



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff
Date: Monday, June 8, 2026
Subject: Markup of 4 Bills

The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup on **Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building**. The bills to be considered include: H.R. 3276 (Rep. Dingell); H.R. 3925 (Rep. Obernolte); H.R. 7882 (Rep. Stauber); and H.R. 8686 (Rep. Gosar).

Member offices are requested to notify Madeline Kelley (Madeline.Kelley@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, to confirm their Member's attendance at the markup.

I. KEY MESSAGES & TOPLINE ACTIONS

- Bills expected to move by unanimous consent: H.R. 3276 (Rep. Dingell), "*Local Communities & Bird Habitat Stewardship Act of 2025*"; H.R. 3925 (Rep. Obernolte), "*Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Land Exchange Act*"; H.R. 7882 (Rep. Stauber), To provide for the leasing of certain deposits of minerals located within the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico.; and H.R. 8686 (Rep. Gosar), To amend the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 to withdraw and reserve certain public land in the vicinity of Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

II. EXPECTED LEGISLATION

H.R. 3925 (Rep. Obernolte), "*Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Land Exchange Act*"

H.R. 3925, sponsored by Representative Jay Obernolte (R-CA-23), authorizes a land exchange between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (Yuhaaviatam). The San Manuel Reservation is located among lands administered by USFS and Bureau of Land Management.

This bill creates a more contiguous land base for the Yuhaaviatam by connecting the San Manuel Reservation to Arrowhead Springs, a culturally significant site for the Yuhaaviatam. Pursuant to the exchange, the Yuhaaviatam would receive approximately 1,475 acres of USFS land in the San Bernadino National Forest and transfer approximately 1,460 acres of tribal land to the USFS. The conveyances will reduce checkerboard land holdings in the region, improve land management efficiency for both the federal government and the tribe, and reduce the size of the federal estate.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS) will be considered during the markup to reflect the technical assistance provided by USFS.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Kirstin Liddell (Kirstin.Liddell@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 7882 (Rep. Stauber), To provide for the leasing of certain deposits of minerals located within the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

In the early 20th century, Congress decided that oil and natural gas resources on onshore federal lands should remain under federal ownership. Then, in 1920, the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA)¹ authorized the Secretary of the Interior to establish a leasing framework for the production of oil, coal, or natural gas on federal lands, with the federal government retaining title to the lands.²

The MLA excludes incorporated cities, towns, and villages from mineral leasing. In certain cases, however, Congress has provided an exemption to this provision.³ In 1984, for example, Congress exempted the incorporated cities of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Port Hueneme, California, from the MLA withdrawal.⁴

This exclusion of eligible lands from leasing can be problematic, ultimately leading to the underdevelopment of federal minerals and the forfeiture of the revenues that such development would have otherwise provided. Prior to the advent of directional drilling, conventional drilling was the prominent method of mineral extraction. Advances in directional drilling have enabled oil and gas operators to reach multiple formations and leases from a single well pad, thereby reducing the surface disturbance required to develop an oil and gas field.⁵

H.R. 7882, introduced by Representative Pete Stauber (R-MN-08), follows historical precedent by making the mineral estate underneath the incorporated City of Carlsbad, New Mexico (City), in the Permian Basin, eligible for development of federal minerals. Using modern horizontal drilling technology, operators can safely access minerals beneath the City without conducting any surface-disturbing activities in Carlsbad itself. This legislation is supported by the City, whose representatives have published a letter supporting the bill, which states the following: “[W]e believe [the bill] effectively addresses the issue of ‘orphaned’ mineral rights on federal land. We appreciate the opportunity to support your efforts, as well as those of your fellow committee members, in advancing this legislation.”⁶

¹ 30 U.S.C. §181 et seq.

² Adam Vann, “Energy Production on Federal Lands: Leasing and authorization,” Congressional Research Service, July 19, 2024, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48130>.

³ P.L. 98-529.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ “Directional drilling into federal mineral estate from well pads on non-federal locations,” Bureau of Land Management, June 12, 2018, <https://www.blm.gov/policy/pim-2018-014#:~:text=Policy/Action:%20These%20policies%20and,Fee/Fee/Fed%20situations>.

⁶ Letter to Representative Pete Stauber from Mayor Richard Lopez, City of Carlsbad, New Mexico, received March 17, 2026, https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/carlsbad_letter.pdf.

Unlocking the resources beneath the City will help provide affordable energy for the nation and increase federal revenue, while also bolstering the local economy by creating jobs and contributing significant tax revenue to local governments, schools, and programs.

Finally, this bill will advance the goals outlined in President Trump’s Executive Order (E.O.) 14154, titled “Unleashing American Energy,”⁷ and E.O. 14156, titled “Declaring a National Energy Emergency.”⁸

At markup, an ANS will be offered that incorporates a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) clause, along with provisions to ensure compliance with all tribal, state, and local regulations related to public health, community safety, and water resources. Lastly, the ANS includes a bonding provision requiring adequate financial assurances prior to commencing operations. These changes will aid the responsible development of minerals that otherwise would not have been developed.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Ray Phillips (Ray.Phillips@mail.house.gov) and Murray Miller (Murray.Miller@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 8686 (Rep. Gosar), To amend the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 to withdraw and reserve certain public land in the vicinity of Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in Arizona ranks among the U.S. Army’s premier test and evaluation installations and is one of only eight facilities designated as a Major Range and Test Facility Base.⁹ YPG is the only Army facility capable of supporting high-altitude precision parachute testing, with existing airspace, instrumentation, and drop zone infrastructure necessary for advanced air delivery systems.¹⁰ However, the Army recently identified a capability gap at YPG, finding surface safety zones insufficient to support testing of next-generation air delivery and aviation systems.¹¹ As a result, guided parachute systems cannot be tested at altitudes exceeding 25,000 feet, even though they can operate at significantly higher altitudes.¹² To remove these constraints, H.R. 8686, introduced by Representative Paul Gosar (R-AZ-09), withdraws and reserves approximately 22,000 acres of public land adjacent to YPG for military purposes, allowing for expanded surface safety zones and enabling testing at higher altitudes—up to approximately 35,000 feet.¹³ In so doing, this bill will enable the Army to conduct important testing at optimal altitudes, enhancing both mission effectiveness and force protection.

⁷ “Unleashing American Energy,” The White House, January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/reinvigorating-americas-beautiful-clean-coal-industry-and-amending-executive-order-14241/>.

⁸ “Declaring a National Energy Emergency,” The White House, January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/declaring-a-national-energy-emergency/>.

⁹ Information provided by U.S. Army.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

An amendment will be offered at markup to make a minor technical correction at the suggestion of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Hannah Devereaux (Hannah.Devereaux@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 3276 (Rep. Dingell), “*Local Communities & Bird Habitat Stewardship Act of 2025*”

Birds play key roles in local ecosystems and economies. They help sustain healthier, more resilient landscapes; cleaner waterways; and balanced, biodiverse ecosystems. Moreover, nearly 96 million Americans participate in birdwatching every year, generating \$279 billion in annual economic output and supporting approximately 1.4 million jobs nationwide.¹⁴ Unfortunately, an estimated one billion birds die annually in the U.S. from collisions with buildings, while light pollution in urban areas disorients migratory species.¹⁵

Through its existing Urban Bird Treaty Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) conserves, restores, and enhances urban habitats for birds; reduces urban hazards to birds; and educates and engages communities in scientific activities, including monitoring birds and their habitats. The Urban Bird Treaty Program currently operates based on the Service’s organic authorities without specific congressional authorization. Sponsored by Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-06), H.R. 3276, as modified by the ANS, would codify the Service’s existing program and authorize an annual budget of \$200,000 through Fiscal Year 2033, consistent with the program’s current funding levels.

An ANS will be considered at markup that makes technical and clarifying changes to the bill.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Richie O’Connell (Richie@mail.house.gov).

III. CBO SCORES

None available.

IV. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

H.R. 8686

¹⁴ *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis, Addendum to the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, November 2024.

¹⁵ “New Study Confirms Building Collisions Kill Over One Billion Birds Annually in U.S.,” American Bird Conservancy, April 7, 2024. <https://abcbirds.org/news/bird-building-collisions-study-2024/>.