

**March 14, 2025**

**House Natural Resources Committee Member Day Hearing**

**Rep. Gosar Statement**

I thank Chairman Westerman and the committee for hosting this member day hearing. This Committee has heard me talk about the importance of my bill H.R. 34, the Land and Social Security Optimization Act, also known as the LASSO Act. This legislation deposits 10 percent of revenue generated by certain public lands, like land on the outer continental shelf, into the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund. This Trust Fund pays Social Security benefits to retired workers, their spouses, their children, and survivors of deceased insured workers. It is expected to be depleted by 2033, threatening the hard-earned Social Security benefits of retired Americans.

My two-page, common sense bill strengthens Social Security by reinforcing the OASI Trust Fund with public lands revenue. The more we use public lands, the more money we deposit into Social Security. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the LASSO Act would increase the amount credited to the Trust Fund by roughly \$15 billion over the 2025 to 2035 period. By depositing revenue into Social Security, the LASSO Act creates a tangible benefit for the American People through the enhanced utilization of public lands. From the everyday Americans' perspective, this bill encourages revenue generating activities like onshore and offshore energy development, livestock grazing, and timber harvesting. From a beltway politicians' perspective, it disincentivizes abuse of the Antiquities Act or actions such as Biden's withdrawal of more than 625 million acres of federal waters from future oil and gas leasing. Bottom line, this bill ensures the future of Social Security while promoting the multiple-use doctrine of our public lands. It puts the future of Social Security into the hands of the American people.

This bill has received the endorsement of 60 Plus Association, American Stewards of Liberty, Americans for Limited Government, Arizona Rock Products Association, Association of Mature American Citizens, and the Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance. I also thank the 13 members who have already cosponsored, including Representatives Boebert and Fulcher who sit on this committee. I extend my personal invitation to every other member of this committee to sign on to my important legislation, including my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Rep. Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.

Here's your opportunity to stop lamenting about the future of Social Security and work with me to secure the program.

Once again, I thank Chairman Westerman and the committee for this opportunity to testify and I look forward to the LASSO Act receiving a mark-up so we can reinforce Social Security while also promoting the multiple use of America's public land. I welcome questions that any members of the committee may have. I request unanimous consent to insert into the record statements of support for the LASSO Act.