

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-329, The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, and Chairman Rogers:

We write to request that you schedule time to bring the fiscal year 2013 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill to the floor for consideration. As members of the Congressional Western Caucus, we have a particular interest in the funding levels and programs within the jurisdiction of this bill. Many of us live in districts that are disproportionately controlled by the Department of the Interior, and all of us have small businesses and job creators located in our districts that are hindered by an overzealous EPA.

We commend Chairman Simpson for producing a helpful bill that takes several steps in the right direction. However, including Chairman Simpson, only four members of the Western Caucus serve on the Appropriations committee. While each added important provisions for the west, they cannot be expected to carry every issue on conservation, energy, forestry, mining, environmental regulations, recreation, and so much more that is important to each of us individually, and as a Caucus. The great majority of us have only one opportunity to represent our constituents on this very important bill: on the floor of the House.

We recognize that the Interior and Environment bill contains controversial provisions and that the total number of amendments will likely be significant and perhaps add to the controversy surrounding public lands and environmental policy. We are also cognizant of the fact that the Senate has no intention of passing its version. None of that absolves us of the obligation to let the House work its will on this measure. Members of the Western Caucus stand ready to work with you to coordinate amendments, work long hours, and bring the bill to completion.

We respectfully ask that the Interior and Environment bill be brought to the floor for consideration at the earliest possible time.

Sincerely,


Stevan Pearce


Cory Gardner

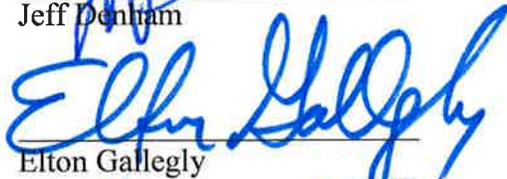

Rick Berg


Michael C. Burgess


Mike Coffman

Mike Coffman


Jeff Denham


Elton Gallegly

Elton Gallegly


Joseph J. Heck


Raúl R. Labrador

Raúl R. Labrador


Randy Neugebauer

Randy Neugebauer


Scott R. Tipton

Scott R. Tipton


Cynthia M. Lummis

Cynthia M. Lummis


Kristi L. Noem

Kristi L. Noem


Rob Bishop

Rob Bishop


Jason Chaffetz

Jason Chaffetz


K. Michael Conaway

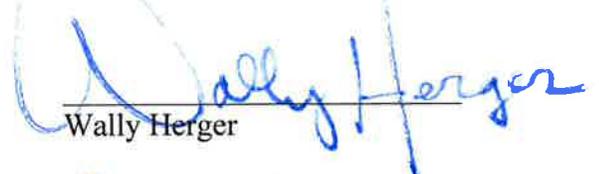
K. Michael Conaway


Trent Franks

Trent Franks


Paul A. Gosar

Paul A. Gosar


Wally Herger

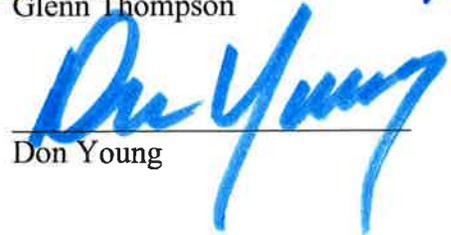
Wally Herger


Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn


Glenn Thompson

Glenn Thompson


Don Young

Don Young