

**Statement Outline**  
**The Honorable Cliff Bentz**  
**Subcommittee Water, Oceans and Wildlife**  
**Legislative Hearing on**  
**Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4951, H.R. 7918, H.R. 7975, and H.R. 8090**  
**July 21, 2022**

I. Introduction

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- The Subcommittee meets today to hear testimony on four bills.

II. Substance of Hearing

- H.R. 8090, by Ms. Porter of California, would extend the authorization of the Bureau of Reclamation's Climate Change and Water Program for another ten fiscal years until 2033.
- This program provides the authority for basin studies in the western United States and requires a report to Congress every five years on how climate change is impacting water supplies, hydropower and other things important to society.
- While the Department of the Interior has submitted written testimony on this bill, the agency will not be here to answer questions on how they plan to change the program compared to the last administration and what their vision of this ten-year program may be.
- The absence of a federal panel to discuss legislative items that impact their agencies is unfortunately a recurring theme in this Subcommittee. We deserve to have a robust discussion with these agencies and hope that our next hearing will include a federal panel.
- H.R. 4951, by Mr. Defazio, would ban the use of M-44 devices on federal lands.
- Agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture work and contract with state wildlife agencies, using M-44 devices to control predators suspected of preying on livestock and federally listed endangered or threatened species. Yet, USDA has not been invited to testify and provide a response to Dr. Mark Mansfield's testimony.
- I would like to submit for the record a letter from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in opposition to this bill.
- We look forward to learning more about this bill, particularly from states who are impacted by the legislation's blanket ban of these devices on federal land.
- H.R. 7918, by Mr. Keating of Massachusetts, would establish a federal grant program to provide funding for the recovery, care, and treatment of stranded sea turtles in the United States.
- This bill would authorize \$5 million dollars annually for the next five fiscal years for a regionally based grant program run by the Secretary of Commerce.
- H.R. 7975, by Mr. Walberg of Michigan, would create the Great Lakes Semipostal Stamp Act, which would direct the U.S. Postal Service to issue a

Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp, the proceeds of which would be transferred to the EPA for the operations supported by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

- This bill is not a silver bullet, but it is a creative way to raise private funding voluntarily to carry out recovery efforts in the Great Lakes.
- I would like to welcome Mr. Joseph Robison from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to the Subcommittee and look forward to hearing his perspective on how this legislation could help with restoration efforts.
- I also would ask unanimous consent to offer Mr. Walberg's statement for the record on this bill.

### III. Conclusion

- With that, I look forward to hearing from our panels of witnesses today and yield back.