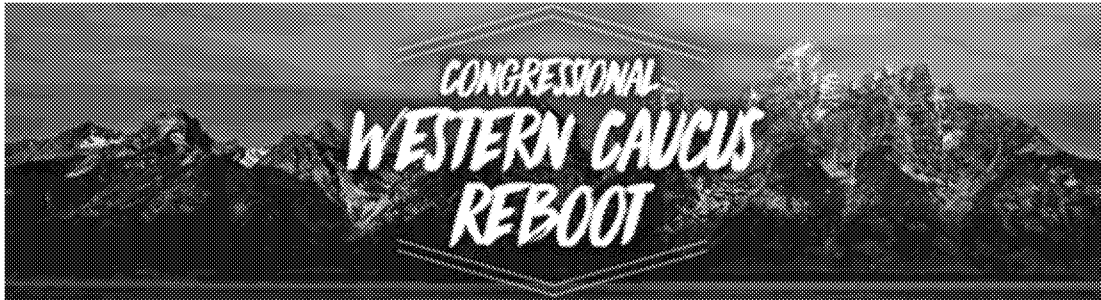


Message

From: Small, Jeff [Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov]
Sent: 7/2/2018 2:55:34 AM
To: Small, Jeff [Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov]
CC: Hanson, Tanner [Tanner.Hanson@mail.house.gov]
Subject: Western Caucus Reboot 07.1.18



Week of 7.1.18

#AmericanEnergyDominance

Top Western leaders and key Congressional members will be meeting in Denver on Friday to discuss energy policy and the economic impacts of the oil and natural gas industry on the local and federal level, Western Wire has learned.

The Western Energy Forum, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation, will feature discussions about the benefits the oil and natural gas industry delivers to local communities and the importance of pursuing an "all of the above" energy policy, among other topics, according to the agenda.



WESTERNWIRE.NET

Western Leaders to Discuss Energy at Denver Forum

On Friday, our Members and staff participated in a Western Energy Forum with local stakeholders hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation. Chairman **Paul Gosar**, House GOP Chairwoman **Cathy McMorris Rodgers**, Executive Vice-Chairman **Scott Tipton**, Western Caucus Member Rep. **Mike Coffman**, former U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary **Gale Norton**, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals **Joe Balash** as well as numerous staff from the House and Senate Western Caucuses made the trip to Colorado.



Congressional Western Caucus added 4 new photos.

Published by Jeff Small (?) · June 29 at 12:00 PM · 🌐

Our Western Energy Forum hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation just kicked off in Colorado. Great opening remarks from Rep. Paul Gosar, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Congressman Scott Tipton, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Joe Balash, Senate Western Caucus and Congressional Western Caucus! W/ Western Wire

On the agenda today: American energy dominance!

Tune in here: bit.ly/2lF7j1s



As reported by Western Wire, former Secretary Norton discussed new climate change lawsuits that aim to prevent responsible energy production. “Today I’m focusing on a new breed of environmental litigation, one that is as different from [prior] litigation as a lion is from a house cat,” said former Interior Secretary Gale Norton. “Climate change litigation has moved into the Rocky Mountains,” Norton said. “Climate change debates are nothing new, but aspects of this litigation are significant.”



Western Caucus @westerncaucus · Jun 29

Great to hear from former @Interior Secretary Gale Norton and @RepMikeCoffman at today's #westernenergyforum.



The Western Energy Forum had great participation and comments from local stakeholders including: University of Wyoming's **Tim Considine**, Independence Institute's **Amy Oliver Cooke**, Colorado Oil & Gas Association's **Dan Haley**, Western Energy Alliance's **Kathleen Sgamma**, State Representative **Kim Ransom**, CLUB 20's **Christian Reece**, Global Energy Institute's **Christopher Guith**, Xcel Energy's **Frank Prager**, Arizona Public Service's **Jeff Burke** and Consumer Energy Alliance's **Andrew Browning**.



Western Wire @WesternWireNet · Jun 29

Univ. of Wyo.'s Tim Considine, @i2idotorg Amy Oliver Cooke, @ColoradoOilGas @danhaleyCO, @WesternEnergy1 @KathleenSgamma, @KimRansom, @dub20westslope Christian Reece on America's energy renaissance cdn.digitalservices.online/wcf/ #WesternEnergyForum @westerncaucus



Following this informative discussion, ConocoPhillips gave our Members and staff a behind the scenes tour of some of their drilling, hydraulic fracturing and well operations.



Western Caucus @westerncaucus · Jun 29

Phenomenal tour of @conocophillips oil and gas operations to conclude our #WesternEnergyForum.



Department of Transportation Unshackling Job Creators



Great discussion on Wednesday at our monthly Member meeting with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao.

Under the Obama Administration, DOT regulations alone added \$3 billion a year in extra regulatory costs. Under Secretary Chao's leadership, DOT lowered regulatory costs by \$312 million in 2017 and is on pace to further reduce those burdens by another \$500-700 million more in 2018.

The Secretary's efforts to deliver the world-class infrastructure that our country deserves are exceptional. Madam Secretary, you are always welcome and we hope you'll come back sometime soon.

Pictured: Congressman Greg Gianforte, Congressman Ron Estes, Congressman Roger Marshall, M.D., Congressman Ken Calvert and Congressman Garret Graves.



On Wednesday, Department of Transportation Secretary **Elaine L. Chao** joined our Members for our monthly Member meeting. Under the Obama Administration, DOT regulations alone added \$3 billion a year in extra regulatory costs. Under Secretary Chao's leadership, DOT lowered regulatory costs by \$312 million in 2017 and is on pace to further reduce those burdens by another \$500-700 million more in 2018. The Secretary's efforts to deliver the world-class infrastructure that our country deserves are exceptional.

House Passes the Advancing Conservation and Education Act

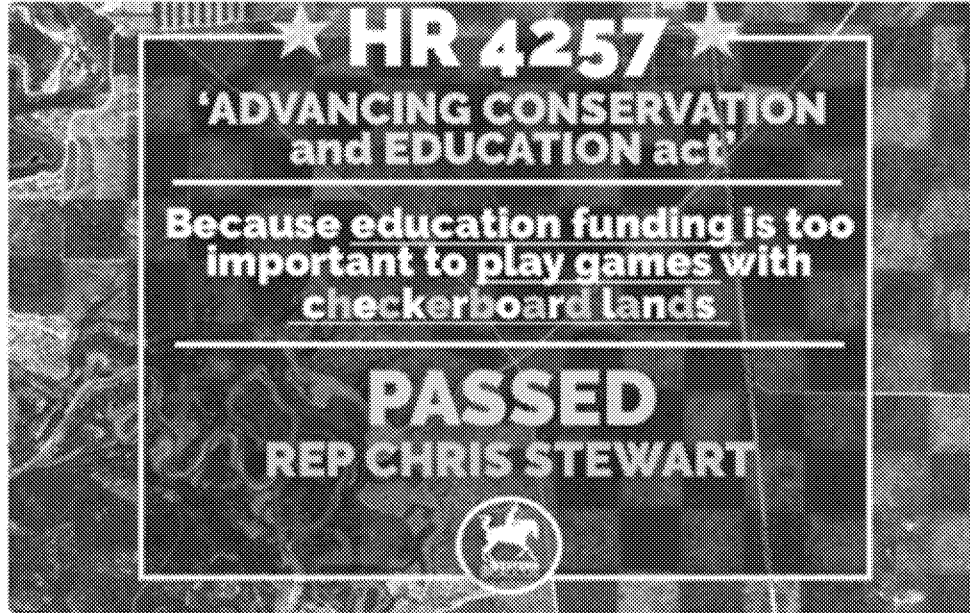


Western Caucus @westerncaucus · Jun 25

Checkerboarding might be needed for some board games to work, but it makes for bad federal lands policy.

For one, it DRAMATICALLY reduces state education revenues.

The @RepChrisStewart bill that passed the House today is a check on all that:



On Monday, the House passed Chief Defense and Interior Officer **Chris Stewart's** bill, H.R. 4257. This common sense piece of legislation allows for the consolidation of different checkerboards of state and federal lands in Western states in order to maximize their efficiency.

House Passes Bill to Protect Pacific Northwest Fisheries

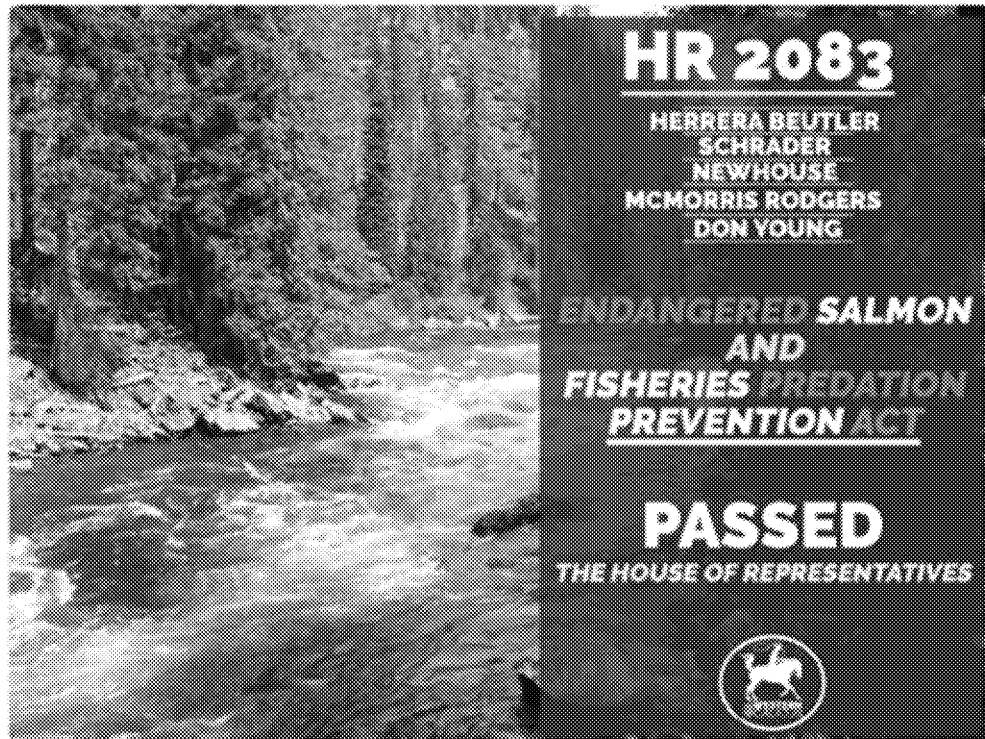


Western Caucus @westerncaucus · Jun 26

Today the House showed it's serious about boosting salmon populations and supporting fisheries by passing this bill.

The work of @HerreraBeutler @RepSchrader @repdonyoung @RepNewhouse @cathymorris pushed this bill over the line!

Press release: bit.ly/2lvEs8J



On Tuesday, the House passed H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act, by a bipartisan vote of 288-116.

"With today's passage of my bipartisan bill to improve the survival of endangered salmon and steelhead, we're taking a giant step forward in restoring an ecosystem sorely out of balance. The sea lion predation problem on the Columbia River will not go away without intervention from local and tribal managers, and I'm pleased that we're now able to give these officials the tools they need to remove the most problematic sea lions and protect our native fish runs for generations to come," stated Congresswoman **Jaime Herrera Beutler**.

"Salmon are an important part of the culture, identity, and the economy of the people and tribes of the Pacific Northwest. It is one of the reasons why we've, as a region, put so much time, energy, and resources into protecting and recovering these iconic fish," said Congressman **Kurt Schrader**. "Our bill will provide the states and tribal members the flexibility they need to protect these endangered fish and manage the threat posed by sea lion predation. I'm very pleased to have the support of so many of my colleagues in the House in tackling this issue in a bipartisan, thoughtful way. I want to thank Rep. Herrera Beutler and our states, tribes, and local communities for all of the hard work everyone has put in over several years now on this legislation and on working towards solutions to save our salmon."

Read the full statements by other Members of the Western Caucus in our full press release [here](#).

Resources Committee Passes Multiple Onshore Energy Bills



Natural Resources @NatResources · Jun 27

Today, we passed four bills that cut red tape and streamline permitting to lower energy costs, create jobs, and increase funding for public schools across the nation.



On Wednesday, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed several onshore energy development bills, including **Rep. Steve Pearce's** H.R. 6107, **Rep. John Curtis' H.R. 6088**, **Rep. Liz Cheney's H.R. 6087** and **Rep. Scott Tipton's H.R. 5859**.

“The energy industry, the lifeblood of our economy in Wyoming, has been severely burdened by lengthy and often frivolous protests on energy projects. I’m proud my bill will help stop the abuses of this system by charging a nominal fee for protests of oil and gas lease sales, applications for permit to drill, and right of way applications. The Removing Barriers to Energy Independence Act brings much needed and long overdue relief to Wyoming oil and gas operators,” **Congresswoman Cheney** stated.

“Energy independence is a vital step forward for our nation’s well-being. Improving the federal government’s slow permitting process is essential for making this great step forward. I have greatly enjoyed working with the Natural Resources Committee on this important bill. I thank my colleagues for joining with me to keep this bill moving towards the House Floor,” **Congressman Pearce** said.

“This bill will help ensure that Utah’s rural communities are growing by speeding up the burdensome approval process for responsible energy projects. I’m delighted to see this legislation move forward. It’s a victory for Utah and American energy independence,” **Congressman Curtis** stated.

“The Education and Energy Act is a win-win for the nation. This bill would allow us to provide more funding for K-12 and public higher education, all while creating good paying jobs, lowering energy prices, and setting the stage for U.S. energy resources to be exported to our allies. Property taxes continue to be the largest source

of funding for the public school system, so in rural counties in my district, where a majority of land is owned by the federal government and therefore not taxable, education budgets are tight,” continued Tipton. “The Education and Energy Act would fix this disparity by sending more of the federal revenues back to the county from which the royalties were derived,” **Congressman Tipton** said.

To read the full release from the House Committee on Natural Resources click [here](#).

EPA Acts to Prevent Future Preemptive and Retroactive Vetoes



Western Caucus @westerncaucus · Jun 27

This is a great move by @EPAScottPruitt. @EPA shouldn't have preemptive/retroactive veto over other agencies' duly-conducted reviews - in this case, by overriding NEPA environmental.

Such use of Clean Water Act is overbroad and we look forward to this authority being removed!

The Wall Street Journal @WSJ

The EPA's Pruitt wants to remove the agency's effective veto power over permits to dump waste into waterways on.wsj.com/2KepHwT

On Wednesday, EPA Administrator **Scott Pruitt** outlined changes in a memo to the agency's permitting process that aim to prevent future preemptive and retroactive vetoes as well as increase certainty for landowners and job creators.

“Today’s memo refocuses EPA on its core mission of protecting public health and the environment in a way that is fair and consistent with due process,” said EPA Administrator **Scott Pruitt**. “We must ensure that EPA exercises its authority under the Clean Water Act in a careful, predictable, and prudent manner.”

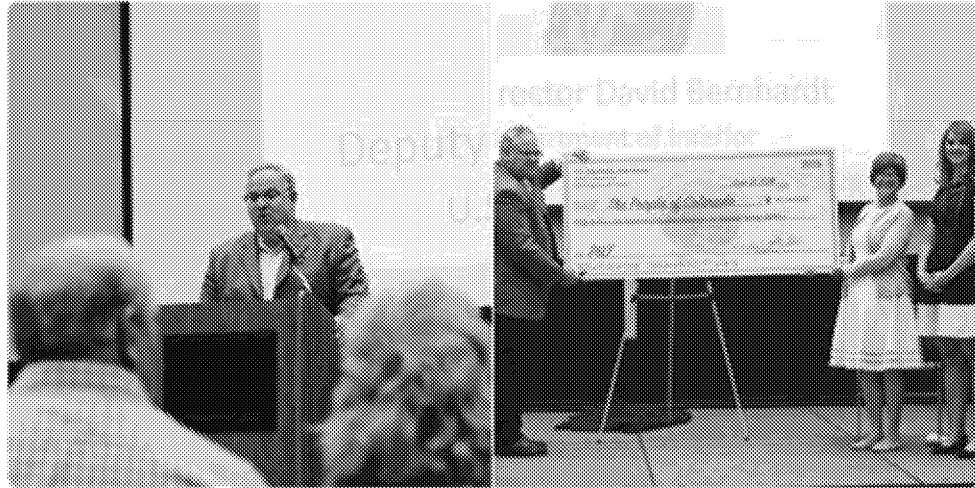
The Western Caucus called for such reforms in a [May 3rd letter](#) stating at the time that "preemptive project vetoes are a tool of tyranny."

POST OF THE WEEK..



David Bernhardt @DOIDepSec · Jun 27

It was an honor to announce \$40,144,620 in PILT payments to my home state of Colorado, a 9% increase from last year. Counties often use this money to bolster law enforcement, search and rescue, and wildfire protection to its residents.



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