

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources

Testimony Before the Committee on House Administration

February 11, 2025

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

I'm glad to be here with Chairman Westerman to ask for your support for the Natural Resources Committee's budget for the 119th Congress.

I'm honored to take on the new responsibility of serving as the Ranking Member of the Committee. 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, development, and the prevention and management of wildfires.

We are stewards of the sovereignty of the tribal nations that have been here since before our country was founded. 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.

As you see in our budget request, we also value the importance of traveling to communities that are impacted by the decisions we make in our Committee and to see for ourselves the lands and waters the American people have entrusted to our stewardship. I also am cognizant that our funding resources come from taxpayers and that we should use them efficiently.

Our Committee is usually one of the most active on legislation in the Congress. In my short time as Ranking Member, I have already managed two bills on the floor and two sets of suspensions. The Members and staff of the Committee are always extremely productive.

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. The budget resources we are requesting will help us do the best possible work for the American People.

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

We have a lot of work ahead of us.

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.