

Alaska Wilderness League * American Bird Conservancy * Center for Biological Diversity
Citizens Campaign for the Environment * Clean Water Action * Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice
Earthworks * Environment America * Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Environmental Defense Center * Environmental Protection Information Center
Friends of the Earth * GreenLatinos * Group for the East End
Institute for Ocean Conservation Science at Stony Brook University * League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch * Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
National Parks Conservation Association * Natural Resources Defense Council
Northern Alaska Environmental Center * Ocean Conservation Research * Operation SPLASH
Pacific Environment * Public Citizen * Seatuck Environmental Association * Sierra Club
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance * The Wilderness Society * Waterkeeper Alliance
Western Environmental Law Center * Western Organization of Resource Councils
Western Watersheds Project * Wilderness Workshop

Honorable Paul Gosar
Chair, Energy and Minerals Subcommittee
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
2057 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Alan Lowenthal
Ranking Member, Energy and Minerals Subcommittee
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
125 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Oppose Draft Bill Titled “Enhancing State Management of Federal Lands and Waters Act”

June 13, 2018

Dear Chairman Gosar and Ranking Member Lowenthal,

The undersigned organizations and our millions of members and supporters nationwide urge you to **oppose the draft bill titled “Enhancing State Management of Federal Lands and Waters Act”** when it comes before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on Thursday, June 14th. We respectfully request this letter be included in the hearing record.

The undersigned groups are particularly concerned with Title I – ONSHORE as it would relinquish the authority of the federal government to manage oil and gas development on federal lands. Title I represents an egregious attempt to limit public input and facilitate a state agenda on lands owned by all Americans. The offshore title is equally objectionable and will be addressed separately.

Specifically, the bill empowers states to create, manage and benefit from Enhanced Management Regions that develop federal oil and gas resources on Bureau of Land Management lands. Unfortunately, the bill not only hands these publicly owned resources over to the states but exempts these actions from federal law and safeguards. This includes bedrock environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act, Administrative Procedure Act, National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act. As such, this bill could have devastating impacts on our national parks and public lands, the wildlife and habitat they host, their diverse recreational opportunities, climate change, the economic benefits they provide to local communities and much more. This bill does not accurately reflect the interests of the nation and should be opposed.

The public has a right to understand the impacts of energy development on their national parks and other sensitive public lands. The federal government abdicating its authority to provide uniform regulation of oil and gas development on public lands would put millions of citizens in the dark, and

subject publicly-owned lands to a patchwork of uncertain state regulations exempt from fees and laws that benefit and protect all Americans.

This bill is just the latest attack on America's public lands and waters, something we've seen too often from the subcommittee. It shuts out the public from engagement in oil and gas leasing and drilling activities and places industry interests over the protection of our public lands.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

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