

Barragán Testimony

Thank you Chair Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman for providing members with an opportunity to testify on our priorities for the Natural Resources Committee in the 117th Congress. There are two main priorities I want to highlight.

First, Mr. Chairman I want to emphasize my support for your bill with Representative McEachin, the Environmental Justice For All Act. This critical environmental justice legislation is important to my district for many reasons, but in particular the requirement that cumulative impacts be considered under the Clean Water and Clean Air Act. As we work to bring relief to communities of color and low-income communities that are overburdened by polluting facilities, we cannot permit more projects that will harm human health.

I am also appreciative that your legislation includes the Outdoors for All Act, a bipartisan priority of mine that I sponsored with Representative Turner in the 116th Congress and will reintroduce this spring. It enshrines the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program into law, which provides grant funding for urban parks in underserved communities.

The Outdoors for All Act has also passed the House in February as part of the larger public lands package titled Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act. I look forward to working with the committee to get it passed in the Senate and to the President's desk.

In addition to the Outdoors for All Act, I have an important new bipartisan urban parks stimulus bill with Representatives Turner and Neguse, called the Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act (H.R. 1678). This legislation would provide a \$500 million one-time stimulus for local urban parks projects through a formula grant to states, which will

ensure investments are quickly executed to help communities recover from dual public health and economic crisis.

In Los Angeles County, low-income communities and communities of color often lack equal access to local parks. For example, a survey done by the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation found that, while the average amount of parkland in the county is 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents, the city of Compton in my district has only 0.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. In contrast, the city of Malibu, which has three times the median household income of Compton, has 55.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. These disparities are all too common throughout the country.

The Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act is an important step for ensuring the health, environmental, and community benefits of parks are accessible to all. I would appreciate the committee's support in including this bill in the infrastructure package, and to hold a hearing on the legislation.

Thank you again for taking my priorities into consideration. I look forward to working with you in the 117th Congress to advance environmental justice and pass meaningful urban park equity legislation.