

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
for the
HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
hearing on
“EXAMINING THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2024 BUDGET REQUEST
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR”
on
APRIL 19, 2023
prepared by
KYLE HERRIG
PRESIDENT AND CEO
and
ANGELA CANTERBURY
VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Thank you to Chair Westerman, Ranking Member Grijalva, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record of the hearing entitled "Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior" and the testimony of the Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary U.S. Department of the Interior.

Accountable.US is a nonpartisan organization that shines a light on corporations and special interests that too often wield unchecked power and influence in Washington and beyond. We conduct investigations and bring attention to our findings to help create an economy that works for everyone, a democracy that functions, and a sustainable environment for future generations. We believe corporations and special interests have too much power and the people have too little. It is our mission to change this.

In our view, the House majority is doing Big Oil's dirty work under the guise of "oversight" after having received more than [\\$47 million](#) in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry. Even after Big Oil reported a record-breaking [\\$451 billion in profits](#), the House passed the Polluters Over People bill, H.R. 1. The bill would cut the offshore oil drilling rate and make even more of our public lands available for their private profit. It does nothing to address a key underlying driver of high energy costs: Big Oil's greed.

We were disappointed that the Committee majority launched partisan attacks against Secretary Haaland and President Biden's widely popular conservation initiatives while parroting extremist rhetoric. The House MAGA majority's barrage of unfounded attacks get us no closer to solving the nation's critical energy and environment issues. Like so many others, this House hearing devolved into political theater, with members of the majority using public resources to grandstand and demonstrate their fealty to industry donors.

Here are some important facts for the record, based on [Accountable.US research](#):

- Onshore oil and gas production on public lands is up under the Biden administration. The US produced more oil in 2022 from federal onshore sites than any time in the past decade.
- 90% of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management is open for drilling.
- Over half of the 26 million acres of federal land currently under oil and gas leasing is sitting unused.
- The Biden administration approved more permits to drill on public lands in two years than approved during the entire Trump administration.

- The oil and gas industry has given \$46,995,088 to Republicans currently in the U.S. House of Representatives since the start of their careers.
- The MAGA majority has no serious policy proposals in this area: GOP Rep. Andy Biggs introduced literally hundreds of bills that would clawback critical funding to improve permitting and hamper public lands management, including mitigating wildfires.
- Big Oil is thriving and in no need of more government giveaways. In 2022, 27 of the largest oil companies reported a record-breaking \$451 billion in profit after price-gouging consumers.
- These same Big Oil corporations have rewarded shareholders with \$163 billion in dividends and stock buybacks while sitting on thousands of approved federal drilling permits.
- The Biden administration has approved thousands of permits to drill oil on federal land since entering the White House.

Members of the Committee's majority used this hearing to advocate for Big Oil priorities and attack popular conservation initiatives that protect America's lands. Instead of wasting time on Fox News-ready political stunts, they should side with the American people and give conservation a seat at the table.

Thank you for your consideration.