



May 5, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, and members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

On behalf of our members and over one million supporters, The Wilderness Society writes to express our strong opposition to the Committee's budget reconciliation recommendations. These recommendations, which have not been subject to a hearing, public input, or formal committee discussion, will be considered in bill form by the full committee tomorrow. We urge all members of the Committee to oppose this harmful legislation.

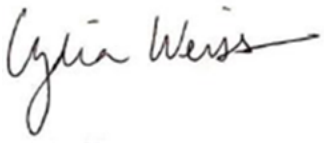
Since 1935, The Wilderness Society has advocated for conservation and stewardship of our nation's public lands, the resources and treasures they hold, and the communities and wildlife that rely on them – all while supporting responsible energy development and public access for hunting, fishing, and recreation. The legislation before the Committee represents an existential threat to these values. Of notable concern are the following provisions:

- De facto subsidies and pay-to-play procedures for onshore oil and gas leasing and permitting;
- Expanded fossil fuel development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska;
- A wholesale assault on the National Environmental Policy Act that silences public input and precludes judicial review, for a nominal price;
- Overturning science-based and community-supported Resource Management Plans across the intermountain West;
- Language opening the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Wilderness for mining and wholesale approval of the Ambler Road in Alaska's Arctic;
- Forestry provisions that promote unsustainable logging at the expense of forest health.

Our analysis, attached, summarizes many of the ways in which the package would trade conservation of and access to vast swaths of America's public lands for drilling, mining and logging, strip protections from iconic places, and circumvent judicial review to give communities little or no recourse to challenge damaging projects.

This bill is an assault on our nation's public lands and we strongly urge all members of the House Natural Resources Committee to **vote no**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lydia Weiss", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lydia Weiss  
Senior Director, Government Relations  
The Wilderness Society