



**The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Testimony Before the Committee on House Administration**  
**February 28, 2023**

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and Members of the Committee, thank you.

I am pleased to join with Chairman Westerman to ask for your support for the Natural Resources Committee's budget for the 118th Congress.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of the work of our Committee. Our jurisdiction includes vital issues that go to the heart of so many people's lives.

We oversee the People's public lands and waters, including for conservation, recreation, and development.

We are stewards of the very sovereignty of the tribal nations that have been here since before the Constitution. We have the responsibility of promoting the self-determination and well-being of the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States.

We are at the center of the federal efforts toward environmental justice, and we are a vital component of any response to the climate crisis.

Our Committee oversees our National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, fisheries, and our water resources in places of severe drought. We conduct oversight of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and an array of other bedrock statutes.

Over the last Congress, the Committee and its staff have been extremely productive. In the 117th, the Committee:

- Had 893 measures referred to us.
- Held 141 official meetings, including legislative and oversight hearings and 21 full committee markups.
- Filed 142 committee reports. That is far more than any other legislative Committee. Our friends at Energy and Commerce were second, with 79 bill reports, or a little over half as many as us.

All told, our Committee passed scores of bills out of the House, of which 148 passed the Senate and became public law. Yes, 148.

In recent Congresses, we have consistently punched above our weight.

Although Chairman Westerman and I frequently disagree on policy — and quite strongly — we do agree on the importance of our shared work, and that sustaining this level and quality of activity requires a full roster of Majority, Minority, and nonpartisan staff.

We want to attract and keep the most knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated public servants. These resources help us on both sides to do the best possible work for the American People.

I also know that Mr. Westerman understands the importance of resources for the minority, having recently been Ranking Member.

We have a lot of work ahead of us.

In closing, I want to thank you again for allowing us to present our budget request today. Chairman Westerman and I are pleased to join together on this request, and we appreciate the consideration.

Thank you.