

Natural Resources Committee

113th Congress



Accomplishments



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Letter from the Chairman

Dear Colleague,

The House Natural Resources Committee was extremely productive during the 113th Congress and together we achieved numerous legislative accomplishments and victories. I'm proud that the Natural Resources Committee has the distinction of being one of the most active in Congress as we worked hard to tackle important issues that have a tremendous impact on our country. Through hearings, legislation, and oversight we focused extensively on creating and protecting American jobs and growing our economy through the smart and responsible management of our natural resources.

This Congress we advanced legislation to expand American energy production on federal lands and waters, restore active management of federal forests, ensure greater public access to public lands, and protect hydropower and water supplies in the West. We also led a common sense effort to modernize and strengthen the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which culminated in the House passage of legislation to make targeted improvements to the ESA – the first time in almost a decade.

We also continued our strong oversight of the Executive Branch's policies and actions, including the imposition of mandatory ocean zoning, the work of the Office of the Inspector General, the rewrite of coal regulations, proposed new energy regulations, and more.

It's been an honor to serve as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee for the past six years and I wish continued success for the Committee's future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources

113th Congress

At A Glance

Committee Action

159 hearings

22 markups

Legislation

128 passed by the house

56 public laws

Creating American Jobs

During the 113th Congress, the Committee continued to make job creation its number one priority. The responsible use and management of our natural resources provides direct opportunities to protect and create new American jobs and support economic growth throughout the country.

This Congress, the House of Representatives passed several bills from the House Natural Resources Committee that we will help create jobs and grow our economy by promoting a true all-of-the-above energy plan on our Nation's public lands; protecting and expanding public access to public lands and waters to be used for recreation, conservation, and economic activities; ensuring the health of our nation's forests; keeping electricity costs low and providing an abundance of water and power supplies; and reducing burdensome government regulations and red-tape.

H.R. 1526, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act

- This legislation would create over **200,000 direct and indirect jobs** by renewing the federal government's commitment to manage federal forests for the benefit of rural schools and counties.

H.R. 4899, Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America that Works Act

- The bill would expand onshore and offshore American energy production. Opening new offshore areas could create **250,000 jobs short-term** during exploration and development and **1.2 million jobs long-term**.

H.R. 2824, Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act

- The bill would protect **7,000 American jobs** that are at risk by the Obama Administration's rewrite of the Stream Buffer Zone Rule.

H.R. 2728, Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act

- Shale oil and natural gas activity **contributed over 1.7 million jobs** in 2012 and will increase by over 45% to almost **2.5 million jobs** in 2015. 500,000 non-oil and natural gas manufacturing jobs are supported by shale oil and natural gas.

H.R. 761, National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act

- For every job in metals mining, an estimated **2.3 additional jobs** are generated, and for every nonmetals mining job, an additional **1.6 jobs** are created.

H.R. 527, Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act

- The bill protects **tens of thousands of American jobs** by preventing a worldwide helium shortage. Helium is essential to the manufacturing of computer chips and fiber optic cables, is used by hospitals for life-saving medical tests like an MRI, and is critical to national defense efforts.

H.R. 3964, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act

- The bill would help provide relief to the California drought and protect **thousands of jobs** by restoring some water supplies to farmers and communities that are currently experiencing double-digit unemployment.

H.R. 678, Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act

- The bill would create **hundreds of new American jobs** by expanding production of clean, renewable hydropower.

Endangered Species Act

This Congress the House Natural Resources Committee led a common sense effort to modernize and strengthen the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the benefit of both species and people.

Nearly a dozen oversight and legislative hearings were held examining ways in which the law could be improved. The ESA was created four decades ago in 1973. Since that time, over 1,500 U.S. domestic species and sub-species have been listed. Most species remain on the list and hundreds more could potentially be added within just the next two years. Congress last renewed the ESA in 1988, which means it has been 26 years since any substantial updates have been made.

The Committee specifically examined the impacts of ESA-related litigation and closed-door settlement agreements. Excessive litigation has become one of the greatest obstacles to the success of the ESA. Instead of focusing on recovering endangered species, groups are using the ESA to file hundreds of lawsuits, threats of lawsuits, and petitions against the government. In response, agencies have focused significant time and financial resources addressing those lawsuits instead of on conservation efforts to avoid species listings. In 2011 the Interior Department announced it had negotiated, behind closed-doors, mega-settlements with the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians. Together, these settlements (and others involving other groups with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service) could increase the number of federal species listed by 50 percent - up to 700 additional species by 2016.

In 2013 Chairman Hastings, along with Rep. Cynthia Lummis, created the Endangered Species



Act Congressional Working Group. Comprised of Republican Members from affected districts nationwide, this group held forums and received hundreds of public comments from all perspectives. In February 2014, the Working Group released its final report with more than 20 recommendations. The Group found that while there is strong support for conserving endangered species, there are key areas where improvements could be made to make the law more effective for both species and people.

House Approves Legislation

In July 2014 the House of Representatives approved H.R.4315, the *Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act* with bipartisan support. This common sense legislation focuses on sensible and specific updates to the ESA in order to increase data transparency and species recovery; encourage the use of state, local, and tribal data in federal listing decisions; require transparency for ESA-related litigation costs; and discourage costly attorneys' fees.

Passage of the bill represents the first time in

almost a decade that the House passed specific changes to the Endangered Species Act. It incorporated the following bills passed by the Natural Resources Committee:

- H.R. 4315, the *21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act* (Hastings, WA- 04)
- H.R. 4316, the *Endangered Species Transparency Act* (Lummis, WY- At Large)
- H.R. 4317, the *State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act* (Neugebauer, TX-19)
- H.R. 4318, the *Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act* (Huizenga, MI-02)

Following House passage of H.R. 4315, the Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on six additional pieces of legislation aimed at updating and improving the ESA. The September 9, 2014 legislative hearing included: H.R. 1314 (Flores); H.R. 1927 (Costa), *More Water and Security for Californians Act*, H.R. 4256 (Stewart), *Endangered Species Improvement Act of 2014*, H.R. 4284 (Neugebauer), *ESA Improvement Act of 2014*, H.R. 4319 (Crawford), *Common Sense in Species Protection Act of 2014*, and H.R. 4866 (Mullin), *Lesser Prairie Chicken Voluntary Recovery Act of 2014*.

ESA Oversight

The Full Committee has also conducted extensive oversight of the Interior Department's actions and decisions regarding potential listings under the Act.

In July 2014, Chairman Hastings and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (OK -03) sent a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack asking for a copy of a report, as required by law, on the cost and effectiveness of the Department's conservation measures for the lesser prairie chicken, which the Department has proposed to list as a threatened species.

Members have highlighted ongoing concerns this Congress with the Department's potential future listing of the Greater Sage Grouse. Specifically

with the Department's closed-door and seemingly selective process for evaluating relevant data and science, and failure to adequately coordinate with affected states that are developing their own data and conservation efforts to avoid the need for a listing.

“ The potential listings of even more species, including the Greater Sage Grouse, could have devastating job and economic impacts across the entire country. Listing decisions should be made in an open, transparent manner and based on the best available science and data.” - Chairman Hastings

Chairman Hastings also issued a subpoena this Congress to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeking documents surrounding the process and science behind the decision to list the White Bluffs bladderpod as a threatened species under the ESA. The subpoena issued after the FWS failed to comply with multiple requests for documents.

Committee staff released a report on the independence and accountability of the peer review process in recent ESA listing decisions. The report found numerous examples of potential bias and conflicts of interests with the peer reviewers and a lack of transparency and consistency in the peer review process. (*See Oversight section for further details*)

A field hearing in Batesville, Arkansas examined the comprehensive impacts of federal critical habitat designations and flaws in the current critical habitat proposals for the Neosho mucket and Rabbitsfoot mussel. Another field hearing was held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on the potential listing of the Northern Long-Eared Bat and the economic impacts of a potential ESA listing.

Oversight

The Committee took seriously its responsibility to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch and examined numerous Obama Administration policies, regulations, and actions. Through investigations and oversight hearings, the Committee sought answers from the Administration on behalf of the American people and promoted accountability and transparency.

Obama Administration's Efforts to Rewrite Regulations on Coal Production

This Congress, the Committee continued to conduct oversight into the Obama Administration's spending and actions to rewrite a 2008 coal production regulation, the Stream Buffer Zone Rule, that took over five years of environmental analysis and careful scientific consideration to complete. This new rulemaking is the result of a litigation settlement the Obama Administration entered into with environmental groups. Approximately \$10 million has been spent to date and the original contractor hired to help conduct an economic analysis for the revised rule was let go after job loss estimates were made public. Six years have passed, and a revised rule has yet to be proposed.

In December 2013 the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report on the Department's rulemaking process. The OIG report confirmed the findings of the Committee's Majority staff's oversight efforts and exposed mismanagement of the rulemaking process and significant on-going problems. Yet, key parts of the report have been redacted, including one section entitled "Issues with the New Contract." The Committee has made multiple requests for this unredacted report and documents, including the issuance of a subpoena, and held two hearings with OIG officials in order to learn what the issues are with the new contract. The OIG refuses to comply with the Committee's subpoena and says that the unredacted report and

related OIG documents are being withheld at the request of the Interior Department.

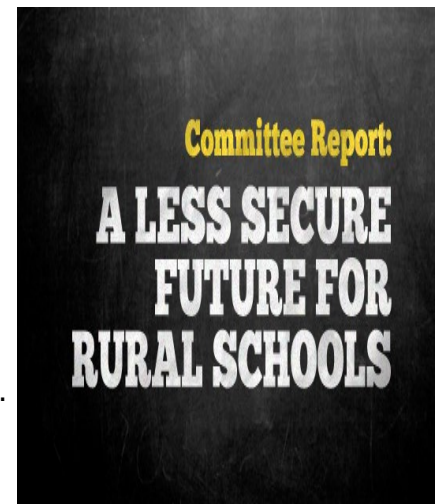
Retroactive Sequester Cuts to Secure Rural Schools Payments

The Committee conducted oversight into the Obama Administration's decision to retroactively subject Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments to sequestration cuts.

On March 19, 2013, the Obama Administration demanded repayment of \$17.9 million in FY 2012 SRS payments that had already been disbursed to states. SRS funds help to replace the timber receipts counties used to get to pay for vital services in rural communities including education, infrastructure, and emergency services.

After months of stonewalling by the Administration and multiple attempts by the Committee to get answers about these retroactive cuts, subpoenas were issued to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Office of Management and Budget for documents.

The Committee released a Majority oversight staff report in January 2014 detailing information uncovered during the Committee's ongoing investigation into the matter. The report found that USDA attorneys who questioned the legal authority for the sequester decision were overruled and that the White House ordered the sequestration cuts for the SRS program. The report also found that Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack decided to apply the cuts so all states receiving SRS money felt the pain of



sequestration. At a Committee hearing in January 2014, a senior Obama Administration official confirmed the findings outlined in the staff report and admitted the Administration was considering withholding the sequestered amount from FY 2013 payments for states that did not repay the funds. However, after objections were raised by Chairman Hastings and other bipartisan members of Congress, the Administration agreed it would make the payments in full.

The National Park Service's Implementation of the Government Shutdown

During President Obama's government shutdown in October 2013, the Committee conducted extensive oversight and held a joint hearing with the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on the Administration's arbitrary and unnecessary actions including the erection of metal barricades around certain national parks, monuments, and memorials in order to make the government shutdown as painful as possible.

Americans were deliberately being denied access to open-air memorials and national parks – places that are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and were not closed by the Clinton Administration during the last government shutdown. Private businesses on federal lands were also initially forced to close.



Department of the Interior's Ethics Office

For the past two years the Committee has conducted oversight of how political appointees and senior career officials within the Department of the Interior are complying with federal ethics and conflict of interest laws. In September 2014 Committee Majority oversight staff released a report entitled "*Ethics Under Review: An Oversight Investigation into the Department of the Interior's Ethics Program and How Recusals are Managed for Senior Officials.*" The report identifies weaknesses in how the Department of the Interior manages its ethics program, including the timeliness of its review of financial disclosure forms and its advice about recusals to political appointees.

Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General

The Committee in February 2013 released a Majority oversight staff report documenting how the Department of the Interior's OIG has not been an independent watchdog for Congress and the American taxpayer. Instead, under Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall, the OIG has had a more cooperative approach for working with the Department and its political appointees and senior management. Ms. Kendall has led the OIG on a temporary basis since 2009.

The Committee Majority staff report, entitled "*Holding the Interior Watchdog Accountable,*" details mismanagement by Ms. Kendall while overseeing the OIG. These include: not pursuing investigations involving political appointees or Administration priorities; informing senior Department officials of problems without conducting formal investigations and not issuing reports to Congress and the public; not adequately documenting the management of OIG investigations and operations; serving in an appointed policy role in conflict with the OIG's investigative duties; preventing an investigator from seeking information from a White House

official; and providing inaccurate and misleading information to Congress.

The report also details how Ms. Kendall has openly expressed the desire to be nominated to become the permanent Inspector General while administering the OIG's oversight role in a manner that was privately accommodating to senior Department officials and the Obama Administration compared to the OIG's more assertive style in past Administrations. In a February 2013 letter, Chairman Hastings called on President Obama to nominate a permanent Inspector General without delay. Instead, the Obama Administration has allowed Ms. Kendall to remain as head of the Department's OIG.

Enforcement of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act & the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

This Congress the Committee conducted oversight into the enforcement policies and practices of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Department of Justice concerning the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The Committee has been reviewing the Obama Administration's policies for enforcing these historic laws in order to understand their impact on current and future domestic energy.

There are ongoing concerns that the Obama Administration is implementing these wildlife laws in an arbitrary fashion. Despite the strict liability requirements of these laws, the Administration has prosecuted only select violations of the BGEPA and MBTA. A subpoena was issued for documents about the Administration's development of policies and regulations implementing these laws, as well as information about closed enforcement cases.

ESA Peer Review Process

In 2014 the Committee issued a report on the independence and accountability of the peer

review process in recent Endangered Species Act listing decisions. The report entitled, "*Under the Microscope: An examination of the questionable science and lack of independent peer review in Endangered Species Act listing decisions*" studies the federal government's peer review process for 13 different ESA listing decisions made by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service since July 2013.

The report found numerous examples of potential bias and conflicts of interests with the peer reviewers and a lack of transparency and consistency in the peer review process.

Mismanagement of the Eisenhower Memorial Design Process



The Committee continued its oversight this Congress on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission's activities and the process for designing the Memorial. Numerous concerns have been raised about the Memorial, including by the Eisenhower Family, about the design selection process, the Memorial Commission's expenses, and durability of the design.

In July 2014 Committee Majority oversight staff released a report entitled "*A Five-Star Folly: An Investigation into the Cost Increases, Construction Delays, and Design Problems That Have Been a Disservice to the Effort to Memorialize Dwight D. Eisenhower.*" The staff report details how more than \$16.4 million has been spent on the Memorial design, and another \$13.3 million on design contract management and administrative support.

Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee

Chaired by Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO-05), the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee focused this Congress on creating jobs and strengthening our economic security by expanding and protecting access to our energy and mineral resources. The Subcommittee had several pieces of legislation signed into law, advanced numerous other bills through the House, and conducted oversight on numerous issues.

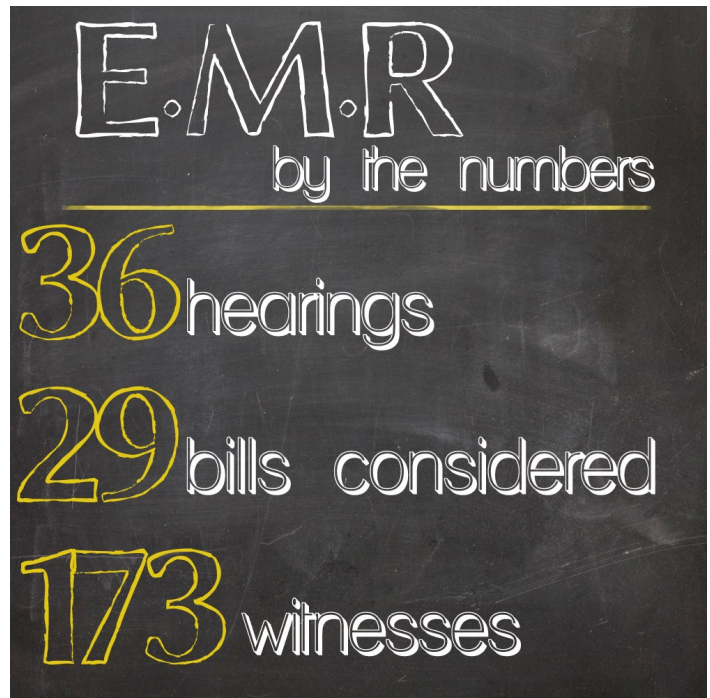
Ensuring a Reliable Domestic Helium Supply

This Congress, the Subcommittee worked to help preserve and expand our Nation's helium supplies, prevent an impending helium shortage, and inject free market principles into the federal helium program.

Helium is essential to the high-tech manufacturing of computer chips and fiber optic cables, is used by hospitals for life-saving medical tests like MRIs, and is critical to national defense efforts. However, the closure of the Federal Helium Reserve slated for October 2013 would have created an immediate helium shortage - threatening America's economic competitiveness and costing tens of thousands of American jobs.

To prevent this shortage, the House passed H.R. 527, the *Responsible Helium Administration Stewardship Act*, which the President signed into law (Public Law 113-40). This bipartisan bill put in place a common sense plan to sell helium from the Federal Helium Reserve in a responsible manner to prevent a global shortage, close the Federal Helium Reserve, and establish a fair market price for helium to ensure a fair return to the taxpayer.

Following passage of this legislation, the Subcommittee focused on ways to secure and encourage future production of domestic helium. Subcommittee Chairman Lamborn and Full

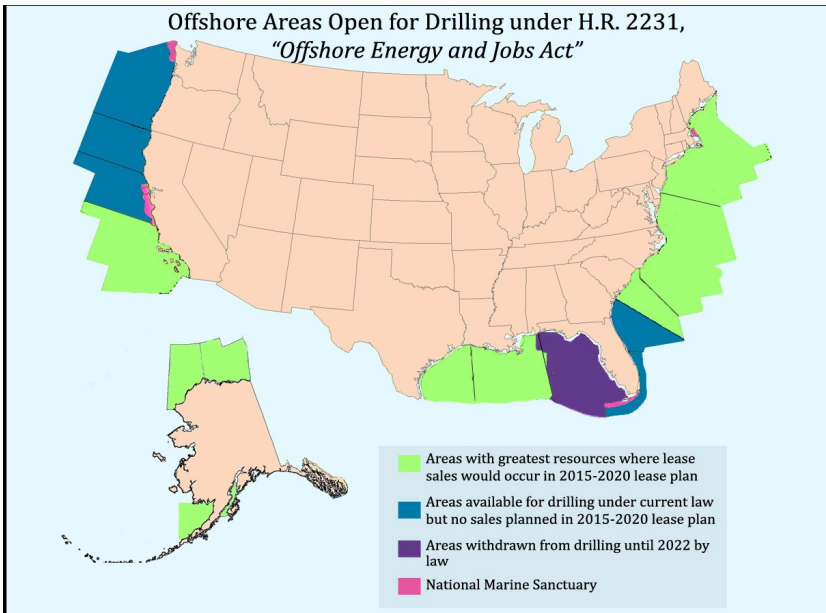


Committee Chairman Doc Hastings released draft legislation, the *American Helium Security Act of 2014*, that would create a federal leasing program for helium on federal lands and ensure a secure supply of domestic helium for national defense, federal researchers, and other industries that depend on helium for their business.

Expanding Offshore Energy Production

In 2013, President Obama finalized a five-year offshore leasing plan that places over 85 percent of offshore areas off-limits to energy production and includes the lowest number of lease sales ever offered in a plan. In response, the Subcommittee has worked to advance legislation to responsibly expand offshore energy production and open new areas.

H.R. 2231, the *Offshore Energy and Jobs Act*, passed the House with bipartisan support in June 2013. It proposes a drill-smart, job-creation plan that would require the Administration to move forward with new offshore energy production in areas containing the most oil and natural gas resources - including the Atlantic and Pacific



Coasts. It also requires oil and natural gas lease sales that have been delayed or cancelled by the Obama Administration to be held, including offshore Virginia, and implements a fair, equitable revenue sharing program for all coastal states. The bill also implements reforms to allow for the robust and safe production of our Nation's offshore energy resources. This legislation would generate \$1.5 billion in new revenue over ten years according to the Congressional Budget Office and could create up to 1.2 million jobs long-term.

The Subcommittee also advanced legislation to open new areas in the Gulf of Mexico along the U.S.-Mexico maritime border. H.R. 1613, the *Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act*, enacts the terms of an agreement signed by the Obama Administration and Mexico to govern how to explore, develop, and share revenue from oil and natural gas resources along the maritime border. According to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the U.S. State Department, these areas are estimated to contain 172 million barrels of oil and 304 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Expanding Onshore Energy Production

The House this year also passed a package of bills to protect and expand onshore American energy

production. H.R. 1965, the *Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act of 2013*, includes the following five Natural Resources bills:

- H.R. 1965, *Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act* - This bill would reform the leasing process for onshore oil and natural gas projects on federal lands to eliminate unnecessary delays; reform the process for energy permitting, once a lease is in hand, to encourage the timely development of our federal resources; ensure funds are available for efficient wind and solar permitting; and set clear rules for the development of U.S. oil shale resources.
- H.R. 1394, *Planning for American Energy Act* - This bill would establish common sense steps to create an all-of-the-above American energy plan for using federal lands to meet our Nation's energy needs.
- H.R. 1964, *National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Access Act* - This bill would cut through bureaucratic red tape to unlock the full potential of energy resources in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).
- H.R. 555, *BLM Live Internet Auctions Act* - This bill would give the Secretary of the Interior the authority to conduct internet-based auctions for onshore leases to ensure the best return to the Federal taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing process.
- H.R. 1548, *Native American Energy Act* - This bill would streamline burdensome and duplicative government regulations and remove the barriers erected by the Obama Administration that are blocking Indian tribes from developing energy resources on their own land and creating new jobs.

The Subcommittee also held numerous oversight and legislative hearings on the Interior Department's proposed regulations of hydraulic

fracturing on federal and tribal lands. The Obama Administration's proposed federal regulations on hydraulic fracturing would cost American jobs, decrease American energy production, increase energy prices, and harm economic growth. According to a study by John Dunham & Associates, the proposed regulation would cost at least \$345 million annually.

In November 2013, the House passed H.R. 2728, the *Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act*. This bipartisan bill would protect American jobs and American energy production by limiting the Administration's ability to impose duplicative federal regulations on hydraulic fracturing. It prohibits the Interior Department from enforcing federal hydraulic fracturing regulations in any state that already has regulations and recognizes states' authority to regulate this type of activity.

In December 2014, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, the House approved (and the President signed into law) legislation to boost new energy production on federal lands and reduce permit delays by extending a successful pilot program that helps the BLM deal with a backlog of drilling permit applications.

Protecting U.S. Coal & Mineral Production

The Subcommittee also worked to ensure a reliable supply of critical minerals and protect U.S. coal production.

The House passed H.R. 761, the *National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act*, which would allow the U.S. to more efficiently develop our Nation's strategic and critical minerals and streamline the permitting process for mineral development.

In November 2013, the House passed legislation to stop the Obama Administration from imposing job-destroying coal regulations. H.R. 2824, the *Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act* would save American

Energy Fast Facts

- Since President Obama took office in 2009, total federal oil production has dropped **6%** and total federal natural gas production has dropped **28%**.

- **All of the increase in U.S. oil and natural gas production has been on state and private land.**

- Since President Obama took office, total federal offshore oil production is down **13%** and federal offshore natural gas production is down **47%**.

- **Over 87% of our offshore acreage is currently off limits to oil and natural gas production.**

jobs and taxpayer dollars by preventing the Obama Administration from imposing their rewrite of the 2008 Steam Buffer Zone Rule, which would cost 7,000 jobs.

The National Defense Authorization Act also included the *Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act*. Sponsored by Rep. Paul Gosar (AZ-04) it will open up the third largest undeveloped copper resource in the world – supporting nearly 3,700 American jobs and producing enough copper to meet 25 percent of current U.S. demand.

Promoting American Energy Jobs

Throughout this past year, the Committee held a series of hearings on economic opportunities surrounding America's energy renaissance. It's estimated that energy production provides for nearly 10 million American jobs. At these hearings, witnesses offered expert testimony on the positive impacts that America's energy renaissance is having on veterans, women and minorities, states and localities, education, American manufacturing, innovation, and skilled trades workers.

House Passed Energy Legislation

- **H.R. 2, American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act.** Expands U.S. energy production and reduces bureaucratic red-tape in order to lower energy prices, create and protect over a million good-paying American jobs, strengthen our economy, and improve our energy security.
- **H.R. 3, Northern Route Approval Act.** Removes roadblocks to allow for the approval and construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- **H.R. 761, National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013.** Allows the United States to more efficiently develop our Nation's strategic and critical minerals, such as rare earth elements, that are vital to job creation, American economic competitiveness and national security.
- **H.R. 1613, Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act.** Enacts the terms of an agreement signed by the Obama Administration and Mexico to govern how to explore, develop, and share revenue from oil and natural gas resources along the maritime border in the Gulf of Mexico.
- **H.R. 1965, Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act of 2013.** Protects and expands onshore American energy production and create new American jobs by streamlining government red-tape and regulations.
- **H.R. 2231, Offshore Energy and Jobs Act.** Removes federal government barriers that block production of our own U.S. energy resources and opens new offshore areas that have that most oil and natural gas resources.
- **H.R. 2728, Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act.** Protects American jobs and American energy production by limiting the Obama Administration's ability to impose duplicative federal regulations on hydraulic fracturing.
- **H.R. 2824, Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act.** Saves American jobs and taxpayer dollars by preventing the Obama Administration from continuing a wasteful process to develop new job-destroying coal regulations.
- **H.R. 4899, Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.** Helps ease the pain at the pump by expanding production of America's own energy resources, both onshore and offshore.

Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee

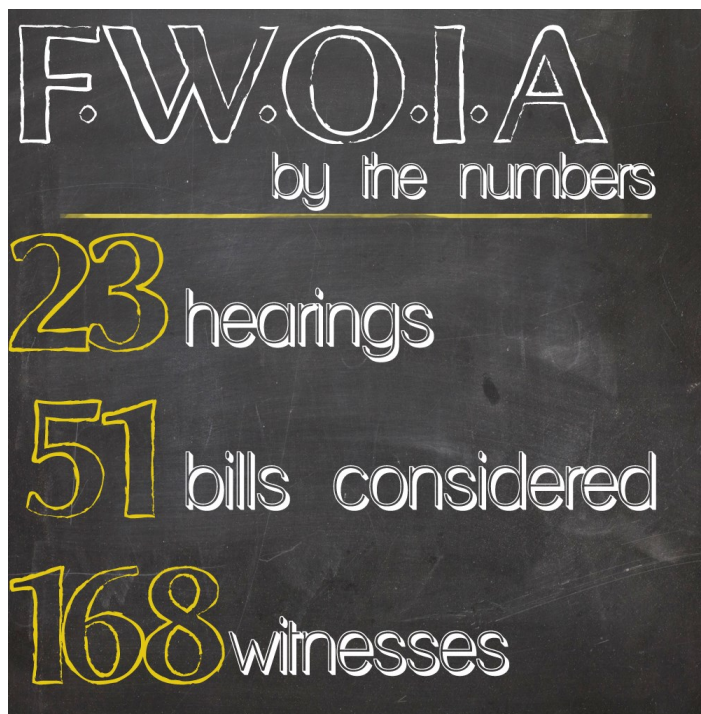
Chaired by Rep. John Fleming (LA-04), the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs focused this Congress on promoting responsible management and conservation of our resources as well as economic development and fiscal responsibility in insular areas.

Strengthening & Improving our Nation's Fisheries

In May 2014, the Full Committee approved H.R. 4742, the *Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act*. This legislation would renew and amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (last reauthorized in 2006 and expired in 2013), which governs the recreational and commercial harvest of fisheries in Federal waters.

The bill strengthens and improves the law through common sense reforms that increase management flexibility, increase the ability to base management decisions on science, ensure greater government transparency for those affected by management decisions, promote responsible fishing while preventing overfishing, improve fisheries data collection, and provide predictability and certainty for fishermen and local communities whose economic livelihoods depend on fishing.

Strengthening and improving the Magnuson-Stevens Act is necessary to protect American jobs and local economies. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. seafood industry supports approximately 1.3 million full and part-time jobs in the U.S. and commercial and recreational fishing adds hundreds of billions of dollars to our economy. Updating this important statute will provide increased management flexibility and economic certainty for those who depend on the Nation's fishery resources while maintaining a



transparent and science-based management system.

Since 2011, the Committee has held ten hearings concerning the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and heard from almost 100 witnesses who offered suggestions on how this Act can be improved. H.R. 4742 is the culmination of all these recommendations, in addition to recommendations that came as a result of a number of independent reports and conferences, that will ultimately strengthen and improve the Magnuson-Stevens Act to ensure that there is a proper balance between the biological needs of fish and the economic needs of fishermen.

The Subcommittee also held oversight hearings on the importance of the National Fish Hatchery System. From its high in 1940, the number of federal hatcheries has declined from 136 to nearly 70 today. These facilities, which average more than 70 years of age, produce and distribute 140 million fish and 120 million fish eggs with a value of over \$5 billion each year.

Protecting Access to our Oceans

The Committee continued to conduct thorough oversight this Congress over President Obama’s plan to unilaterally implement a new National Ocean Policy and mandatory ocean zoning. Established through Executive Order 13547, the President’s National Ocean Policy is the latest regulatory weapon to impose new bureaucratic restrictions on nearly every sector of our economy. While marketed as a common sense plan for the development and protection of our oceans, it is instead being used to create a massive new bureaucracy that would harm our economy. The Committee examined how this initiative has been funded, the breadth of its reach, and the impacts it will have on jobs, our economy, and energy security.

Moving forward with plans for ocean zoning, the President in September 2014 announced he was unilaterally expanding the Pacific Remote Islands Marine Monument under the Antiquities Act. This expansion was not based on science, was not developed in a transparent manner, ignored adverse economic impacts, and was done unilaterally with the stroke of a pen despite the concerns of many in the region. This action could

have grave economic consequences, further erode the U.S. seafood industry and harm the well-being of the U.S. territories. Legislation introduced by Rep. Steve Southerland (FL-02), H.R. 4988, the *Marine Access and State Transparency Act*, would require Congressional approval of any marine monument designated under the Antiquities Act and require the consent of any affected Governors.

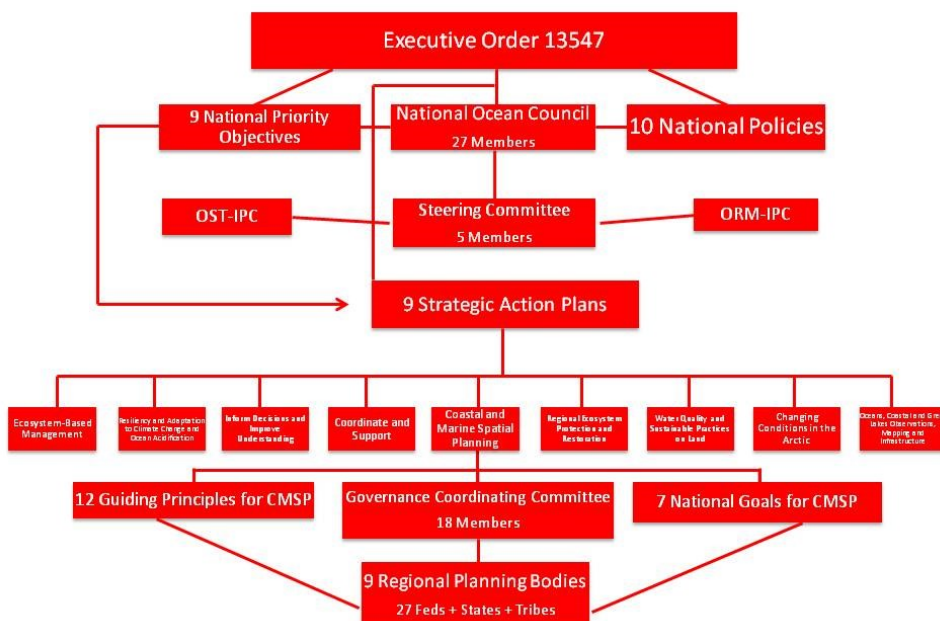
Oversight of National Wildlife Refuge System

The Subcommittee conducted extensive oversight into the National Wildlife Refuge System, which is comprised of federal lands that have been acquired or designated for the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife, and on which compatible recreation is allowed. The current maintenance backlog recorded for the Fish and Wildlife Service now stands at \$2.3 billion.

The Subcommittee specifically examined the Fish and Wildlife's decision and the amount it would cost taxpayers to expand the boundaries of the Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges in Tennessee by 120,078 acres. The expansion of the Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges is a classic case of the

federal government's desire to buy an unlimited amount of private land, while ignoring its responsibilities to maintain the land it already owns. In response, the Full Committee adopted legislation sponsored by Subcommittee Chairman Fleming to require a Congressional authorization of all new national wildlife refuges and extend the conservation of wildlife on 30 million acres of military lands.

The Subcommittee also examined the importance of oil and natural gas production occurring in the National Wildlife Refuge System and



examined the potential effects of increased regulations. The Obama Administration’s Fish and Wildlife Service is contemplating a proposed rule that would require individuals and companies to obtain a permit to access subsurface minerals even though they already have the rights to the minerals while requiring companies to obtain a bond to produce energy on their own lands.

Examining Harmful Government Regulations and Red-Tape

The Subcommittee this Congress continued to carefully examine the Lacey Act, a law first intended to protect native flora and fauna by banning the interstate transportation and sale of illegally obtained animal and plant products. However, since its enactment in 1900, the Lacey Act has been amended several times including expansions to include foreign laws, fish, and the importation and sale of timber and other plant products. The broad expansion of the law has increased job-destroying red tape and resulted in unanticipated consequences that have negatively impacted individuals and American businesses. Specifically, the Subcommittee held a hearing examining the potential effects of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s proposal to short-circuit, by executive fiat, existing rules for adding species to the Lacey Act’s injurious wildlife list.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision to establish a ban on the sale of elephant ivory, to suspend sport hunted trophies from two African countries, and to arbitrarily limit the number of sport hunted trophies that Americans can legally import from the United States.

Protecting Private Property

In December the House passed H.R. 3572, to revise the boundaries of the Coastal Barrier Resources System. The bill would provide relief to homeowners by removing 156 acres of private property in Florida, North Carolina, Rhode Island,

and South Carolina that were mistakenly included within the system due to inaccuracies of hand drawn maps.

Supporting U.S. Territories & Insular Areas

The Full Committee this Congress moved several pieces of legislation to support our U.S. territories and insular areas.

- H.R. 573 would provide the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands management authority over 3 nautical miles of its territorial sea giving the Commonwealth parity with the other U.S. territories. It became Public Law 113-34.
- H.R. 4402 would give the Secretary of the Navy the authority to establish a surface danger zone over the Guam National Wildlife Refuge to support training and operations of the live-fire training range complex adjacent to the refuge on the Northwest Field at Andersen Air Force Base.
- H.R. 4296 would amend the U.S. – Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Covenant to continue existing provisions of law connected to the CNMI-only foreign worker program authorized under the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.
- H.R. 85 would create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

The Subcommittee also held an oversight hearing on the United States Government Accountability Office’s September 2013 Report - *Compact of Free Association Micronesia and the Marshall Islands Continue to Face Challenges Measuring Progress and Ensuring Accountability* (GAO-13-675). The U.S. Compact of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) went into full effect in 1986. The Subcommittee heard testimony from the FSM, RMI and the Office of Insular Affairs.

Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee

Chaired by Rep. Don Young of Alaska, the Subcommittee focused this Congress on promoting job creation and economic growth on Tribal and Alaska Native lands.

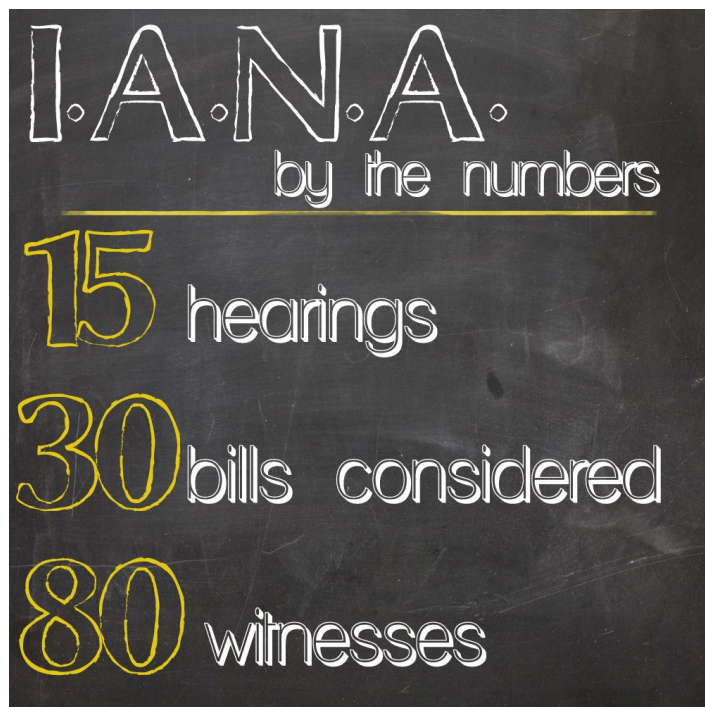
Tribal Energy & Economic Growth

The Subcommittee held multiple hearings on the development of tribal energy resources and the creation of energy 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 conducted vigorous oversight of the Administration in order to shine light on these policies and ensure accountability.

In November 2013, the House passed H.R. 1965, the *Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act*. This bill included language from the *Native American Energy Act*, introduced by Subcommittee Chairman Young, which would streamline burdensome and duplicative government regulations and increase the opportunity for Indian tribes to develop energy resources on their own land.

The House also passed H.R. 2728 in 2013, the *Protecting States' Right to Promote American Energy Security Act*, which included an amendment that would protect the rights of tribal nations by keeping the federal government from imposing additional hydraulic fracturing regulations on tribal lands. Many tribes have expressed concerns that they were left out of the Interior Department's rulemaking process on hydraulic fracturing and that the proposed rule could greatly impede Tribes' ability to develop their own energy resources.

The Subcommittee also conducted oversight this



year on the implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) rule on the Universal Service Fund and the importance of expanded broadband access to Indian and Alaska Native communities. Nearly one in three Native Americans lacks basic telephone service and only one in ten have broadband service.

Tribal Forest Management

During the 113th Congress, the Committee also held an oversight hearing to examine the successful model of forest management used by tribes throughout the country.

Over the last two decades, federal regulations and environmental lawsuits have caused the rapid decline in timber sales across the country in federally managed forests. This 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. Meanwhile, tribal forest managers continue to be more effective at using their limited resources to better protect forest

health, prevent catastrophic wildfires and create jobs.

Tribal Self-Governance

The Subcommittee this Congress held a legislative hearing on H.R. 4350, the *Northern Cheyenne Lands Act* (which passed the House), and H.R. 409, the *Indian Trust Asset Reform Act*. These two bills would allow for increased tribal control of trust assets and fulfill a long-standing federal promise to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in Montana. Witnesses at the hearing reiterated that tribes are better equipped to manage their own lands, trust assets, and mineral resources than the federal government, which has long practiced a paternalistic approach to tribal affairs resulting in high unemployment, poverty, and community health problems.

Alaskan Priorities

As part of the National Defense Authorization Act, the House passed H.R. 740, *Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization and Jobs Protection Act*, sponsored by Chairman Young. The bill conveys 70,075 of acres of land to Sealaska, an Alaska Native corporation, as the full and final satisfaction of its remaining land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The timber lands conveyed to Sealaska will support high-wage jobs for Natives as well as non-Natives in the forest industry.

H.R. 623, the *Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Transfer Act*, sponsored by Chairman Young was also enacted into Public Law 113-68. The bill provides for the transfer of certain Indian Health Service land to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), which administers the Service's medical and health services for Alaska Natives. The ANTHC plans to use the property for patient housing.

Oversight of the Cobell Settlement

The Subcommittee continued to conduct

oversight of the \$3.4 billion Cobell Settlement Agreement, signed into law in December 2010. Specifically, the Subcommittee examined the delays and uncertainty in the land buyback program authorized as part of the Cobell Settlement.

Indian Gaming

The Subcommittee conducted oversight on the *Executive Branch standards for land-in-trust decisions for gaming purposes*. This hearing examined concerns that have been expressed by tribes, state and municipal governments, and private organizations that the Bureau of Indian Affairs' policy guidelines do not adequately take into consideration the adverse impacts of off-reservation gaming. Indian gaming revenues have grown from a very small amount in 1988, to \$16.8 billion in 2003, to \$27.9 billion in 2012, the highest revenue amount on record. There are more than 420 casinos run by about 240 tribes across 28 states.

Child Welfare

The Subcommittee conducted oversight on whether Congressional action is needed to address systematic problems with the child welfare and justice system on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota.

Over the past two years, numerous reports in state and national media have documented what the New York Times and CNN have described as "epidemic" and "rampant" child abuse, rape, and assault on the reservation. In virtually all reported cases, both the victim and offender are members of the tribe and therefore fall under the criminal and civil jurisdiction of the federal government. This hearing examined the current status of child welfare and protection services on the reservation that is publicly unknown because relevant federal and tribal agencies lack transparency.

Public Lands and Environmental Regulation Subcommittee

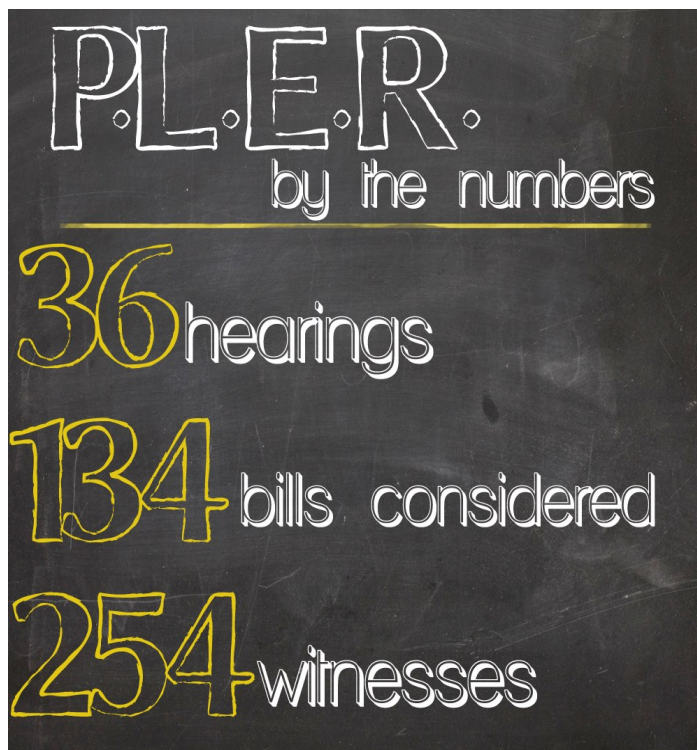
Chaired by Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01), the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation focused this Congress on policies to ensure that America gets the full range of recreational, environmental, and economic benefits our federal lands can provide.

Protecting Public Access to Public Lands

Since taking office, President Obama has designated 13 National Monuments under the Antiquities Act, a century-old law that allows the President to unilaterally designate National Monuments without any input or involvement from the people who would be directly impacted. Since its establishment, the Antiquities Act has at times been used properly to protect some sites but it has also been misused for political purposes by presidents on both sides of the political aisle. The worst cases of abuse have occurred when the Act is used not to protect a specific antiquity but to impose rigid federal land use control over vast areas of landscape without regard to its effect on the families who live and work in the area.

In response, the House in March 2014 passed H.R. 1459, the *Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act*, introduced by Subcommittee Chairman Bishop. This legislation would require public participation before a presidentially-declared National Monument is made official under the Antiquities Act. It would guarantee the American people an opportunity to participate in the decisions that impact their communities and ensures that the designation process is transparent through the application of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The House also passed legislation to promote and protect access to public lands. H.R. 2954, the *Public Access and Land Improvements Act*, is a bipartisan package of 10 bills to protect and



promote access to lands; improve opportunities by removing red tape that stands in the way of responsible, local economic development and jobs; and encourage transparent, community-centered land management. These bills would advance important local projects that will have a direct impact on jobs and economic growth in communities throughout the country.

In December 2014 the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act, which included a bipartisan agreement on provisions under the Committee's jurisdiction. The House-Senate agreement supports American job creation and economic growth through a balanced approach to improve the management of our public lands and natural resources while protecting treasured areas. The bills in the agreement will create thousands of American jobs, cut red-tape to energy production on federal lands, boost American mineral production, protect multiple-use and public recreation on federal lands, convey over 100,000 acres of federal land for job-creating economic and community development, protect treasured lands through the measured

establishment of locally-supported parks and wilderness areas, and provide new means to enhance private dollars to support America's National Parks.

Restoring Active Forest Management

In 2013 the House passed legislation to renew the federal government's commitment to manage portions of our vast federal forests for the benefit of rural schools and counties.

Over a hundred years ago, the federal government made a promise to rural schools and counties that they would share in the benefits of wise management of our forests. However, due to faulty federal regulations and litigation, forest management and forest health have dramatically declined. As a result, thousands of people have lost their jobs, counties lack the resources to pay for basic services, and our forest became increasingly susceptible to disease and wildfire.

H.R. 1526, *Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act*, would create over 200,000 direct and indirect jobs; provide stable funding for counties to use for education and other basic services; provide nearly \$400 million in savings over 10 years; improve local management of our federal forests; and help reduce the risk of wildfires.

The Subcommittee also held multiple oversight hearings examining the differences between state and federal forest management. Subcommittee Members heard about the inadequacies and burdens of current federal forest management practices that have contributed to poor forest health, underfunded schools, lost jobs, and suppressed economic activities and recreational opportunities. In comparison, state managed forests can often produce hundreds of times more revenue from just a fraction of the land base while maintaining vibrant, healthy forests to support local communities.

Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act H.R. 1526

Timber harvest in National Forests are down **80%** over the last **30** years. The Forest Service once averaged over **\$1B** in revenues annually, it now spends **\$2** for every **\$1** it produces.

SUPPORTING RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

H.R. 1526 renews the federal government's commitment to manage federal forest for the benefit of rural schools and counties and provide a stable source of revenue.

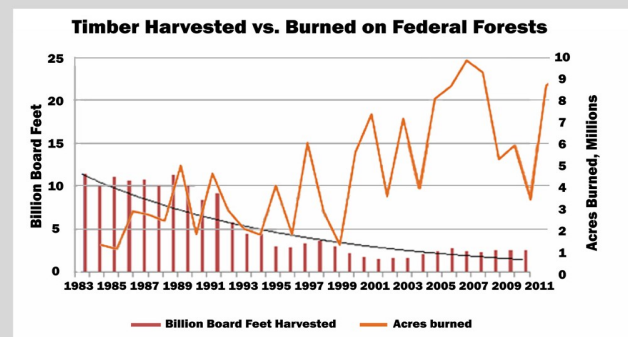
200,000 JOBS

PUTTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

H.R. 1526 will create over **68,000** direct jobs and **140,000** indirect jobs.

HELPING PREVENT CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES

Last year, wildfires burned **9.3M** acres, while the USFS harvested **200,000** acres. **44X** as many acres burned as were responsibly harvested. H.R. 1526 will improve forest healthy and create jobs while helping prevent wildfires.



House Committee on Natural Resources
For more information and sources
<http://naturalresources.house.gov/legislation/hr1526>

Preventing Cabin Fee Price Spikes

The House once again passed legislation to prevent volatile price spikes for families who own cabins in our National Forests. H.R. 5476, the *Cabin Fee Act of 2014*, (included in the National Defense Authorization Act) would modify the current cabin fee formula to make it more predictable and fair.

Many cabins in our National Forests have been passed down within a family for several generations; however cabin owners have recently been faced with arbitrary, skyrocketing fees as a result of a faulty appraisal system that has allowed annual cabin fees to increase exponentially. The *Cabin Fee Act of 2014* uses a new formula for calculating fees to ensure that fees are not beyond the reach of American families.

Protecting Hunting and Fishing Rights

In February 2014, the House passed H.R. 3590, the *Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act*. This bipartisan package of eight individual bills protects the traditional rights of American sportsmen to fish and hunt, removes government roadblocks and red tape, and promotes American job creation and economic growth by supporting recreational opportunities on these federal lands. This legislation is supported by over 35 sportsmen's organizations.

Improving and Updating Federal Recreation Fees

In June 2014, the Full Committee approved H.R. 5204, the *Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Modernization Act of 2014*. The bill will help expand and improve opportunities for public recreation on federal lands by reining in and updating how the Federal agencies collect and spend Federal recreation fees authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA).

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act authorizes the National Park Service to impose an entrance fee while the Bureau of Land Management the U.S. Forest Service are supposed to have fees only for use of developed sites such as improved campgrounds that provide amenities. While these fees are needed to maintain and fund necessary services and improvements that enhance the public visitor experience on federal lands, the bill more clearly defines when and where such fees can be imposed and requires Congressional approval any new fees or hikes in fees. The bill ensures that a minimum of 90% of fees collected are retained and used at the collection site so that recreation users are directly paying for the services used.

Eisenhower Memorial

In June 2013, the Full Committee approved H.R. 1126, the *Dwight. D. Eisenhower Memorial Completion Act*. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Subcommittee Chairman Bishop, seeks to build consensus around a new Eisenhower Memorial by implementing a new design competition and providing a three-year extension of the memorial site designation. The current design has little chance of ever being completed due to its controversial and unpopular design, runaway cost, flawed selection process and strong objections from members of the Eisenhower family who are opposed to the current extravagant and inappropriate design.



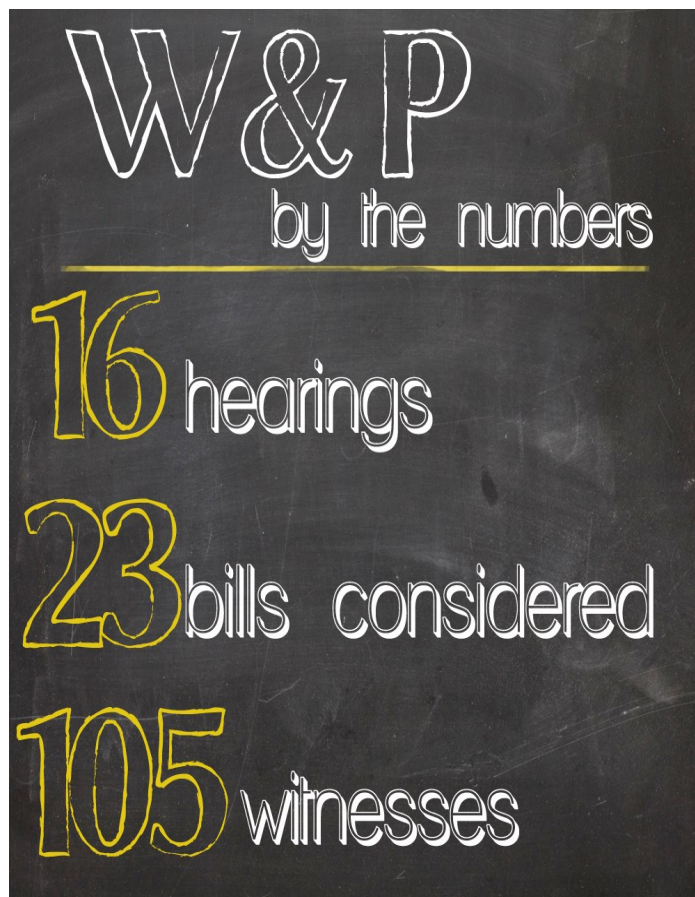
Water and Power Subcommittee

Chaired by Rep. Tom McClintock (CA-04) the Subcommittee on Water and Power worked successfully this Congress to promote new domestic water and energy supply projects, protect existing supplies, and provide thorough oversight and review of federal regulations and proposals that threaten American jobs, water and electricity rates, and economic growth.

Promoting New Hydropower

This Congress, several bills to expand development of clean, renewable hydropower became public law. Hydropower is one of the cheapest and cleanest forms of electricity. Expanding development will help lower energy costs for American families and small businesses while protecting the environment.

- H.R. 678, the *Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act*, was passed by the House in August 2013 and signed into law (P.L. 113-24) by President Obama. This law, authored by Rep. Scott Tipton (CO-03), authorizes hydropower production on Bureau of Reclamation water canals and pipes and reduces administrative and regulatory costs for developing these clean and renewable energy projects. This will create jobs and generate thousands of mega-watts of hydropower at no cost to taxpayers and will create revenue for local power providers and the federal government.
- H.R. 1963, the *Bureau of Reclamation Conduit Hydropower Development Equity and Jobs Act*, was approved by the House in December 2013 and included in the National Defense Authorization Act. President Obama is expected to sign the latter into law. Authored by Rep. Steve Daines (MT-At Large) the bill removes outdated federal statutory barriers to conduit hydropower development at eleven Bureau of Reclamation projects in the intermountain west.



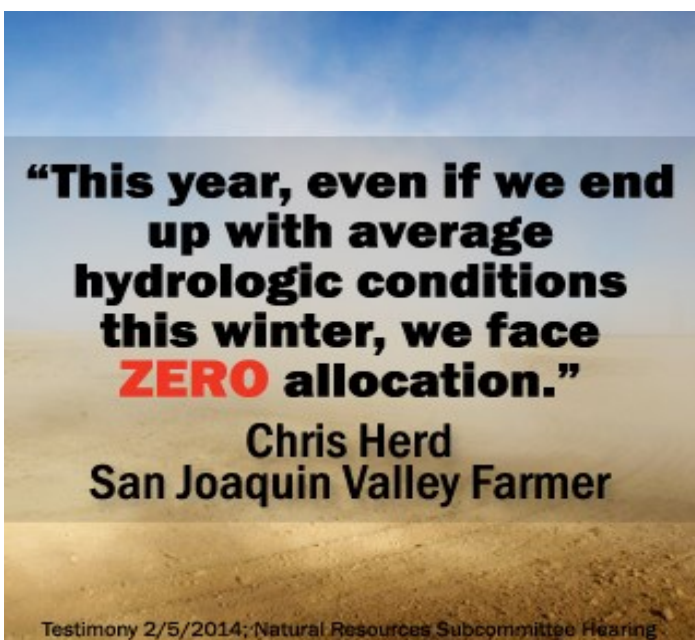
- H.R. 2640, *Central Oregon Jobs and Water Security Act*, by Rep. Greg Walden (OR-02) was also passed by the House numerous times, with the most recent being on December 11, 2014 after productive negotiations with the Senate. The President is expected to sign this bill into law. It would effectively allow hydropower development at the Bureau of Reclamation's Bowman Dam by making a common sense Wild and Scenic administrative boundary change.
- H.R. 254, *Bonneville Unit Clean Hydropower Facilitation Act*, authored by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (UT-03), also passed the House and was signed into law by the President (P.L. 113-20) in 2013. The law facilitates hydropower production at specific federal facilities.

Restoring California Water Supplies

In February 2014 the House passed H.R. 3964, *the Sacramento - San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act*. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by the entire Republican California delegation, addresses the emergency drought in California by restoring some water supplies to provide job certainty to farmers and communities.

It would codify the historic, bipartisan State/Federal agreement known as the "Bay-Delta Accord;" reform punitive federal laws to in order to provide fairness to ratepayers, promote transparency and accountability, and save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars; allow water users to pay off federal debt early; and protect private property and senior water rights.

In December 2014, the House passed H.R. 5781, *the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014*. The bill, sponsored by Reps. David G. Valadao (CA-21) and cosponsored by Kevin McCarthy (CA-23), Ken Calvert (CA-42), Doug LaMalfa (CA-01), Tom McClintock (CA-04), and Devin Nunes (CA-22), would provide short-term, emergency relief to the drought that's hurting California's communities and causing negative economic impacts nationwide.



Promoting New Water Storage

This Congress the Committee approved with bipartisan support two bills to address the nation's critical need for new and expanded surface water storage projects. These bills will update and improve the process for studying, permitting and potentially constructing federal and non-federal surface water storage projects that could provide new water for human consumption, hydropower generation, recreation and fisheries needs, among other things. Additional surface storage will capture more water to help overcome severe drought in areas like California.

H.R. 3980, *the Water Supply Permitting Coordinating Act*, sponsored by Subcommittee Chairman Tom McClintock (CA-04) and Rep. Cynthia Lummis (WY- At Large), sets up a "one-stop-shop" permitting approach that would require federal agencies to work together and coordinate their permits and approvals for surface storage projects in certain circumstances.

The Committee also passed H.R. 5412, *the Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act*. Introduced by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings, the bill streamlines the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental planning and study process for new surface water storage projects. The Family Farm Alliance and the National Water Resources Association have endorsed the bill.

Oversight of Federal Regulations

The Subcommittee this Congress conducted oversight on several proposed rules and regulations by the Obama Administration that would destroy American jobs and impose new, severe water and land use restrictions.

The Subcommittee led the way in questioning the validity and the potential effects of the Obama Administration's National Blueways Secretarial Order. Signed by former Interior Secretary Ken

Salazar in 2012, the Blueways program allowed unilateral Secretarial discretion to designate entire watersheds as so-called Blueways even with very little local community involvement and questionable legal authority.

In June 2013 Chairman Hastings sent a letter asking for explanations about the designation process, the makeup of the National Blueways Committee, the potential for federal land acquisition and regulations, and the involvement of the Interior Department's Senior Advisor Rebecca Wodder. The following month the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing on the Blueways program with a host of affected citizens and later held a field hearing in West Plains, Missouri examining the harmful effects of the National Blueways Order following the designation (and eventual rescission) of the White River Blueway. Over 500 local citizens attended this hearing while the Administration (Ms. Wodder) refused to testify once again. In response to the public concern and objections raised, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell eventually announced that she had "paused" the Blueways program.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the proposed Environmental Protection Agency's "Waters of the U.S." regulations and the U.S. Forest Service's Groundwater Directive. The Subcommittee heard testimony on how these Obama Administration proposals override state water law and undermine property rights and multiple uses on federal and non-federal lands.

Power Marketing Administrations

The Subcommittee held multiple hearings this Congress to discuss the challenges and priorities of the Power Marketing Administrations. It examined the spending priorities outlined in the President's budget requests for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the four Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs), and the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Program and discussed the importance of restoring abundance as the mission of federal water and power policies in

order to prevent man-made water shortages, job losses, higher electricity prices, and questionable spending.

It also held an oversight hearing focused on the electricity ratepayers who receive and pay for hydropower generated at federal dams and transmitted by the four federal PMAs. For generations, millions of electricity consumers have received low-cost hydropower generated at federal dams and reservoirs. The core mission of the four PMAs is to transmit this emissions-free resource to their customers. Through their rates, these customers pay for the electricity supply, the transmission needed to deliver this power, and the capital components of both generation and transmission infrastructure plus interest to the federal government.

Maintaining Electricity Rights-of-Way

This Congress, the Subcommittee also examined the need for improved management and better communication with electricity providers on electricity rights of way on federal lands so that falling, dead, insect-infested or even growing trees do not hit power lines. Such contact can cause electricity blackouts and catastrophic fires.

Electricity rights of way (ROW) or electricity corridors are less than a fraction of a percent of overall federal lands, yet the consequences from not effectively managing the ROW and power line corridors can be significant and catastrophic. When a ROW is not properly maintained, a tree can grow into or fall on to a power line, causing fires and electricity blackouts. The major blackout in 2003 in the Northeast which included New York City was caused by a falling tree in a ROW and left 50 million people in the dark. A similar blackout impacted a number of western states and millions of electricity customers in 1996.

Appendix

House Passed Legislation from the Natural Resources Committee

During the 113th Congress, the House passed 128 Natural Resources Committee bills:

- H.R. 2, American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act
- H.R. 3, Northern Route Approval Act.
- H.R. 4, Jobs for America Act
- H.R. 45, To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
- H.J. Res. 120, Approving the location of a memorial to commemorate the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who fought for independence in the American Revolution
- H.R. 126, Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act
- H.R. 251, South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act
- H.R. 253, Y Mountain Access Enhancement Act
- H.R. 254, Bonneville Unit Clean Hydropower Facilitation Act
- H.R. 255, To amend certain definitions contained in the Provo River Project Transfer Act for purposes of clarifying certain property descriptions, and for other purposes
- H.Res. 264, Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 588, with an amendment
- H.R. 291, Black Hills Cemetery Act
- H.R. 298, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes
- H.R. 330, Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial Act
- H.Res. 354, Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 527, with an amendment
- H.R. 356, Hill Creek Cultural Preservation and Energy Development Act
- H.R. 412, Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Act
- H.R. 503, National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act
- H.R. 507, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Trust Land Act
- H.R. 520, Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act
- H.R. 527, Helium Stewardship Act of 2013
- H.R. 573, To amend Public Law 93-435 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, providing parity with Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa
- H.R. 588, Vietnam Veterans Donor Acknowledgment Act of 2013
- H.R. 623, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Transfer Act
- H.R. 674, Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act
- H.R. 678, Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act
- H.R. 697, Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation
- H.R. 723, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act
- H.R. 761, National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013
- H.R. 767, To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modify the Pilot Project offices of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project
- H.R. 841, To amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes

- H.R. 862, To authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960
- H.R. 863, Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act
- H.R. 876, Idaho Wilderness Water Resources Protection Act
- H.R. 885, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2013
- H.R. 930, New Philadelphia, Illinois, Study Act
- H.R. 993, Fruit Heights Land Conveyance Act
- H.R. 1033, American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2013
- H.R. 1157, Rattlesnake Mountain Public Access Act
- H.R. 1158, North Cascades National Park Service Complex Fish Stocking Act
- H.R. 1192, To redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as "Mount Jessie Benton Fre'mont"
- H.R. 1206, Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013
- H.R. 1241, To facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest, and for other purposes
- H.R. 1300, To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes
- H.R. 1410, Keep the Promise Act of 2013
- H.R. 1411, California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act of 2013
- H.R. 1459, Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act
- H.R. 1501, Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Preservation Act
- H.R. 1513, To revise the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Gettysburg Train Station and certain land along Plum Run in Cumberland Township, to limit the means by which property within such revised boundaries may be acquired, and for other purposes
- H.R. 1526, Restoring Heathy Forests for Healthy Communities Act
- H.R. 1613, Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act
- H.R. 1684, Ranch A Consolidation and Management Improvement Act
- H.R.1846, Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site Amendments Act
- H.R. 1963, Bureau of Reclamation Conduit Hydropower Development Equity and Jobs Act
- H.R. 1965, Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act of 2013
- H.R. 2166, Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act
- H.R. 2197, York River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2014
- H.R. 2231, Offshore Energy and Jobs Act
- H.R. 2259, North Fork Watershed Protection Act of 2014
- H.R. 2319, Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013
- H.R. 2337, Lake Hill Administrative Site Affordable Housing Act
- H.R. 2388, To take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes
- H.R. 2430, Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act
- H.R. 2455, Nevada Native Nations Land Act
- H.R. 2569, Upper Missisquoi and Trout Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- H.R. 2640, Central Oregon Jobs and Water Security Act
- H.R. 2641, RAPID Act
- H.R. 2650, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Non-Intercourse Act of 2013
- H.R. 2728, Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act
- H.R. 2824, Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America
- H.R. 2954, Public Access and Lands Improvement Act

- H.R. 3006, To authorize a land exchange involving the acquisition of private land adjacent to the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona for inclusion in the refuge in exchange for certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Riverside County, California, and for other purposes
- H.R. 3008, To provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes
- H.R. 3080, Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014
- H.R. 3109, To amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to exempt certain Alaskan Native articles from prohibitions against sale of items containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 3110, Huna Tlingit Traditional Gull Egg Use Act
- H.R. 3189, Water Rights Protection Act
- H.R. 3222, Flushing Remonstrance Study Act
- H.R. 3301, North American Energy Infrastructure Act
- H.R. 3326, Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2014
- H.R. 3366, Hermiston Reversionary Lands Act
- H.R. 3572, To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units
- H.R. 3590, Sportsmen's Heritage And Recreational Enhancement Act
- H.R. 3608, Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act
- H.R. 3716, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe - Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Act
- H.R. 3802, To extend the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, and for other purposes. H.R. 3964, Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act
- H.R. 4002, To revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes
- H.R. 4032, North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act of 2014
- H.R. 4049, Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act
- H.R. 4119, West Hunter Street Baptist Church Study Act
- H.R. 4120, To amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date
- H.R. 4283, To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes
- H.R. 4315, Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act
- H.R. 4414, Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014
- H.R. 4508, To amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services
- H.R. 4527, To remove a use restriction on land formerly a part of Acadia National Park that was transferred to the town of Tremont, Maine, and for other purposes
- H.R. 4562, To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska
- H.R. 4751, To make technical corrections to Public Law 110-229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes
- H.R. 4846, Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014
- H.R. 4867, Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act
- H.R. 4899, Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014
- H.R. 4924, Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014
- H.R. 5021, Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014
- H.R. 5040, Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act
- H.R. 5050, May 31, 1918 Act Repeal Act
- H.R. 5069, Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014

- H.R. 5086, 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. 5162, To amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes
- H.R. 5167, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- H.R. 5205, Northern Nevada Land Conservation and Economic Development Act
- H.R. 5682, To approve the Keystone XL Pipeline
- H.R. 5699, John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act
- H.R. 5701, Western Oregon Indian Tribal Lands Act
- H.R. 5781, California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014
- S. 23, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act
- S. 130, Powell Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act
- S. 157, Denali National Park Improvement Act
- S. 230, A bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes
- S. 231, Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2013
- S. 256, A bill to amend Public Law 93-435 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, providing parity with Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa
- S. 304, Natchez Trace Parkway Land Conveyance Act of 2013
- S. 404, Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act
- S. 459, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act
- S. 476, A bill to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission
- S. 1000, Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014
- S. 1254, Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014
- S. 1603, Gun Lake Trust Land Reaffirmation Act
- S. 2040, Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014