

June 24, 2013

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Chair
House Democratic Policy and Steering Committee
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Democratic Leader Pelosi,

The undersigned 188 organizations are writing to show the broad-based support for **Rep. Raúl Grijalva** as the next Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

With jurisdiction over roughly one-fifth of U.S. lands and almost all of its ocean territory, the Natural Resources Committee plays a singularly important role in overseeing the health of our national forests, wildlife refuges and national parks. The actions of the committee determine whether our public lands will continue to provide clean drinking water to millions of Americans; whether endangered species will retain strong protections. The committee has jurisdiction over energy production, including critical decisions such as whether to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other environmentally sensitive areas. Just as important, the committee is responsible for ensuring that the U.S. meets its federal trust obligations to Native Americans, including the 565 federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.

For the past two and a half years, the House Republicans have led an all-out attack on the nation's bedrock environmental protection statutes, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Natural Resources Committee has been one of the focal points of the Republican Party's assault on the environment. The House has pursued a single-minded agenda to recklessly expand oil drilling while weakening

environmental safeguards; to eliminate the public's right to comment on federal projects; and to increase logging and mining while minimizing environmental review. They have introduced legislation that would give away or sell our nation's public lands solely to allow the irresponsible extraction of resources owned by every American.

We believe it is important that the next ranking member represent the core environmental and human rights values of the Democratic Party on the Committee, someone with the passion and commitment to stand up to the radically anti-environmental House Republican agenda.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva, who has served as the chairman and the leading Democrat on the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands since 2007, has the vision, courage and collaborative ability to provide strong leadership on natural resource issues while repelling these constant Republican assaults.

Rep. Grijalva was pursuing active oversight of offshore drilling long before the disastrous BP Gulf oil spill. He has spent his career successfully fighting Republican attempts to weaken the Endangered Species Act and every other environmental law that is strongly supported by most Americans. Rep. Grijalva led the successful push to protect the Grand Canyon from future uranium mining claims, held hearings and promoted new public lands designations, spoken out against and voted against the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Rep. Grijalva has shown exemplary leadership over his congressional career fighting for our environmental heritage, whether it involved issues in his district or across our vast nation and its territories. He has not allowed special interests to dictate his positions on protecting public lands in his district or state. Rep. Grijalva has introduced several public lands conservation bills, all of which are complementary to, not in conflict with, our existing environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

A long-time supporter of conservation, Rep. Grijalva has been recognized

by members of the House as a champion of core Democratic Party issues critically important to Latino, Native American, Western and progressive communities. When fighting for these cornerstone Democratic Party causes, Rep. Grijalva is known for his fair and open leadership that has earned respect within the committee on both sides of the aisle.

The Natural Resources Committee needs unwavering leadership that represents the diversity and strength of the Democratic party – someone who has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to work with all stakeholders while standing up to industry special interests. We believe Rep. Grijalva will bring to the position of Ranking Member the positive and collaborative approach needed to find solutions to these critical environmental issues. He has the conviction and experience to ensure our nation’s irreplaceable natural resources – from endangered species to public lands – are managed sustainably for the benefit of all Americans for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Alameda Creek Alliance

Albany Against Coal Trains

Alliance for Ethical Business

Alliance for the Wild Rockies

Amargosa Conservancy

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.

Animal Protection of New Mexico

Antelope Valley Conservancy

Arizona Mining Reform Coalition

Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Association for the Tree of Life

BARK

Battle Creek Alliance

Beyond Toxics

Big Wildlife

Bill Fleenor, former County Commissioner

Biofuelwatch

Blue Ocean Institute

Boulder –White Clouds Council

Buckeye Forest Council

Buffalo Field Campaign

Cahaba Riverkeeper

California Native Plant Society

California River Watch

Cascadia Wildlands

Center for Biological Diversity

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Choptank Riverkeeper

Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (C.A.R.E.)

Ciudadanos Del Karso

Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

Coast Range Association

Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation

Coastal Plains Institute and Land Conservancy

Colorado Riverkeeper

Concerned Citizens for Clean Air

Concerned Friends of Ferry County

Conservation Congress

Conservation Northwest

CORALation

Cottonwood Environmental Law Center

Coyote Canyon Caballas d' Anza

CREDO Action

Desert Protective Council

Desert Protection Society

Desert Tortoise Council

Dogwood Alliance

Don't Waste Arizona

Prof. John W. Terborgh, National Academy of Sciences Member
Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences

Earth Day Network

Eastern Coyote Research

Ecology Party of Florida

Endangered Habitats League

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)

Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network/Jobs with Justice

Fairmont, Minnesota Peace Group

Fall-line Alliance for a Clean Environment (FACE)

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

Forest Web of Cottage Grove

Forestland Dwellers

Four Harbors Audubon Society

Friends of Bell Smith Springs

Friends of Bumping Lake

Friends of Whitehaven Park

Friends of the Clearwater

Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest

Friends of the Eel River

Friends of the Santa Clara River

Friends of the Wild Swan

Glen Canyon Institute

Good Wolf

Grand Canyon Trust

Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Green Delaware

Green Faith

Green For All

Growing Alternative Resource Development and Enterprise Network
(G.A.R.D.E.N. Inc.)

Gulf Restoration Network

Hilton Head Audubon Society

High Country Citizens' Alliance

Howling For Wolves

inNative

Jerry Rust, former County Commissioner

Jim Weaver, former Congressman

Juniata Valley Audubon

Justice for Wolves

Kentucky Heartwood

Kickapoo Peace Circle

Kootenai Environmental Alliance

LandWatch Lane County

Lane County Audubon Society

La Purisima Audubon Society

Latina Lista

Living Rivers

Long Branch Environmental Education Center

Loon Lake Loon Association

Los Padres ForestWatch

Louisiana Audubon Council

Madrone Audubon Society

Maricopa Audubon Society

Malcolm R. MacPherson, Ph.D.

Marin Audubon Society

Massachusetts Forest Watch

Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.

Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Morongo Basin Conservation Association

National Wolfwatcher Coalition

Nature in the City

North County Watch

Northeast Oregon Ecosystem

One More Generation

Oregonians for Black Mesa

Our Forests

Paula Lane Action Network

Prairie Dog Pals

Predator Defense

Progressive Democrats of Marin

Project for Energy Accountability

Protect All Living Species (P.A.L.S.)

Public Interest Coalition

Raptors Are the Solution

Red Rock Audubon Society

RESTORE: The North Woods

Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Ph. D.
Episcopal priest

Revista Atabey, Puerto Rico

Rob Handy, former County Commissioner

Rock Creek Alliance

Russian Riverkeeper

SafeEnergyAnalyst.org

San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

San Francisco Baykeeper

Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society

Save America's Forests

Save Our Rural Oregon

Save Our Sky Blue Waters

Save The Frogs!

Save the Pine Bush

Sky Island Alliance

Snorkel Bob Foundation

Social Justice Alliance

South Florida Audubon Society

South Florida Wildlands Association

Southwest Environmental Center

Standing Together to Outlaw Pesticides

Stewards of the Earth

Sustainable Arizona

Sustainable Earth Advocates, Inc.

Swan View Coalition

TMR Rescue, Inc.

Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Tennessee Ornithological Society

Terra Foundation

The Clinch Coalition

The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX)

Rabbi Michael Lerner

Editor, Tikkun Magazine

Chair, The Network of Spiritual Progressives

Rabbi, Beyt Tikkun Synagogue, San Francisco and Berkeley, CA

The Otter Project

The Ravensong Group

Threatened & Endangered Little Applegate Valley

TrailSafe Nevada

Transition Habitat Conservancy

Trumpeter Swan Society

Tucson Audubon Society

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.

Utah Environmental Congress

Ventana Wilderness Alliance

Vibrant Public Lands

Washington Wild

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

Western Lands Project

Western North Carolina Alliance

Western Watersheds Project

Western Wildlife Conservancy

White Mountain Conservation League

WildEarth Guardians

Wild Burro Protection League

Wild Equity Institute

Wild Horse Education

Wild Horse Freedom Federation

Wild Idaho Rising Tide

Wild Virginia

Wilderness Watch

Wilderness Workshop

Wildlife Alliance of Maine

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

William C. Velasquez Institute

Wisconsin Resources Protection Council

Wolf Conservation Center