

**The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources**

**Full Committee Markup — November 15, 2023**

**Opening Statement**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You know, once again, we are in the middle of another chaotic week in the House of Representatives under Republican leadership.

And, also once again, we find ourselves at a committee markup where the headlining bill does not reflect the urgency of the climate crisis.

This Republican bill would revise the Coastal Barrier Resources Act in a rushed and piecemeal fashion.

We should be pursuing a bipartisan and comprehensive package of updates, which is how we have successfully updated this Act in the past.

Unfortunately, that is not where we are today.

That said — I do want to acknowledge the bipartisan cooperation that resulted in the six bills that are advancing today with unanimous support.

Representative Rouzer's bill makes a targeted improvement to the Coastal Barrier Resources Act system. Although we still feel such changes should be made as part of a larger cohesive package, I acknowledge the cooperation of working with our side on improved language for this bill based on the Senate package.

Representative Trone's bill will help ensure that local communities have a voice in the operation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

The Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act, which I have previously led, will reauthorize the Trust Fund of the Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation so that it can continue its important environmental and educational work, and its work on professional development for American Indian and Alaska Native students.

The bill from Representative Curtis will support water conservation in the Great Salt Lake basin.

Representative Porter's legislation will build on the Interior Department's electronic permitting work, including by requiring online permitting applications and processing.

Finally, Representative Amodei's bill, with the support of the Nevada delegation and the Air Force, will make important clarifications to the military activities authorized at the Nevada Test and Training Range.

I want to thank the majority for agreeing to include language that facilitates ongoing access for the Fish and Wildlife Service. This is a step in the right direction.

However, most of the Nevada delegation supports legislation to balance the training mission with durable conservation measures for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

This is a win-win that should be part of future discussions regarding any extension or expansion of Air Force occupancy.

For now, I am glad to follow the lead of the Nevada delegation and support this bill and the others in the UC package.

I thank you, Mr. Chair, for scheduling these consensus bills for markup today.

I look forward to the debate on the other bill, and I yield back.