

November 17, 2014

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

Dear Democratic Leader Pelosi,

The undersigned organizations and the millions of members they represent offer our strong support for Rep. Raúl Grijalva to be the next Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Rep. Grijalva has shown exemplary leadership throughout his career fighting to protect our common environmental heritage, both in his district and across our nation. This leadership will be needed in the 114th Congress as Republicans in both the House and Senate will almost certainly escalate their attacks on our core environmental laws, including those under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Natural Resources such as the Endangered Species Act, the Wilderness Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Antiquities Act and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

For the past four years, House Republicans have led an all-out attack on the nation's bedrock environmental laws. The Natural Resources Committee needs a strong voice to oppose these attacks, and one that represents the diversity and strength of our nation. Rep. Grijalva 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.

A longtime supporter of conservation, Rep. Grijalva has been recognized by members of the House as a champion of core 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. 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.

Rep. Grijalva was pursuing active oversight of offshore drilling long before 2010's disastrous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. He has spent his career successfully fighting Republican attempts to weaken the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws. Rep. Grijalva led the successful push to protect the Grand Canyon from future uranium mining claims, and has been a strong defender of wilderness areas, national monuments and our public lands.

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 and 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. Rep. Grijalva has been a champion of Native American sovereignty rights and the protection of sacred sites, and has proposed legislation to strengthen U.S.-tribal consultation processes through H.R. 1600, the Requirements, Expectations, and Standard Procedures for Executive Consultation with Tribes Act (the RESPECT Act).

The Republican-led Natural Resources Committee 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 land management; and to minimize environmental review for virtually all resource extraction activities. They have relentlessly pursued legislation that would give away, sell or privatize America's publicly owned lands solely to allow the irresponsible extraction of resources at the expense of clean water, recreation and wildlife.

We believe that Rep. Grijalva has the experience and passion to represent the core environmental and human rights values of the Democratic Party, and the conviction to stand up to the radically anti-environmental House Republican agenda as the next ranking member of the Committee.

Sincerely,

Hispanic Federation
MoveOn
Endangered Species Coalition
GreenLatinos
Cascadia Wildlands
Progressive Change Campaign Committee
Public Citizen
Advocates for Snake Preservation
Alameda Creek Alliance
Alaska Wildlife Alliance
Allegheny Defense Project
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Americans for Conservation and the Arts
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Animal Welfare Institute
Animals are Sentient Beings, Inc
Animas Valley Institute
Apollo Kauai'i
Association for the Tree of Life
Azul
Bark
Berkeley Partners for Parks

Center for Biological Diversity
DC Environmental Network
Progressive Democrats of America
Friends of the Earth
Earthjustice
Save America's Forests
Grand Canyon Trust
Big Blackfoot Riverkeeper, Inc.
Black Warrior Riverkeeper
Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project
Boulder-White Clouds Council
California Interfaith Power and Light
California Native Plant Society
Californians for Alternatives to Toxics
Californians for Western Wilderness
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Environmental Health
Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris
Christians Caring for Creation
Citizens Climate Lobby
Ciudadanos Del Karso
Climate Law & Policy Project

Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation
Colorado Riverkeeper
Community Environmental Defense Council
Comstock Residents Association
Conservation Congress
Cool Planet
Cougar Rewilding Foundation
Credo
Democracy for America
District of Columbia Environmental
Network
Don't Waste Arizona, Inc.
Earthworks
Eastern Coyote Research
EcoFlight
Eco-Justice Collaborative
Endangered Habitats League
Energy Justice Network
Environmental Action Committee of West
Marin
Environmental Committee for the San
Lorenzo Valley
Environmental Protection Information
Center (EPIC)
Fairmont, Minnesota Peace Group
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
Food & Water Watch
Food Empowerment Project
Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Friends of Bumping Lake
Friends of the Bitterroot
Friends of the Blackwater
Friends of the Clearwater
Friends of the Owls
Friends of Whitehaven Park
Georgia Forest Watch
Geos Institute
Glen Canyon Institute
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Green Party of Tennessee
Greenlaw
Growing Power, Inc.
Hands Across the Sand
HECHO

Hells Canyon Preservation Council
High Country Conservation Advocates
Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural
History
Howling for Wolves
INFORM
inNative
Interfaith Network of Spiritual Progressives
International Marine Mammal Project
International Society for the Preservation of
the Tropical Rainforest
Juniata Valley Audubon Society
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
Kentucky Heartwood
Kentucky Mountain Justice
Kettle Range Conservation Group
Keystone Prairie Dogs
Kickapoo Peace Circle
Klamath Forest Alliance
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
KyotoUSA
Latina Lista
Latino Outdoors
Law Office of David H. Becker, LLC
Living Rivers Colorado Riverkeeper
Lumberland Concerned Citizens
Mankato Area Environmentalists (MAE)
Maryland Ornithological Society
Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc
Midwest Environmental Advocates
MOMS Advocating Sustainability
Mujeres de la Tierra
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Young Farmers Coalition
Native American Women's Health
Education Resource Center
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
North County Watch
Northeast Oregon Ecosystems
Northern Arizona Audubon
Northwest Environmental Advocates
Northwest Environmental Defense Center
Oasis Earth
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
Ocean Conservation Research
Ocean Futures Society

One More Generation
Oregon Wild
Our Forest
Pacifica's Environmental Family
Partnerships for Earth Spirituality
Pax Christi USA ("Peace of Christ")
Peaceful Uprising
Prairie Dog Pals
Preserve Wild Santee
Progressive Congress
Project Coyote
Rainforest Relief
Restore: The North Woods
Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative
Rocky Mountain Wild
Russian Riverkeeper
SafeEnergyAnalyst.org
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
San Juan Citizens Alliance
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Save the Frogs
Save the Pine Bush
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
Sequoia ForestKeeper
Shalom Center
Sheep Mountain Alliance
Sierra Club, South Carolina: Winyah Group
Sky Island Alliance
Slow Food USA
Snorkel Bob Foundation
South Carolina Coastal Conservation
League
Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Southwest Environmental Center
Southwest Voter Registration Education
Project
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund,
American University Chapter
Sustainable Futures
Tennessee Chapter, Sierra Club
Tennessee Ornithological Society
The Fund for Wild Nature
The Idaho Sporting Congress, Inc.
The Lands Council

The Rewilding Institute
Treviño TodaMedia
Tucson Audubon
Tucson Climate Action
Tucson Herpetological Society
Tucson Urban Unitarian Universalists
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation
and Education Center
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Western Lands Project
Western North Carolina Alliance
Western Watersheds Project
Western Wildlife Conservancy
White Mountain Conservation League
Wild Heritage Planners
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Watch
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlands Network
WildWest Institute
William C. Velasquez Institute
Xun Biosphere Project