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Sent: 4/21/2018 8:44:36 PM
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CC: Small, Jeff [Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov]
Subject: Western Caucus Reboot 04.21.18




Week of 04.21.2018


Farm Bill Passes Committee on Partisan Vote

Democrats appalled, disturbed at bill's 20 hours/week work requirement for able-bodied adults

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 **House Ag Committee** @HouseAgNews · Apr 18

87% of Americans (81% of those living in poverty) agree--you should be working to receive benefits.—LA Times/AEI poll. This is not partisan. The #2018FarmBill guarantees a work-training spot for anybody who wants one. #SNAPmatters



AMERICANS SUPPORT WORK REQUIREMENTS

IN A 2016 POLL FROM THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE AND THE L.A. TIMES, 87% OF AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT REQUIRING PEOPLE TO SEEK WORK OR PARTICIPATE IN A TRAINING PROGRAM TO RECEIVE WELFARE BENEFITS IS THE BEST APPROACH.

81% of those living in poverty believe this is the best approach.

agriculture.house.gov/farmbill #2018FARMBILL

Relying on precisely zero Democrat votes, the House Committee on Agriculture passed H.R. 2, the Farm Bill of 2018 by a vote of 26-20 on Wednesday.

Of particular outrage for the panel's Democrats - who all voted 'no' on advancing the bill - were new requirements within the bill's nutrition title conditioning food benefits for work-capable adults on their finding

employment, or receiving free work training, for 20 hours a week. Such requirements enjoy near-consensus with the American public; previous polling has indicated over 80% agree that recipients of welfare benefits should be required to seek employment or participate in training programs as a condition.

The bill is likely to receive floor consideration in early May.

Following Committee passage, **House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway (TX-11)** stated, "Today's vote was about America's farmers and ranchers. It was about a better future and greater opportunities for SNAP recipients. It was about fulfilling an obligation to lead, rather than standing on the sidelines. I'm disappointed that my Democrat colleagues have turned their backs on America's heartland – that they've chosen partisan politics over the three years of bipartisan work in this committee. Democrats halted talks over their objection to requiring work-capable adults to either find employment or receive free training for 20 hours per week. Yet, despite this turn of events, I remain hopeful. When House Democrats pushed a partisan farm bill that raised taxes in 2008 over Republican objections, Republicans worked alongside Democrats to fend off hostile amendments aimed against the legislation on the House floor and worked in conference committee to achieve a bipartisan farm bill. I am hopeful Democrats will not hold the nation's farmers and ranchers hostage in this process over the SNAP work and training requirements, which will provide SNAP beneficiaries not just a benefit, but a better future that only a job can provide."

See the Committee's press release [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to read the full legislative text of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

Click [HERE](#) to read the section-by-section summary of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

Click [HERE](#) to read policy highlights in the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

See the Committee on Agriculture's 2018 Farm Bill information page [HERE](#).

Caucus Huddles With Reclamation Commissioner Burman



Western Caucus @westerncaucus · Apr 17

Today, our members got to hear from the @usbr Commissioner Brenda Burman at our Member Lunch.

The Trump Administration presents a great opportunity for our members to work with the Bureau on water storage solutions, infrastructure, Endangered Species Act and many other issues!



Rep. Paul Gosar, DDS, RepMarkAmodel, Louie Gohmert and 4 others

At last week's Western Caucus Member Lunch & Speaker Series, our members had the chance to speak with Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman - the first female Commissioner in Reclamation's history, and a formidable expert on water and infrastructure in the West.

The Trump Administration presents an incredible opportunity for our Members to work with the Bureau on the pressing concerns facing the Bureau including long-term storage solutions, new infrastructure, Interior reorganization plans, the Reclamation Fund balance, and the substantial dam and water use complications arising from Endangered Species Act habitat, take and consultation requirement - among many other issues!

Thanks, Commissioner!

Bipartisan H.R. 3144, Balancing Dam Security with Fish Recovery, Set For House Floor Vote This Week

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Natural Resources @NatResources · Apr 17

@Raul_Labrador: For a liberal judge to ignore the broad scientific consensus of the federal government and the states of Idaho, Washington and Montana is unconscionable and must be stopped.



Republicans criticize spill of dam water to help salmon

Republican lawmakers are upset with a federal judge's order to spill water that could be saved for other uses from four Snake River dams to help

thenewstribune.com

Two weeks ago, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed [H.R. 3144](#). The bill is now scheduled for House floor action this week. This important legislation protects four critical dams that provide reliable and affordable water and power.

The dams – Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite – are currently under siege by a liberal federal judge who is forcing operators to ignore federally-authorized scientific consensus in order to spill water downriver – a change that will cost \$40 million dollars in lost power sales and harm other infrastructure operations so as to “speed migrating salmon to the Pacific Ocean.”

The judge’s order, while appeasing environmentalist outrage against the very existence of the dams, defies existent comprehensive scientific study the federal government approved in 2008 and updated in 2014, while lacking itself any evidence that the wasteful spills will have any beneficial effect on salmon runs. Finally, the judge has ordered a new environmental review that he presumably hopes will retroactively justify his spill order when it is completed in several years. The judge has put the cart before the horse in ordering major policy changes first and seeking scientific backing afterwards; **he thereby sets a terrible national precedent in which judges are empowered to ignore the scientific consensus on major energy and infrastructure projects so long as they do so while posturing in the service of empty environmentalist talking points.**

See an Associated Press story on the events to date [HERE](#).

See Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers' press release following the bill's Committee passage [HERE](#).

Department of Interior Moves Ahead to Drill in ANWR

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Natural Resources @NatResources · Apr 19

Tomorrow marks the start of a long overdue process, opening up #ANWR to responsible energy development. #EnergyDominance



Ryan Zinke moves to open Arctic refuge to drilling

The Trump administration on Friday will start the process of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and natural gas leasing.

[washingtonexaminer.com](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com)

On Friday, the Department of Interior took the major step of publishing in the Federal Register its Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for an oil and gas leasing program in the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This publication sets off the scoping process to determine the breadth of the environmental issues to be accounted for in an eventual Statement.

Drilling in the area was authorized in the H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, after decades of Congressional attempts to do so. Interior officials have expressed hope that lease sales in the area could begin as early as 2019.

See the Federal Register Notice of Intent [HERE](#).

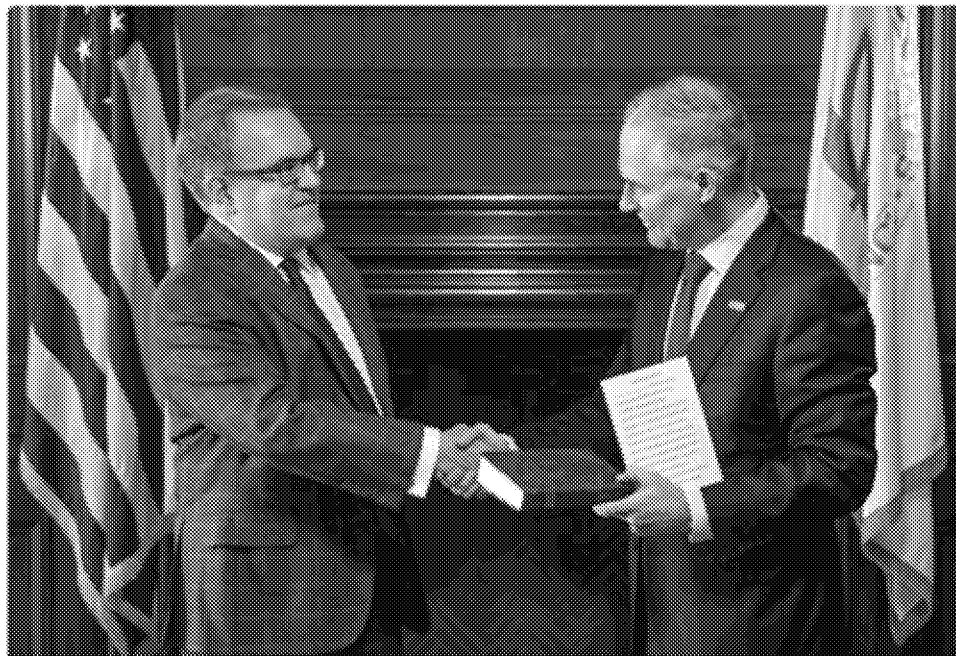
Read a Washington Examiner article on the development [HERE](#).

POST OF THE WEEK...



Administrator Pruitt @EPAScottPruitt · Apr 20

Glad to give a warm welcome to Andy Wheeler this morning—officially sworn in as @EPA's Deputy Administrator. We look forward to working together to advance @POTUS agenda of regulatory certainty & environmental stewardship.



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