

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
Legislative Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
May 10, 2023
2:00 PM

- **H.R. 524 (Rep. Rouzer)**, To amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites;
- **H.R. 615 (Rep. Wittman)**, *“Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023”*;
- **H.R. 2689 (Rep. Porter)**, *“Trust in Government Act of 2023”*; and
- **H.R. 2872 (Rep. Graves of Louisiana)**, To amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

Questions from Rep. Bentz for Mr. Matt Strickler, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior.

1. In 2020, the Service launched phase one of a new electronic permitting system that enables applicants to apply for their permits online. According to the Service, they anticipate completing the full buildout of the ePermits system by FY2028. How much did it cost the Service to launch phase one of the ePermits system?
2. The Services’ FY24 budget request for ePermits is \$13.5 million, almost double the 2023 enacted levels. Does the Service have an estimate of the total cost of building out the ePermits system?
3. The Services’ ePermits system currently has 50,000 user accounts for 85 available permits, that’s just one agency. Does the Department have a sense as to how many permits would need to be made available online to comply with H.R. 2689?
4. Does the Department have an estimated as to how much it would cost to implement the provisions of HR 2689?