032)*, To allow certain property in the town of Louisa, Virginia, to be used for purposes related to compliance with water quality standards, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-830 (H.R. 564)*, To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-832 (H.R. 2387)*, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans.

*House Report 114-833 (H.R. 5259)*, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reestablish the Royalty Policy Committee in order to further a more consultative process with key Federal, State, tribal, environmental, and energy stakeholders, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-834 (H.R. 1219)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-845 (H.R. 3711)*, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-847 (H.R. 3764)*, To provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes.

*House Report 114-851 (H.R. 3094)*, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to transfer to States the authority to manage red snapper fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.

*House Report 114-856, Part 1, (H.R. 3062)*, To prohibit the use of eminent domain in carrying out certain projects.

*House Report 114-857, Part 1, (H.R. 4579)*, To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation, to provide for the shared management of the withdrawn land by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Air Force to facilitate enhanced weapons testing and pilot training, enhance public safety, and provide for continued public access to the withdrawn land, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land, and for other purposes.

## APPENDIX VI

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### SUPPLEMENTAL VIEWS

As the result of the bipartisan effort of leadership in the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Armed Services, H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, was passed as a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. The provision would implement most recommendations of the Republican-led Guam War Claims Review Commission that was commissioned by action of this Committee during the 107th Congress. Prior versions of war claims legislation had been passed by the House five times, three times as a provision to the defense bill, and twice as standalone measures.

I thank Chairman Rob Bishop and Ranking Member Raul Grijalva, as well as my fellow Members of the Committee, for their support of war claims legislation. I especially appreciate Chairman Rob Bishop's recognition of the importance of rectifying this injustice, and his commitment and willingness to work towards resolution during this Congress. In addition, I thank House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry and Ranking Member Adam Smith for their help and support during the Conference Committee on the defense bill. I am also grateful for the support of my fellow Committee Members in past Congresses.

Passage of war claims legislation was a historic day for Guam, as passage brings us a step closer to honoring Guam's greatest generation and rightfully recognizing the survivors of the occupation of Guam during World War II and those who died during the occupation. The passage of the bill also had special significance as this December marked the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Guam on December 8, 1941 and the start of what would be 32 months of enemy occupation by Imperial Japanese forces. Securing passage of this bill was a long and difficult process that spanned many Congresses. Yet, despite political and budgetary challenges that was faced along the way, our Committee continued to advance the legislative history of this issue, which was critical to securing its passage. Looking forward, over the coming year, processes will be established for the survivors and heirs of those who died during the occupation to receive their claims. I will continue to work to ensure that the claims process is appropriately carried out, and I hope that our Committee will continue to exercise our oversight throughout this process.

Passage of war claims legislation by this Congress finally recognizes the suffering endured by the Chamorro people during the occupation of Guam and rectifies a disparity between the claims process they experienced following liberation with other claims programs administered by the Navy. The Review Commission high-

lighted that the people of Guam were not treated equitably with other populations and recommended that Congress reopen the claims process. This bill implements those recommendations and authorize claims for the living survivors of the occupation and the descendants of those who were killed as a result of the occupation.

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO.

## APPENDIX VII

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### DISSENTING VIEWS

The final Report of the 114th Congress documents the failure of the Republican Majority to address numerous environmental and natural resources challenges impacting the quality of life for millions of Americans. Committee Republicans pursued their agenda for political purposes, without regard to bipartisan or bicameral cooperation.

Perhaps the most significant failure was the Committee Republican's deafening silence on climate change, except for the beginning of the 114th Congress when an amendment offered by Ranking Member Grijalva was unanimously adopted to "conduct oversight of global climate change and impacts on federal lands and resources and the strategies for using federal lands, oceans and other resources to mitigate harmful effects." The Committee failed to dedicate a single oversight hearing to this critically pressing issue.

Below, in detail, our Dissenting Views to the Activities Report highlight issue-by-issue failures of the Republican Majority and set a path forward toward successfully addressing the issues.

### ABANDONED MINES

There are approximately 500,000 abandoned hardrock mines in the United States, with an estimated cleanup cost as high as \$54 billion. Hardrock mining companies, however, are not required to pay anything to address this legacy of their industry. Meaningful environmental and financial assurance requirements for hardrock mines were not established until 1980, meaning over two hundred years of hardrock mining operations were conducted with no requirements for miners to clean up when they left. Taxpayers are currently on the hook to clean up these legacy abandoned mines. Available funding is so low that abandoned mines become ticking time bombs, eventually creating serious problems like the blowout at the Gold King Mine in Colorado last year.

Rivers throughout the country, and particularly the West, are constantly inundated with millions of gallons of toxic acid mine drainage every year, making the water unusable and unsuitable for wildlife. The facts are that: (1) \$2.6 billion in taxpayer money was spent cleaning up abandoned hardrock mines between 1998 and 2007; (2) 95% of people in Montana support requiring the mining industry to pay to clean up abandoned mines, according to Earthworks; and (3) \$300 billion worth of minerals have been removed from public lands without a single cent in royalties being paid to the American people, according to Earthworks.

Congress isn't doing much to address the issue, other than using taxpayer money to fund clean-up activities at inadequate levels. Instead of supporting tougher standards or establishing a mandatory cleanup fund, Republicans are asking for volunteers. This Congress they promoted bills that weaken environmental reviews for mining projects, even for common minerals like sand and gravel. However, in keeping with the principle of making polluters pay, Democrats believe that the mining industry should be required to contribute to a fund that would be used to clean up abandoned hardrock mines. Congress should pass legislation to significantly update the Mining Law of 1872 and require the hardrock mining industry to pay to clean up hardrock mines.

#### AMERICAN FISHERIES

Thanks to reforms passed by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support in 1996 and 2006, U.S. fisheries have become a model of sustainability and responsible, science-based management. While some fish stocks and the fishermen who historically target them continue to suffer from the impacts of chronic overfishing, the evidence shows that on the whole, fishing is becoming a more stable and profitable enterprise in America.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)—designed to kick foreign fishing fleets out of U.S. waters—expired in 2013. Although Congress continues to fund programs under the Act, it has not made important updates to improve fisheries science, conservation, and management. Under House GOP leadership, fisheries policy has shifted from a bipartisan issue with regional divisions to a hyper-partisan one tied to an extreme anti-conservation agenda.

The MSA ensures that American fisheries will be sustainable in the long term, giving consumers a growing supply of domestic seafood to choose over foreign product that can be mislabeled, contaminated, unsustainable, or harvested using slave labor.

By removing too many fish, ocean ecosystems can be thrown out of balance, damaging sensitive and productive habitats like coral reefs and harming the economy. Since 2011, there's been a 15% (increase) in fisheries sector employment, and fisheries-related sales are up 16% (to \$4.214 billion), according to NOAA. Finally, 39 stocks have been rebuilt from an overfished condition under MSA since 1996, according to NOAA.

Democrats have proposed legislation that would reauthorize MSA while keeping core conservation provisions intact, providing more opportunities to partner with fishermen on research, and taking advantage of new technologies for data collection and monitoring. The GOP bill, widely referred to as the Empty Oceans Act, would take us back to the dark ages of fisheries management, when overfishing and economic depression were the norm. House Republicans have turned MSA reauthorization into an effort to advance their anti-conservation priorities by proposing language that takes the science out of fisheries management and guts conservation measures. A number of fishing and conservation groups, including Cape Cod Commercial Fisherman's Alliance, Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance and Pew Charitable Trusts, oppose the GOP "Empty

Oceans Act.” The House Republican proposal is harmful, and has died in the Senate two Congresses in a row.

#### ANTIQUITIES ACT

The Antiquities Act authorizes the president to designate national monuments on existing federal land. Since its enactment in 1906, it has been used to protect some of our nation’s most iconic historical landmarks and natural landscapes, from the Grand Canyon in Arizona to the Stonewall Inn in New York City. National monuments preserve and protect our most cherished natural and cultural resources. The Antiquities Act allows the president to protect places for future generations in a manner that honors our shared heritage and respects our commitment to sustainable land management. Despite this historic function, Republicans in Congress are eager to dismantle and restrict the Antiquities Act.

President Obama has used the Antiquities Act numerous times throughout his term to help protect some of our nation’s most sensitive landscapes and diversify the story enshrined in our public lands. Most recently, President Obama enlarged the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the water of Hawaii, making it one of the largest protected marine reserves in the world, and designated the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Northern Maine. He has also designated monuments to honor and reflect the history of diverse communities, including the Cesar Chavez National Monument in California and the Stonewall National Monument in New York City.

The facts are that 80% of respondents support the president’s use of the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments on federal land, according to a Colorado College Poll. Sixteen out of nineteen presidents since 1906, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act.

House Republicans have ignored 20 out of 24 national monument and other conservation designation bills introduced this Congress, while at the same time crying foul each time the president designates a national monument. Republicans have even gone as far as introducing legislation to place geographic restrictions and other administrative hurdles on use of the Antiquities Act.

Democrats fully support the Antiquities Act and are working with President Obama to make sure our most treasured resources receive the protection they deserve. Instead of trying to obstruct publicly supported conservation designations, Congress needs to do a better job of examining proposed national monuments and other conservation designations by, at the very least, holding hearings on introduced bills.

#### CARCIERI FIX

Under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), the federal government and tribes can place additional land in trust in order to “. . . conserve and develop Indian lands and resources,” and to rehabilitate Indian economic life. Up until 2009, the Department of the Interior consistently interpreted the IRA as authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to place land into trust for any tribe, so long as that tribe was federally recognized at the time of the trust application. However, in 2009, the Supreme Court ruled in the

Carcieri decision that only federally recognized tribes at the time the IRA became law are able to take land into trust. Many tribes recognized after 1934 are now in danger of losing the ability to take land into trust, and some would even question the validity of their current land.

The year 1934 was never intended to be a hard deadline for tribal recognition, and many tribes have been federally recognized since that time. The Carcieri decision has wrongfully called into question the status of tribal lands across the country, causing costly litigation and harmful delays in critical infrastructure development.

The ambiguity the Carcieri decision created is jeopardizing the ability for tribes to rebuild their communities through economic development. Acquisition of trust land for the benefit of Indian tribes is vital to their self-determination and economic prosperity.

It has been seven years since the Carcieri decision, yet the GOP majority has taken no action to address the issue. The GOP would rather use this issue as a political football in their quest to redefine tribal sovereignty, as well as to stall economic development on Indian lands. Democrats have consistently supported a simple “clean” fix to the Carcieri decision that would amend the language of the IRA to reestablish the Department of the Interior’s authority to take land into trust for all tribes, simply reaffirming what the drafters of the IRA intended all along.

The Carcieri decision unwound 75 years of agency practice, and in the process has created a two-tiered system for federal-tribal relationships. Congress must pass a “clean” Carcieri fix, which would address the issue by reaffirming the ability of all tribes to take land into trust.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Climate change driven by man-made greenhouse gas pollution is causing our air and oceans to warm, glaciers to melt, and sea levels to rise. We are already seeing the effects of climate change today: Coastal and island communities threatened with more frequent and severe flooding, and changes to habitats for fish and other species people rely on for their livelihood; More stress on already imperiled wildlife populations and the landscapes that support them; and weather patterns changing in ways that worsen storms and droughts.

The longer we wait to address the realities of climate change, the worse the impacts will be. In fact, 2015 was the warmest year on record. The average global temperature in July and August of this year tied for the hottest month since record keeping started in 1880, according to NASA. This August was .29 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than August 2014, previously the warmest August on record.

Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, industrial activities, agriculture and deforestation, and the transportation sector have contributed to rapid warming of the Earth’s atmosphere. A failure to curtail these emissions and adapt to the consequences have left our forests, fields, rivers, oceans, and coasts—as well as the people who live and work near them—vulnerable to significant ecological and economic damage. Congressional Republicans have



fought tooth and nail against every Democratic effort to address the climate crisis, voting on numerous occasions to block the Clean Power Plan—the linchpin of U.S. global commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—and rejecting legislation and amendments to fight climate change or even acknowledge that it is happening.

As the Department of Defense has recognized, a changing climate impacts our national security and defense missions, and they are currently assessing how to best respond to the impacts to resources, operations, and infrastructure necessary for military readiness. In the Arctic Region, for example, where temperatures are rising two times faster than the rest of world on average, the ability to advance U.S. national security interests is directly related to our ability to understand and respond to the challenges of climate change (White House, 2015 Report).

Climate-altering emissions will have a lasting impact on the health of our communities and families. Those with asthma, heart disease and respiratory illness will be at greater risk of air pollution and prolonged seasonal allergies. Elderly and infant Americans are most vulnerable to recording-breaking heatwaves. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health and Human Services Department rightly consider climate change to be a public health challenge. But while the health risks might not be as sudden or visible compared to Ebola and the Zika virus, an equal level of attention, concern, and action is necessary.

More extreme weather, drought, fire, and coastal erosion threaten not only people and their communities, but the environment as well. Warmer air temperatures are already causing these events on land, and warmer ocean temperatures are causing coral bleaching and pressuring fish stocks worldwide.

Climate change is disrupting many Americans' way of life, and the impacts will only increase if we do not take decisive action to reduce carbon pollution and adapt to the changes we know will happen. Using the best available science and conservation practices will help lessen the effects of continued emissions on our country's natural resources. Let's implement the most immediate and practical solutions now, rather than waiting and paying a higher price later.

At the beginning of the 114th Congress, the Committee unanimously adopted an amendment sponsored by Ranking Member Grijalva to "conduct oversight of global climate change and impacts on federal lands and resources and the strategies for using federal lands, oceans and other resources to mitigate harmful effects." Yet the Committee has failed to dedicate a single oversight hearing to this critically pressing issue. In fact, 100% of House Republicans voted against affirming climate change is real—two times, in 2015 and 2016.

House Republicans have largely ignored the reality of climate change. They continue to press for expanded production and use of dirty fossil fuels—including coal—and oppose all efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate-driven phenomena like extreme drought, wildfire and sea level rise. Democrats want to reduce carbon pollution and help communities and natural resources-dependent industries prepare for changes associated with a

warmer world. By following the science we can make smart, proactive decisions that conserve natural resources on land and at sea, protect vulnerable coastal property and infrastructure, and lower the burden on taxpayers.

While a few members have changed their tune, Republican leaders continue to deny climate change and refuse to address it. Republicans should join Democrats in finding ways to reduce carbon emissions and the impacts of global warming.

#### CLIMATE REFUGEES

The Earth's climate is changing at a rate that has exceeded most scientific forecasts. Some families and communities living in low-lying areas have been forced to leave their homes in search of a new beginning.

The science is indisputable—climate change is real, and it is affecting people around the world. Human activities are causing glaciers to melt and sea levels to rise, putting water and food resources at risk. Congress must deal with climate change issues in a comprehensive manner now.

Over the last 10 years, the Isle de Jean Charles community in Louisiana has lost two-thirds of its residents to dislocation (LA Times). On Washington's Olympic Peninsula, the Quinault Indian Nation relies on a 2,000-foot-long sea wall for protection until it can complete its move uphill. In Alaska, climate change flooding and shoreline erosion already affect more than 180 villages, 31 of which are in "imminent" danger of becoming uninhabitable.

Tens of millions of people will face hunger, disease, water shortages and dangerous journeys as they seek refuge if action is not taken to avert the humanitarian impacts of climate change. The poorest and most vulnerable—including women, children, the elderly and disabled—will be hit hardest. In 2014, 19.3 million people worldwide were forced to flee floods, storms, and other severe weather events. The time for action is now.

Following the second straight year that earned the troubling distinction of hottest year on record, Republicans continue to deny climate science, destroy solutions like clean energy, and abdicate responsibility to address climate refugees.

A Democratic forum found that while it is essential to mitigate the sources of carbon, it will not help citizens on the front lines of climate change right now. In order to alleviate the most extreme consequences of a shifting climate, equal attention must be given to helping communities adapt to a rapidly changing homeland. This means creating a legal and financial structure that can adequately respond to communities in need. Democrats believe to truly make a lasting climate change legacy, among other things, the issue of climate relocation must be taken seriously.

Congress needs to tackle climate change at its root cause: pollution from burning fossil fuels. But even as it pushes for pollution limits and a conversion to clean energy, there is an urgent need to help communities adapt to a changing climate. This includes water-saving strategies, flood controls, and other solutions to climate-related risks.

## COAL SELF-BONDING

Coal mining companies are required to post bonds to ensure mines will get cleaned up even if the company goes bankrupt or refuses to pay for it. The biggest coal companies can avoid the requirements to post bonds by convincing regulators they are too big to fail. Instead, they post “self-bonds,” which are effectively just promises to pay for the cleanup.

Three of the biggest companies have already declared bankruptcy, including Peabody, the largest coal company of them all. Many of the proposed settlements between the states and the coal companies have covered less than 20% of their cleanup costs. More bankruptcies are imminent. As they attempt to shed debt through restructuring, many coal companies are still trying to use self-bonding despite a track record of not being able to cover cleanup costs. At each turn, the taxpayer is left with the bill. And if the taxpayer can't afford the bill, we pay with decades of drinking water contamination and threats to wildlife, including endangered species.

Coal companies we thought were too big to fail are now failing for a number of reasons. The Great Recession in 2008 was the first blow, followed by cheap natural gas that is out-competing coal. Then many coal companies placed huge bets on China's need for a kind of coal that burns hot enough to work with steel—and lost those bets. When coal companies don't pay for their cleanup, taxpayers are left holding the bill. Coal mining sites that haven't been cleaned up can pollute drinking water and threaten wildlife for decades or more.

Republicans support continued use of self-bonding and believe replacing the self-bonds with sureties or collateral requires the mines to tie up too much cash that could otherwise be used to do more mining.

Dems want coal self-bonding to end. Coal companies should not be given a leg up just because they are enormous. Instead, they should have to buy surety bonds or collateral bonds to ensure that taxpayers are not left on the hook for cleaning up abandoned coal mines. Democrats introduced a bicameral bill—the Coal Cleanup Taxpayer Protection Act—to end the practice of self-bonding, but the House GOP has not allowed the bill to be considered in committee. Courts are trying to pick up some of Congress' slack by forcing some coal companies to get rid of their self-bonds as a condition of the bankruptcy process.

The Office of Surface Mining has announced changes and proposed regulatory improvements. These are the best ways to immediately slow the use of self-bonding and reduce the risk to taxpayers. Congress should also pass Democrats' bill, the Coal Cleanup Taxpayer Protection Act. This means creating a legal and financial structure that can adequately respond to communities in need.

## DIVERSIFYING PUBLIC LANDS

Our nation's diversity has been and will always be our greatest strength. Our system of parks and public lands should reflect the diversity of our nation's history, people, and cultures. Unfortu-

nately, that system has not always been reflective of our country's demographics and ethnic diversity.

The future of our public lands will depend upon public support from all Americans. Unfortunately, less than one-quarter of the more than 450 National Park Service units have a primary focus on women, communities of color, or other traditionally underrepresented groups (Center for American Progress).

To help ensure our national parks are around for generations to come, we have to make sure all Americans feel a connection to our parks and understand the value of protecting our public lands. We have to continue to engage with diverse communities or else we risk losing the historical, cultural, natural, economic and recreation resources that our public lands provide to communities across the nation.

Congressional opponents of conservation and historic preservation have attempted to create roadblocks to increasing inclusivity at our public lands. For example, efforts by current congressional leaders to prevent President Obama from creating new national monuments undermine our goal of increasing diversity and inclusivity on our public lands.

House Republicans have ignored repeated calls to hold hearings and examine the important topic of diversification across our public lands. They are also trying to block President Obama's use of the Antiquities Act to add diverse perspectives to our protected public places. Democrats are committed to finding ways to engage all segments of our population so that they become active users, managers, and supporters of public lands. Democrats have also supported President Obama's designation of monuments that celebrate our country's rich diverse culture and history. Federal land management agencies should engage with underrepresented communities in decisions about conservation and the expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities.

#### EXTREMISM ON PUBLIC LANDS

U.S. public lands belong to all Americans, regardless of where they live or how much money they have. Unfortunately, some special interests—particularly in the West—believe that they should be able to dictate how U.S. public lands are used and it appears this movement now includes armed extremists.

Despite the fact that the vast majority of Americans—including hunters, anglers, hikers, paddlers, and wildlife watchers—value public lands, some states and their allies in industry and Congress are pushing to seize land from U.S. taxpayers. They argue that federally-protected land belongs to the states—an erroneous argument the Supreme Court rejected long ago. Now armed militia men appear to be acting out based on these false claims.

Backlash against federal land ownership from a small and vocal minority is nothing new. However, a recent renewed push has seen people like Cliven Bundy and his sons resort to violence on public land and threats of violence against law enforcement and other government personnel, culminating in the occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon by armed militants earlier this year.

The new “Sagebrush Rebellion” endangers the lives of people who conserve and restore public lands, as well as those who recreate there. This distracts from the important task of land stewardship. Additionally, this campaign to give away or sell off public lands threatens to limit access to the outdoors for millions of Americans. Yet, House Republicans refuse to address the issue of extremism on public lands.

Republicans: The Republicans’ anti-public lands actions and rhetoric have emboldened extremists and implied that open rebellion against federal land managers is acceptable. A bill introduced by House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) strips the federal government of law enforcement authority on public lands, while a host of other bills aim to simply give away millions of acres of federal land.

Republicans should publicly disavow violent extremism and acknowledge the importance of U.S. public lands to the economies and quality of life in their states. Unfortunately, the GOP continues to stoke the flames of dissension and prolong a volatile and dangerous situation in the West.

Democrats introduced a resolution condemning the armed takeover of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and invited Republicans to cosponsor the measure—none did. House Republicans also ignored a request from Democrats to hold a hearing on the issue. In light of Republicans’ refusal to take the issue seriously, Natural Resources Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.) held a forum on the dangers of extremism on public lands.

#### INSULAR AREAS

The Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the U.S.-affiliated insular areas, which include the territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; also the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. Insular areas face serious economic challenges stemming from heavy dependence on only a few key industries, scarce natural resources, shortages of skilled labor, and reliance on federal grants to fund basic services, to name a few (GAO, 2006).

Strategic Importance: Palau is particularly important, as one of our strongest allies in the Western Pacific. While the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on Palau, the 2010 extension agreement of the Palau Compact has not been passed by Congress since it was submitted for approval by the Department of State in the beginning of 2011. Other insular areas are of strategic military importance as well. Guam, for example, is a linchpin in the U.S. strategy to assert influence in the Pacific. It is the only island between Hawaii and Asia that has both a protected harbor and sufficient land for major airports. The U.S. military already occupies a quarter of the land on Guam with a Navy base, submarine docks, and an Air Force base. And there will only be more military buildup in the future; the Department of Defense is looking at Guam and the Marianas to create space for large-scale operations involving every branch of the American military.

**Economic Challenges:** All the territories, most notably Puerto Rico, face serious economic challenges and very high debt loads because Congress has failed to replace outdated incentives that were necessary for economic growth. Relatedly, because the islands are not always eligible for full funding under federal health care programs, their government resources are drained from the high cost of health care for their residents. If action isn't taken to address these concerns, we could face the potential for fiscal collapses similar to Puerto Rico in each of the other territories.

House Republicans have paid insufficient attention to our insular areas. In the 114th, the only issues the House addressed, at the last minute, were Puerto Rico's debt crisis and the Marianas worker shortage issue. We hope that this Congress' inaction on insular areas issues is not indicative of a trend.

House Democrats are committed to addressing issues that pertain to the territories as they arise, be it approval of the Palau Compact, shoring up the economic health of the insular areas, or protecting our military interests.

Congress needs to remember that promises were made to ensure both the economic and social well-being of our insular areas. We need to place a priority on addressing the economic needs of these areas out of respect for their rights and contributions to our nation.

#### LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a critical conservation tool that protects open spaces and promotes recreation throughout the country. Since being established in 1965, LWCF has conserved iconic landscapes in every state and is responsible for more than 40,000 state and local outdoor recreation projects such as playgrounds, urban parks, refuges, and baseball fields. Unlike many other programs, LWCF is already paid for. LWCF funds are derived from oil and gas receipts paid to the federal government by energy companies that extract publicly-owned resources from the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

Congress has failed to realize LWCF's full potential. Each year \$900 million from offshore royalties is deposited in the LWCF account in the federal treasury—yet more than \$17 billion of those funds have then been diverted elsewhere. On top of Congress failing to fully fund the program each year, the current LWCF authorization expires in 2018.

Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling and other outdoor recreation activities—all supported by LWCF—contribute a total of \$646 billion annually to the economy and support 6.1 million American jobs. In fact, a bipartisan poll found 88% of voters support continuing to set aside offshore oil and gas drilling fees into the LWCF and 85% of Americans want LWCF to be fully funded.

The facts are that 98% of U.S. counties have used LWCF to protect land and establish new parks over the course of the program. And, importantly, \$3 billion in LWCF grants to states has leveraged more than \$7 billion in non-federal matching funds.

On September 30, 2015, Congress allowed the authorization for LWCF to expire for the first time in 50 years. Fortunately, the program was eventually reauthorized. However, the current authoriza-

tion expires again in 2018. Without further action by Congress, the nation's most successful conservation program could disappear.

House Republicans, led by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), want to weaken LWCF and take money away from conservation.

Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) introduced a bill with 209 bipartisan cosponsors that permanently reauthorizes LWCF. Also, 85 Senators voted in favor of a legislation that included permanent reauthorization of LWCF. After 50 years of success, LWCF deserves permanent authorization. Permanent authorization would provide much-needed certainty and prevent LWCF from becoming a victim of political paralysis.

#### MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING

Mountaintop removal (MTR) mining creates devastating environmental and health impacts throughout Appalachia, burying rivers and streams, impairing water quality and destroying wildlife habitat. The Obama Administration is currently developing a Stream Protection Rule to improve environmental protections from MTR mining. Environmental standards for MTR mining, such as a 100-foot buffer between mining operations and streams, have never been strongly enforced.

The process causes immense environmental degradation, and an increasing number of studies show that living in the vicinity of MTR mines leads to an enhanced rate of cancer, heart disease, and other health problems. Opposition to MTR mining is at 57%, with 42% in strong opposition, compared to only 20% who support the practice, according to an Earthjustice poll of VA, WV, KY, and TN voters commissioned in 2011.

When streams are destroyed or buried, fish and other wildlife are immediately killed and water downstream is negatively impacted by toxic chemicals. Mountains are permanently destroyed and acid mine drainage from mining operations can continue in perpetuity.

The administration has issued a proposed Stream Protection Rule, which Republicans have voted to block six times. The White House is currently reviewing the final rule. Congress is debating blocking the Department of the Interior from issuing the Stream Protection Rule. Republicans believe that the administration should not be allowed to issue new regulations and have repeatedly attempted to block the Department of the Interior from issuing any. A large coalition of environmental groups strongly opposes MTR mining. Democrats believe that current regulations are outdated, and that strong new regulations are required to protect human health and the environment.

#### NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is one of our bedrock conservation laws. It does not impose regulations on individuals or businesses. Instead, it requires federal agencies to take a "look before you leap" approach and consider the potential environmental consequences of major federal actions. The law passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed by President Richard Nixon in 1970. The GOP has voted more than a dozen times this Congress to undermine NEPA. Republicans have

waged a campaign to attack NEPA—misrepresenting the facts and inflating statistics on litigation and delays associated with the Act's requirements.

NEPA has proven to be a remarkably effective tool for ensuring that people have a say in federal government decisions that could impact the places they live. Because of NEPA, the public has the ability to know in advance about major federal actions and the right to provide input and have their voices heard. Before NEPA, a disproportionate share of heavily polluting projects ended up being sited in poor and minority communities that lacked political connections. NEPA passed the House and Senate unanimously in 1969 and Congress has never passed legislation to repeal or significantly weaken it. No NEPA could mean more unintended consequences such as pollution or damage to fish and wildlife and their habitat from hastily conceived, poorly reasoned government projects or permits.

Chipping away at NEPA—or gutting it, as House Republicans want to do—would make many American communities worse places to live and would run counter to Republican calls for more public demand for government transparency. The Committee has voted numerous times to pass legislation that undermines NEPA. The House GOP despises NEPA because it identifies harmful, wasteful, and unwise projects and exposes those weaknesses. They have attempted to waive or weaken NEPA requirements for natural resources extraction activities from commercial fishing to timber harvest to mineral leasing. They have even protested the Obama Administration's issuance of guidance to federal agencies on how to incorporate greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts into NEPA.

Democrats believe NEPA is an important environmental justice tool that levels the playing field and saves taxpayer dollars. It helps people to maintain and improve their quality of life by ensuring that they have a voice in decisions that impact their communities.

We must reaffirm the value of NEPA and fight back against Republican attempts to undermine it or misapply it to activities that have inherent environmental benefits (like National Monument designations under the Antiquities Act).

#### OFFSHORE DRILLING

The Department of the Interior is currently planning for the next five years of offshore oil and gas lease sales. The Administration's latest proposal removed potential lease sales from the Atlantic Ocean, but left open the possibility of additional lease sales in the Arctic. Meanwhile, no new offshore oil and gas safety or environmental laws have been passed in over 35 years.

The 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill is considered the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history. The spill in the Gulf of Mexico highlighted the continuing safety and environmental risks from offshore drilling. The Administration implemented new safety standards, but the oil and gas industry continues to fight common-sense regulations and wants to act as though it's business as usual.

Offshore drilling in the Arctic has the potential to destroy one of the last great unspoiled regions on Earth, as well as contribute to



climate change and harm native villages that depend on subsistence hunting for their livelihoods. Residents of the Gulf Coast and CA face the risk of additional major oil spills, such as the Deepwater Horizon in 2010 or the Santa Barbara blowout in 1969.

The risk of offshore drilling to fisheries and tourism is immediate, while the risk of oil spills is constant during exploration and throughout production. Seismic testing would also take place in newly opened areas, which has the potential to significantly harm wildlife.

Congress has done nothing to update outdated safety provisions, leaving us at risk of another major offshore blowout like the Deepwater Horizon. Republicans have repeatedly tried to force additional offshore lease sales all over the country and to allocate proceeds from waters—which belong to all Americans—to individual states. Republicans made no effort to update the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) following the Deepwater Horizon disaster; instead, they have fought environmental regulations and stronger safety standards at every turn.

Democrats believe that the quality of our environment and the sustainable economic benefits that come from other uses of our oceans, such as tourism and recreation, are more important than allowing the oil industry to drill along every mile of our coastline. Drilling should not be allowed in the Arctic or Atlantic oceans, and safety and environmental standards should be significantly strengthened.

Congress should work on updating OCSLA to implement the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling and improve environmental and safety standards in the law.

#### SUPPORTING HUNTERS & ANGLERS

Hunters and anglers are some of our most important conservationists. They support programs that benefit fish and wildlife populations as well as their habitats. Unfortunately, the concerns expressed by sportsmen and sportswomen are not being addressed by Congress. Since taking control of the House in 2011, the GOP has failed to build consensus in Congress and the sporting community. Instead Republicans have made it their mission to give away public land and have worked to advance a divisive, ideological agenda that does not help hunters and anglers or the wildlife and fish they depend upon.

Programs to conserve fish, wildlife, and habitat create more and better outdoor opportunities for hunters, anglers, hikers, paddlers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. This makes American communities better places to live and drives the outdoor recreation economy.

The GOP's push to give away our federal lands and waters threatens to disrupt the ongoing landscape and ecosystem level conservation efforts and shrink opportunities for hunting and fishing on public lands.

The facts are that 75% of U.S. public lands, including nearly all Forest Service and BLM lands, are open to hunting and fishing and, moreover, 30 million acres of habitat for waterfowl, fish, and wildlife important to hunters and anglers have been conserved by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

House and Senate negotiators are trying to resolve differences between competing bills, but if this fails it will be the third consecutive time a GOP-led Congress doesn't send a sportsmen's package to the president's desk.

The GOP is fighting against sportsmen's priorities, as well as important conservation measures to protect elephants, rhinos, and other wildlife. House Republicans have advanced legislation that would make wilderness areas and National Wildlife Refuges more vulnerable to environmental damage, give states veto power over conservation standards in National Parks, and block efforts to limit commercial trade in ivory.

Democrats support permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), along with renewal of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and other laws that benefit hunters and anglers. House Dems have offered legislation along these lines that has been ignored or rejected by the GOP.

Republicans need to stop insisting on poison pill provisions that will certainly draw a presidential veto, and instead work with Democrats and stakeholders to find common ground. Unfortunately, it appears that House Republicans will continue to hold hunters and anglers hostage to advance their narrow, anti-conservation agenda.

#### THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The ESA passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress and was signed into law by President Nixon in 1973. Scientists have shown that we are on the cusp of the sixth great extinction in Earth's history, and the first one caused by humans. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is America's firewall against mass extinction—it ensures that land development and other activities are conducted in a way that protects imperiled species and the habitat they need to survive and recover.

Despite its success and importance in conserving biological diversity, the ESA has been under attack from industry interests (big agriculture, ranching, oil and gas, home-builders) and their allies in Congress for decades. These interests believe they should not have to modify their operations to protect American fish, wildlife, and plants. In fact, Republicans have led more than 80 legislative efforts this Congress—bills, amendments and riders—to delist individual species or otherwise undermine the ESA.

Maintaining biological diversity is critical to sustaining human life on earth. The ecosystems that support other species support us as well, and utilizing these landscapes and associated resources sustainably is critical to the continued survival of our species.

If successful, GOP efforts to gut the ESA or delist/block listing of individual species would drive American fish and wildlife to extinction. This would rob Americans of their natural heritage and reduce biodiversity—leading to higher potential for the spread of disease, destruction of ecosystems that help provide clean air, clean water, and recreational opportunities, and eliminating opportunities to discover lifesaving medicines and economically important compounds.

Democrats want to see more species delisted, but understand that in order to delist species you must first recover them. Additional resources toward science and recovery efforts are necessary.

While most Republicans say they want to “reform” the ESA so that more species can be removed from the list, the reality is that they want to gut the Act, delist species one at a time, or get rid of ESA altogether.

The ESA has not been reauthorized in more than 25 years and budget cuts have delayed species recovery efforts. We should be working together to find ways to recover species more quickly and keep others off the list in the first place. Unfortunately GOP congressional majorities are continuing to push for weakening the ESA.

#### TRIBAL CONSULTATION

The trust relationship between tribes and the federal government has many different forms. One of these relationships involves tribal consultation, which is the process by which federal agencies consult with tribal governments when federal activities have tribal impacts. The requirement for federal agencies to engage in tribal consultation is not a matter of law, but rather is mandated by an Executive Order that has been reaffirmed by successive presidents.

House Republicans have repeatedly ignored Democratic requests to update federal policies and ensure tribes are consulted before activities on affected land begin. The proposed Dakota Access Pipeline project is a current example of an ineffectual tribal consultation policy. If constructed, the nearly 1,200-mile pipeline would go through sacred burial grounds located on ancestral treaty lands and could endanger the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s main water source.

The differences among tribal consultation policies range from comprehensive to minimal, depending on the agency. This has caused vast discrepancies in how tribes are treated during consultation, which in turn has resulted in contentious situations and costly delays and litigation—much of which could have been avoided if real, meaningful consultation had occurred.

In 2000, President Clinton set forth the first policy mandating executive agency consultation with tribes. President Bush reaffirmed the federal commitment to this policy in 2004, as did President Obama in 2009.

H.R. 5379, the RESPECT Act, introduced by Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D–Ariz.), codifies the goals of the Clinton Executive Order by specifying standard consultation procedures for all agencies to follow and providing recourse for tribes when agencies violate their consultation obligation. The GOP has refused to move the bill, first introduced in 2011, out of Committee. The GOP continues to question the need for meaningful tribal consultation, and instead sides with private developers often at odds with tribes.

Democrats support the enactment of H.R. 5379, the RESPECT Act. It defines consultation as the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of tribes on federal activities with tribal impacts, and seeking mutually agreed upon courses of action whenever possible.

An Executive Order can easily be overturned by a succeeding president. Tribal consultation must be enacted into law. Passage of the RESPECT Act will guarantee that meaningful, effective tribal consultation occurs now and in the future.

#### TRIBAL RECOGNITION

There are 567 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native tribes in the U.S. Federally recognized tribes have a government-to-government relationship with the U.S. and are eligible to receive certain protections, services, and benefits by virtue of their unique status as Indian tribes. Formal recognition is extremely important and valuable to a tribe's economic and social condition since it entitles tribes to distinctive benefits, including eligibility to participate in many federal programs, receipt of services from federal agencies, and sovereign governmental status regarding local jurisdiction and taxation. Federal recognition also enables tribes to petition the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for their benefit.

There are three distinct ways in which a tribe can receive federal recognition: judicially—a judge can declare a tribe federally recognized; administratively—through the federal acknowledgment process set forth by the Department of the Interior; or legislatively—a tribe can directly petition Congress and have a recognition bill or a restoration bill passed on its behalf.

The historical mistreatment of tribal people and their lands at the hands of the Federal Government is well documented. We must right the wrongs of the past, and one of the most important ways to do this is to recognize the sovereignty of legitimate tribes. Many tribes have still not established or reaffirmed their relationship with the federal government. We should strive to ensure that all tribes are fairly given their due recognition, rather than putting up roadblocks to the process.

Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) put forth H.R. 3764, the Tribal Recognition Act of 2015. This misguided legislation would take away the non-partisan, fact-based Administrative process for recognition, stipulating that only Congress has the authority to recognize Indian tribes. The GOP rhetoric and legislation casts unwarranted doubt on already established tribes, while simultaneously attempting to concentrate the power of tribal recognition into the hands of a select few Members of Congress.

Democrats believe taking the Department of the Interior's process away, and leaving an Act of Congress as the only option, will result in further delays and difficulties for tribes. Worst of all, it will leave tribal recognition decisions victim to political whims and special interest influence.

The Secretary of the Interior's authority to acknowledge the existence of Indian tribes is deeply rooted in the laws passed by Congress and the structure of the Constitution, and it must remain an available path for tribes seeking federal recognition. Congress should strive to ensure that all tribes are finally and fairly given the recognition they are due rather than putting up more roadblocks to the process.

## WATER IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Many Native communities across the U.S. still do not have access to reliable water sources, clean drinking water, or basic sanitation. This problem has historically been alleviated by Congress passing Indian water rights settlements, which provide Native communities water to which they are already entitled. However, no major Indian water rights settlements have passed the House since Republicans took control in 2011, despite the introduction of numerous settlement bills.

Tribes often legally hold the most senior water rights in a given river basin. Under federal law, the federal government must protect these tribal water rights. However, for more than a century the federal government failed to fulfill this role, and in many cases has actively undermined tribal water rights to benefit non-Indian water users.

Water rights settlements allow tribes, states, the federal government, and other water users to come together to resolve water claims and provide tribes with the water they are legally entitled to.

Tribal families across the country are suffering. They need water to improve their health, schools need water to provide consistent education for students, and communities need water to promote economic development.

The facts show that 50% of all homes on tribal land lack access to adequate drinking water or sewage facilities (Indian Health Service). Further, many of these 190,697 homes lack basic services like clean, running water; flush toilets; showers or baths; and kitchen sinks. By comparison, less than 1% of homes lack some or all sanitation facilities in the U.S. as a whole (Indian Health Service).

Since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in 2011, Indian water rights settlements have stalled. Congress has not funded a single Indian water rights settlement in almost six years. In February 2015, Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) created additional requirements and red tape for approving Indian water rights settlements through the House Natural Resources Committee. While some Congressional Republicans support Indian water rights settlements, Congress has not funded a single settlement since Democrats lost control of Congress.

Democrats have long supported tribes seeking their water rights and have historically supported Indian water rights settlements. Over the past 39 years, more water settlements have been enacted when Democrats controlled both chambers of Congress, as compared to when Republicans held the Majority in both chambers. In October 2016, Democrats on the Committee released a report titled *Water Delayed is Water Denied: How Congress Has Blocked Access to Water for Native Families*.

Congress should start funding Indian water rights settlements, including the pending settlements for the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians and the Blackfeet Tribe.

## WESTERN DROUGHT

The Western U.S. is experiencing an historic drought. California is facing its worst drought in 1,200 years and the Colorado River, which supplies water to millions of people across seven Western states and Mexico, is experiencing its sixteenth straight year of drought.

While the Western U.S. is prone to periodic drought, according to scientists, the current drought has been made worse by climate change. Many communities and numerous industries have been harmed by the drought, including the Pacific Coast fishing industry, agriculture, tourism and the recreation industry. The environment and iconic West Coast fish runs have also been battered during the drought, with several runs on the verge of extinction.

The current drought has cost the national economy billions. Drought coupled with crumbling and insufficient water infrastructure has an effect on all Americans since it has raised and will continue to raise food costs. What's worse, climate change is expected to make droughts more frequent and severe. If steps aren't taken now to invest in new water infrastructure and technology to increase the nation's water supply, the United States will not be prepared to weather ongoing and future drought.

Congress has not done nearly enough to provide drought relief or grow the water supply. Republicans jammed through the House a divisive drought "response" bill (H.R. 2898) that would create no new water. Instead, the bill would pick drought winners and losers by taking scarce water away from some regions, tribes, and the environment and redirecting it to big agricultural water users. The GOP drought bill would have also preempted state law, jeopardized fishing industry jobs and weakened bedrock environmental laws.

Several Democratic bills would provide immediate and long-term drought relief by promoting innovative desalination technologies, water recycling and reuse, groundwater recharge, stormwater capture, reduced evaporation loss, and increased water conservation through improved reservoir operations. Despite repeated requests, Republicans have not permitted a single hearing on any of these bills.

Republicans must be willing to work with Democrats to develop a plan that will fund our nation's deficient water infrastructure and abandon plans to benefit Big Ag at the expense of the environment.

## WILDFIRES

Wildfires can have a devastating impact on communities adjacent to or within wildfire activity.

Amidst longer and more severe wildfire seasons, largely driven by climate change, Congress is grappling with how to fund wildfire suppression. Current budget guidelines set by Congress often force the U.S. Forest Service to transfer funds from fire prevention, fuels management, and non-fire related programs to pay for emergency operations and the suppression of fires. Proposals to prevent this practice, commonly known as "fire borrowing," and ensure the availability of adequate resources for both suppression and prevention have been hobbled by Republican indifference.

Outdated budget rules often force the U.S. Forest Service to fight fires by diverting funds from other parts of its budget—including fire prevention programs. Approximately 30% of wildfire spending goes toward stopping the largest 1–2% of wildfires, but Congressional appropriations don’t always cover the cost of these so-called “megafires” and outdated budget rules often force USDA and DOI to divert funds from other parts of their budgets—including fire prevention programs.

In 2015, more than 68,000 wildfires burned approximately 10.1 million acres, 7.4 million of which were federal lands. This figure was the largest acreage burned on record and is larger than the total acreage burned in the previous two years combined—4.3 million acres in 2013 and 3.6 million acres in 2014 (NICC).

Republicans have offered legislation to increase the pace of logging, without public input or environmental review, and ignored the real problem of Congress’ method of funding fire suppression. House Republicans are trying to fast-track more logging projects with fewer environmental reviews and less public input in the name of fire prevention. This will undermine public trust in forest management.

Democrats believe Congress needs to permanently end “fire borrowing” so that our federal land management agencies no longer have to steal funding from other programs.

Congress needs to end the disruptive and unsustainable practice of “fire borrowing.” Congress should enact legislation that treats catastrophic wildfires the same way it treats other natural disasters. Such a measure would ensure the availability of adequate funding to address large, costly wildfires and restore funding for programs designed to prevent wildfire and promote forest health.

RAÚL GRIJALVA,  
*Ranking Member, Committee  
on Natural Resources.*

PEDRO PIERLUISI.  
NIKI TSONGAS.  
DEBBIE DINGELL.  
GREGORIO SABLAN.  
JARED POLIS.  
MADELEINE BORDALLO.  
GRACE NAPOLITANO.  
RUBEN GALLEGO.  
ALAN LOWENTHAL.  
NORMA TORRES.  
WILLIAM LACY CLAY.

