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**Sent:** 12/16/2017 9:54:23 PM  
**To:** Hanson, Tanner [Tanner.Hanson@mail.house.gov]  
**CC:** Small, Jeff [Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov]  
**Subject:** Western Caucus Reboot 12.16.17



**Week of 12.16.2017**

## **New Forest Service Chief Tooke Meets With Western Caucus** Vows to work with members, Caucus to implement forestry reform



**Western Caucus** @westerncaucus · Dec 13

A captivating Monthly Member Meeting yesterday between our Members including Chairman @RepGosar and United States @forests-service Chief Tony Tooke!

We are working hard to save our federal forests!



On Tuesday, new Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke met with members of the Congressional Western Caucus. Chief Tooke is off to an excellent start and knows better than anyone the challenges we face when it comes to combating catastrophic wildfires and actively managing our forests.

Tony Tooke is the 18th Chief of the United States Forest Service and has worked for the agency for 18 years. Prior to his current role, Chief Tooke was the Regional Forester for the Southern Region. He grew up on a small 200-acre farm in Detroit, Alabama.

## McClintock Passes Bill to Increase Public Access



**Natural Resources** @NatResources · Dec 14

We put the brakes on the federal bureaucracy Wednesday by advancing a bill to allow bicycles & wheelchairs in federal wilderness areas for the first time in 40 years #KeepItPublic @RepMcClintock



**House GOP deflates administrative state by moving to allow bikes...**

House Republicans put the brakes on the federal bureaucracy Wednesday by advancing a bill to allow bicycles and wheelchairs in federal wilderness...

[washingtontimes.com](http://washingtontimes.com)

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed Rep. McClintock's bill to provide bicycle and wheelchair access to some of the most scenic landscapes in the country. Numerous Democrats opposed this commonsense legislation.

“This bill advances one of the principal objectives of the Federal Lands Subcommittee: to restore public access to our public lands. When the House considered the Wilderness Act in June of 1964, the record is clear that its framers intended that the term “mechanical transport” be applied to non-human-powered vehicles like motorcycles – not human-powered devices like bicycles. Bicycles were allowed in wilderness areas from the inception of the Act in 1964 until 1977, when the Forest Service reinterpreted the act to ban them. Bicycles peacefully co-exist with backpacking, hiking, horseback riding and packing on any other public lands – and they did for many years in Wilderness areas. This bill only removes the current blanket prohibition against bicycles and other

forms of human-powered locomotion established by bureaucratic regulation. It in no way interferes with the discretion provided in other regulations and laws that gives land managers the ability to close or restrict the use of trails according to site-specific conditions. This bill restores this principle for America's mountain bikers on our public lands," **Rep. McClintock stated.**

"This bill prevents unelected bureaucrats from arbitrarily banning bicycles, strollers and wheelchairs from our public lands," **House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop said.** "Public lands should be open to all Americans. It is shocking to see self-proclaimed defenders of public lands in Congress vote to perpetuate a permanent ban on bikers, parents, the disabled, or certain hunters from accessing public lands. I'm proud to stand with Rep. McClintock in fighting for American citizens who are tired of government officials telling them they can't enjoy our nation's public lands."

"Our public lands have always played different roles based on their unique characteristics and histories. But a blanket ban on bicycles and wheelchairs in wilderness clearly provides an overbroad answer to the question of what kinds of activities are appropriate across those vast and diverse areas. There is no question mountain biking can be done responsibly, with its impacts controlled by land managers and proactive biking cooperatives working together. I want to congratulate Western Caucus member Tom McClintock for his bill passing Committee, and thank him for bringing to light this commonsense public lands use issue," said **Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar.**

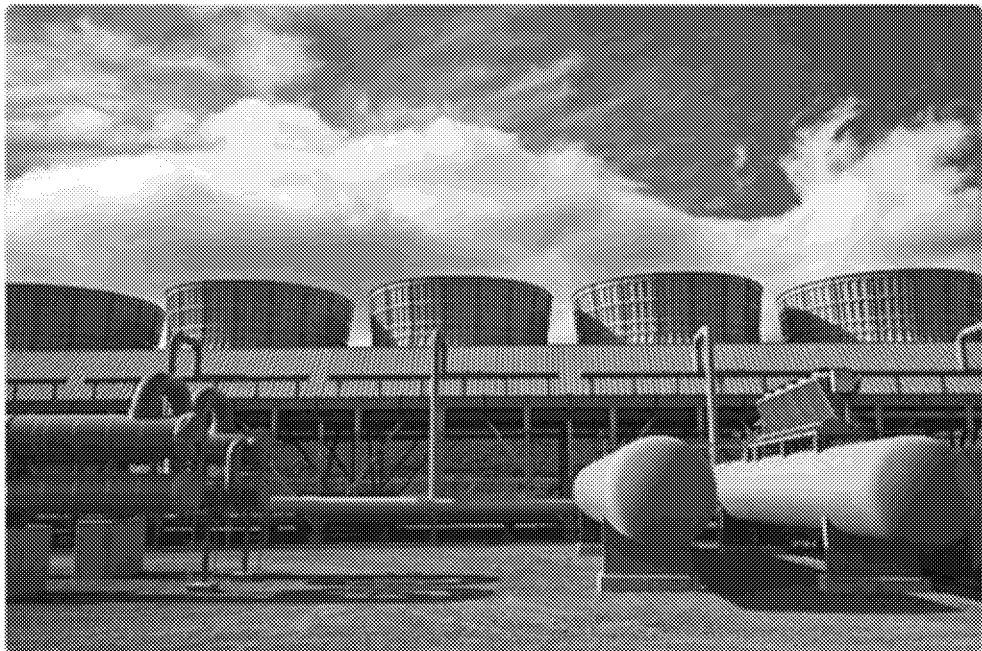
See the bill's text [HERE](#).

## Labrador Passes Bill to Increase Geothermal Energy



**Raúl R. Labrador** ● @Raul\_Labrador · Dec 13

My bill easing regulations for geothermal exploration cleared @NatResources today. #Idaho will benefit. [bit.ly/2AWM6H1](https://bit.ly/2AWM6H1)



On Wednesday, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed Rep. Labrador's bill to incentivize new production of geothermal resources and support more development on lands

already leased for that purpose.

Read Congressman Labrador's press release [HERE](#) for more information. Bill text can be found [HERE](#).

## Agriculture Committee Launches Farm Bill Page

Slick promo video showcases what to expect



On Wednesday, the House Committee on Agriculture [launched a landing page](#) to share important information on the upcoming farm bill. The Committee also released an excellent video which can be viewed by clicking above or visiting [the landing page](#).



## Trump Administration Slashes Job-Killing Regulations

The president literally cut the red tape



Rep. Jason Smith ● @RepJasonSmith · Dec 14

President Trump is rapidly cutting through regulatory red tape! So far this year, we have removed more than \$8.1 billion worth of regulations that were costing YOU money. Ready to see us accomplish even more regulatory roll-backs in 2018!



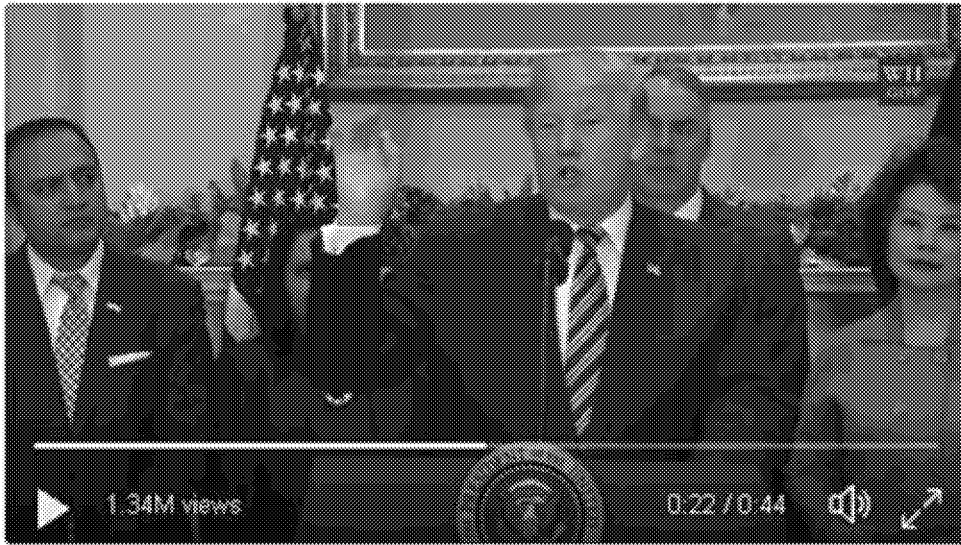
The Trump Administration has not been shy in proclaiming its intentions to dismantle the regulatory state. President Trump is clear on his desire to provide ordinary Americans and business owners with greater regulatory certainty and the economic prosperity that attends to it. On Thursday, December 14, 2017, President Trump was joined by Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke for a 'ribbon-cutting' ceremony. In the Roosevelt Room, he cut red tape connecting 1960's approximately 20,000 pages of regulation to today's more than 185,000 pages.

The message was that the Trump Administration is severing the near-exponential regulatory onslaught of the federal government. This is being accomplished in large part by President Trump's original Executive Order 13771 directing agencies to eliminate two old regulations for each new one introduced. The actual progress of the Administration on this front is even more drastic: President Trump announced in the Roosevelt Room that the figure is now closer to 22 eliminated for every one introduced.



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Dec 14

Today, we gathered in the Roosevelt Room for one single reason: to CUT THE RED TAPE! For many decades, an ever-growing maze of regs, rules, and restrictions has cost our country trillions of dollars, millions of jobs, countless American factories, & devastated entire industries.



## Daily Caller Fact-Checks Democrat Wildfire Claims

### Western Caucus weighed in

The Daily Caller's fact-checking arm [ran a fact-check piece](#) looking into some of the more incendiary claims that accompany Democratic talking points on wildfires, including that climate change is a more substantial cause than decreased forest management and thinning.

The Daily Caller cited politicians including California Governor Jerry Brown and former Vice President Al Gore who implied or stated explicitly that addressing climate change was the proper way to deal with wildfires while neglecting to discuss the need for active forestry management. The verdict: that premise is 'False'.

From the piece:

*"Policies to stop natural fires can make future fires worse when they leave forests with thick, dry undergrowth. Members of the [congressional] Western Caucus say too much focus on fire suppression and not enough focus on fire prevention helps to explain the severity of fires in California and elsewhere.*

*Tanner Hanson, a spokesman for the Caucus, told TheDCNF in an email that some politicians who link climate change to the fires also "plead ignorance to the question of whether forest thinning and clearing millions of dead, dry trees could have any effect on the intensity or duration of wildfires."*

*While the Forest Service has spent a record \$2.3 billion this year on battling fires, timber harvests have decreased 80 percent over the last 30 years, according to the Caucus. The House passed a bill in November that would increase funding for preventative forest management practices like managed fire treatment and removal of dead trees."*

Click [HERE](#) to read the full fact-check.

# POST OF THE WEEK...



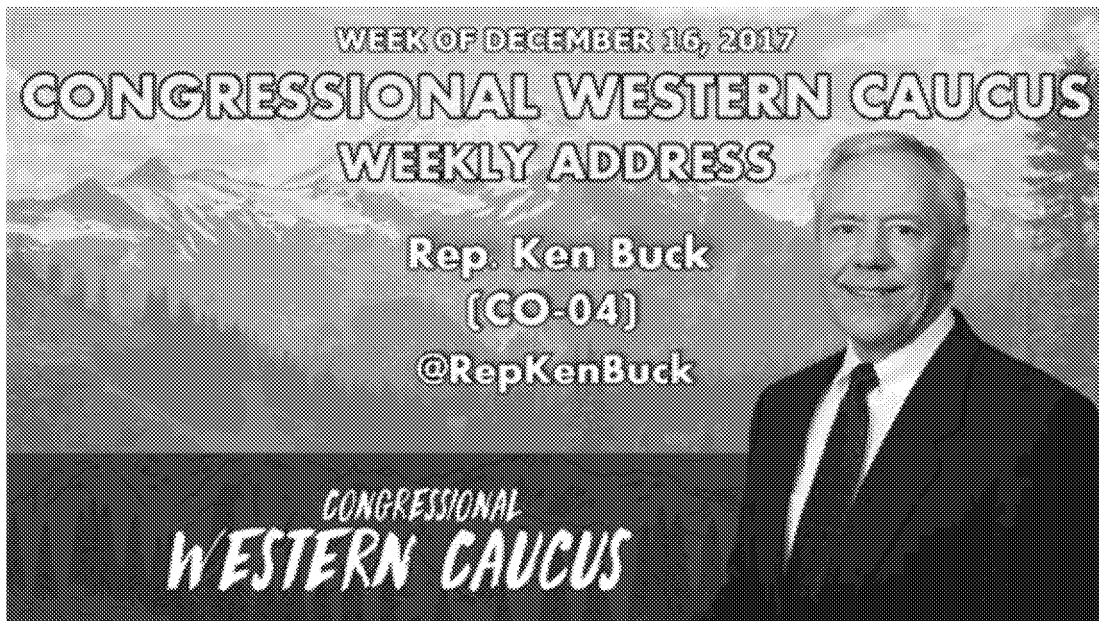
Rep. Kristi Noem ● @RepKristiNoem · Dec 13

We're kicking off our House/Senate Conference Committee hearing on #TaxReform. Coming to the table as a South Dakotan, a farmer, a #smbiz person, a mom. Fighting to keep more \$\$ in ur pocket. [waysandmeans.house.gov/live/](https://waysandmeans.house.gov/live/)



# WEEKLY ADDRESS...

**Congressman Ken Buck (CO-04)** discusses his bill to make water more accessible and affordable for rural communities as well as his efforts to protect American energy infrastructure. Click [HERE](#) or on the picture below to watch the address.



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