



CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS

CHAIRMAN DAN NEWHOUSE

118th Congress Wrap Up



A Message From Chairman Newhouse



“Over the past four years as Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, my focus has been to ensure the voice of rural America is protected and amplified in the halls of Congress. As my tenure concludes, I am very proud to say that we have accomplished that purpose and much more. Whether it’s holding a highly bureaucratic Biden-Harris administration accountable or ensuring key legislative priorities for the benefit of farmers and ranchers across the nation are supported, I am proud of all that we accomplished together. I want to thank our incredible Members of Congress and their respective staff members for their hard work over the last four years”



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2023 FIELD TOURS



- Farm Bill Summit in Ft. Worth, Texas, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation
- American Mineral Security and New Energy Tech Summit in Salt Lake City, Utah, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation in conjunction with the American Conservation Coalition
- Northern Wisconsin Field Tour hosted by Vice Chair Tom Tiffany
- Southern Minnesota Field Tour hosted by Vice Chair Michelle Fischbach
- Summer Policy Roundtable and Field Tour in Yosemite National Park, California, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation
- Winter Field Tour and Policy Roundtable in Las Vegas, Nevada, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation



2024 FIELD TOURS

- Southern Border Field Tour in Tucson, Arizona, hosted by Rep. Juan Ciscomani
- Forestry Field Tour in Lake Tahoe, California, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation
- Ag and Water Field Tour in Bakersfield, California, hosted by Rep. David Valadao
- Offshore Energy Field Tour in New Orleans, Louisiana, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation
- Recreation Field Tour in Whitefish, Montana, hosted by Vice Chair Ryan Zinke
- Summer Policy Field Tour and Policy Discussion in Jackson, Wyoming, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation
- Fire, Food, and Ranching Field Tour in Boise, Idaho, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation
- Central Washington Field Tour hosted by Chairman Dan Newhouse
- Winter Field Tour and Policy Roundtable in Las Vegas, Nevada, hosted by the Western Caucus Foundation



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Policy Forums

- “Permitting Reform: Unleashing American Energy and the Path Forward” featuring Chairman Newhouse, Vice Chair Westerman, and Rep. Hageman
- “The Importance of Hydropower to Rural Communities” featuring Chairman Newhouse, Executive Vice Chair LaMalfa, and Reps. McMorris Rodgers, Fulcher, Bentz, and Baird
- “Dangers of the CCP Buying American Farmland” featuring Vice Chair Smith (NE-03), and Reps. Feenstra, Johnson (SD-AL), and Jackson
- Joint ESA Working Group Forum featuring Members of the Western Caucus and the House Natural Resources Committee
- “Abuses of the Antiquities Act and Impacts on Landowners” featuring Vice Chair Maloy, Chairman Newhouse, and Reps. Bentz and Miller-Meeks



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Western Caucus Foundation

Digital Connects

- “Affordable, Reliable American Energy” with special guests Senate Western Caucus Chair Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), Mayor Josiah Aullaqsruaq Patkotak, Kate Farr, Kenny Stein, and Dustin Meyer.
- “The Benefits of Natural Gas Energy and LNG Exports” with special guests Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Rep. Buddy Carter (GA-01), Rep. August Pfluger (TX-11), Heather Reams, and Bryson Hull.
- “Permitting and Regulatory Challenges to Our Economy” with special guests Rep. Harriet Hageman (WY-AL), Rep. Garret Graves (LA-06), Rep. Buddy Carter (GA-01), Andrew Wheeler, and Kate MacGregor.



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Major Events

- Western Caucus Foundation 118th Congress Priorities Press Conference
- “Fire Retardant Saves Lives” Special Order Hour hosted by Chairman Newhouse
- Western Caucus Endorses H.R. 1 - The Lower Energy Costs Act
- “The Need for Permitting Reform in Rural Communities” Special Order Hour hosted by Chairman Newhouse and Vice Chair Stauber
- 100 Members Strong Press Conference
- “Issues with the Endangered Species Act” Special Order Hour hosted by Chairman Newhouse

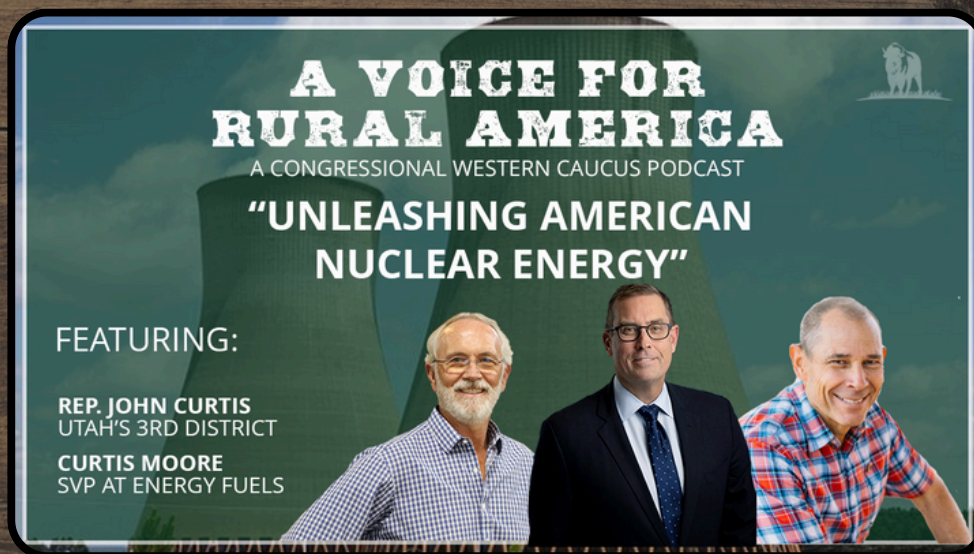


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“A VOICE FOR RURAL AMERICA”

EPISODES

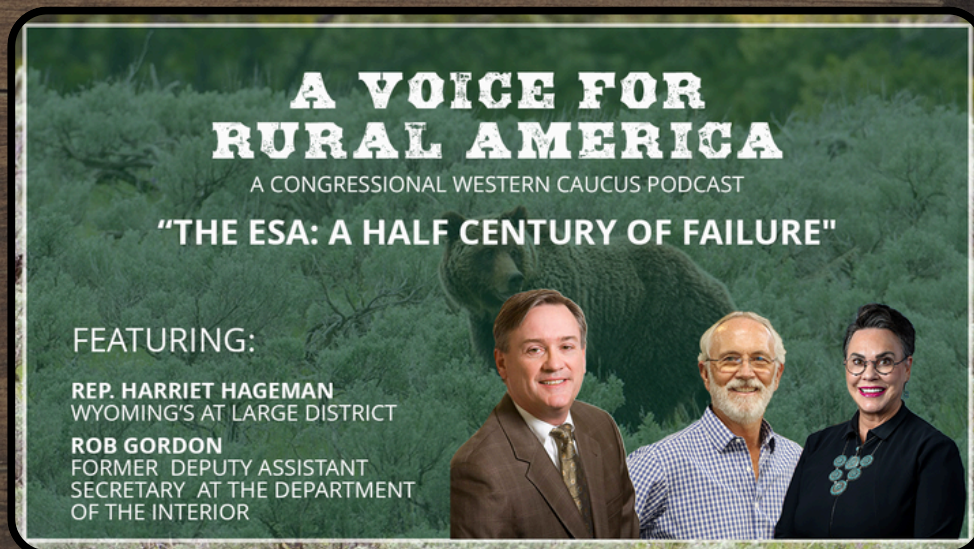
- “America Last: the Biden Administration’s Approach to Critical Mineral Mining”
- “Mountain Valley Pipeline: A Case for Permitting Reform”
- “Stop Locking Up Our Lands, President Biden!”
- “Predators on the Prowl”
- “The Lower Snake River Dams: A Case for Hydropower”
- “The Central Valley: A Case for Investment in America’s Water Infrastructure”
- “Free and Fair Trade: Bolstering Rural America’s Economic Success”
- “Unleashing American Nuclear Energy”



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EPISODES

- "Rice's Whale: The Gulf of Mexico's Loch Ness Monster"
- "Wolverines!"
- "The Rio Grande Valley Water Shortage: A Crisis"
- "NAAQS: An Attack on American Industry"
- "The ESA: A Half Century of Failure"
- "A Farm Bill That Works for Rural America"
- "A Tinderbox: Fighting Wildfires & Achieving Success"
- "The Heat Under Our Feet – Unlocking the Potential of Geothermal in the West"
- "The Endangered Species Act: Hotel California for Wildlife"
- "Prop 12: Don't California My Bacon!"



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OPINION PIECES

Throughout the 118th Congress, we have sought to amplify our Members and their issues and legislative priorities. One of the most effective ways to do so is through publishing op-eds. Whether joint op-eds with Chairman Newhouse or the Member individually, the topics have been comprehensive and the message has been clear: the Western Caucus is working for rural America. Western Caucus Members have successfully placed op-eds across the country on everything from the Rosemont Copper Mine in Arizona to the harmful regulatory agenda of the Biden Administration. Through these opinion pieces, our Members' perspectives have reached thousands of readers across the country.



"Heads up, farmers: Biden is coming for your water"

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Zippy Duvall



"It's Time to Reform the Endangered Species Act"

By Reps. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Bruce Westerman (AR-04)



"Failed Biden Proposal Would Have Allowed Our Enemies To Control Our Land Use"

By Reps. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Harriet Hageman (WY-AL)



"EPA semitruck emissions regulations headed for unintended consequences"

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Todd Spencer



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CHAIRMAN'S CHATS

- "The Road Ahead" ft. Senate Western Caucus Chair Cynthia Lummis (WY)
- "Unleashing American Energy" ft. Vice Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04)
- "Endangered Species Act is Endangering Our Communities" ft. Rep. Tracey Mann (KS-01)
- "Rural Access to Veterans' Care" ft. Rep. Mike Bost (IL-12)
- "The Importance of Trade for Rural America" ft. Rep. Jason Smith (MO-08)
- "The Importance of an Effective Farm Bill for Rural America" ft. Rep. Austin Scott (GA-08)
- "An All-of-the-Above Energy Approach for America" ft. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)
- "The Importance of a Strong Farm Bill for Rural America" ft. Rep. Dusty Johnson (SD-AL)
- "Reforming the Endangered Species Act (ESA)" ft. Rep. Cliff Bentz (OR-02)
- "The Importance of Hydro and Nuclear Power" ft. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (TN-03)
- "Understanding the American West and Oversight of the Department of the Interior" ft. Rep. Mike Simpson (ID-02)
- "Energy Production, Agriculture, & Forest Management" ft. Vice Chair Tom Tiffany (WI-07)
- "American Mineral Security and Permitting Reform" ft. Vice Chair Pete Stauber (MN-08)



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MEMBER LUNCHEES

Each month this Congress, the Western Caucus has hosted lunches where our Members hear from former Administration officials, senior leadership of trade associations, ranchers, and policy experts on issues that impact western and rural America. These opportunities allow Western Caucus Members to hear from impacted stakeholders firsthand about how the Biden-Harris Administration's regulatory regime has relentlessly assaulted our districts. On the flip side, these lunches provide an opportunity for stakeholders to have off-the-record conversations with Members about what their industry needs from Congressional leaders.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- President of the American Farm Bureau Zippy Duvall
- President and CEO of the American Gas Association Karen Harbert
- 53rd Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt
- CEO of Arena Energy Mike Minarovic
- CEO of the American Exploration and Mining Association Mark Compton
- CEO of ClearPath Rich Powell
- House Agriculture Committee Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson
- President of the Western Energy Alliance Kathleen Sgamma



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GUEST SPEAKERS

- President of the National Ocean Industries Association Erik Milito
- CEO of American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers Chet Thompson
- President of the Public Lands Council Mark Roeber
- Rural Electric Co-Ops with CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Jim Matheson
- Vice President of Research of the Bergman and Company Will Coggin
- Vice President of Government Affairs of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Ethan Lane
- Vice President & Chief Advocacy Officer of the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Amanda Eversole
- Vice President of Government Affairs American Petroleum Institute Geoff Moody
- Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs of the Renewable Fuels Association Troy Brendenkamp
- Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for Growth Energy Chris Bliley



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49 STAFF BRIEFINGS

- **Farm Bill**

- A series of briefings on the Farm Bill with the House Agriculture Committee and relevant stakeholders
 - Foresty Title, Conservation Title, Commodity and Crop Insurance, Rural Development, etc.

- **Biden-Harris Administration Regulations**

- BLM Conservation Rule, NAAQS, WOTUS, EPA Tailpipe Emission Standards, Endangered Species Act, Pesticide, etc.

- **Energy**

- Nuclear, Biofuels, E-15, Critical Minerals, Pipelines, LNG, Permitting Reform, Hydrogen, Hydropower, etc.

- **Wildland Fire Management**

- Forest Management Practices, Prescribed Fire Burns, Aerial Firefighting, etc.



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WESTERN CAUCUS FOUNDATION 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

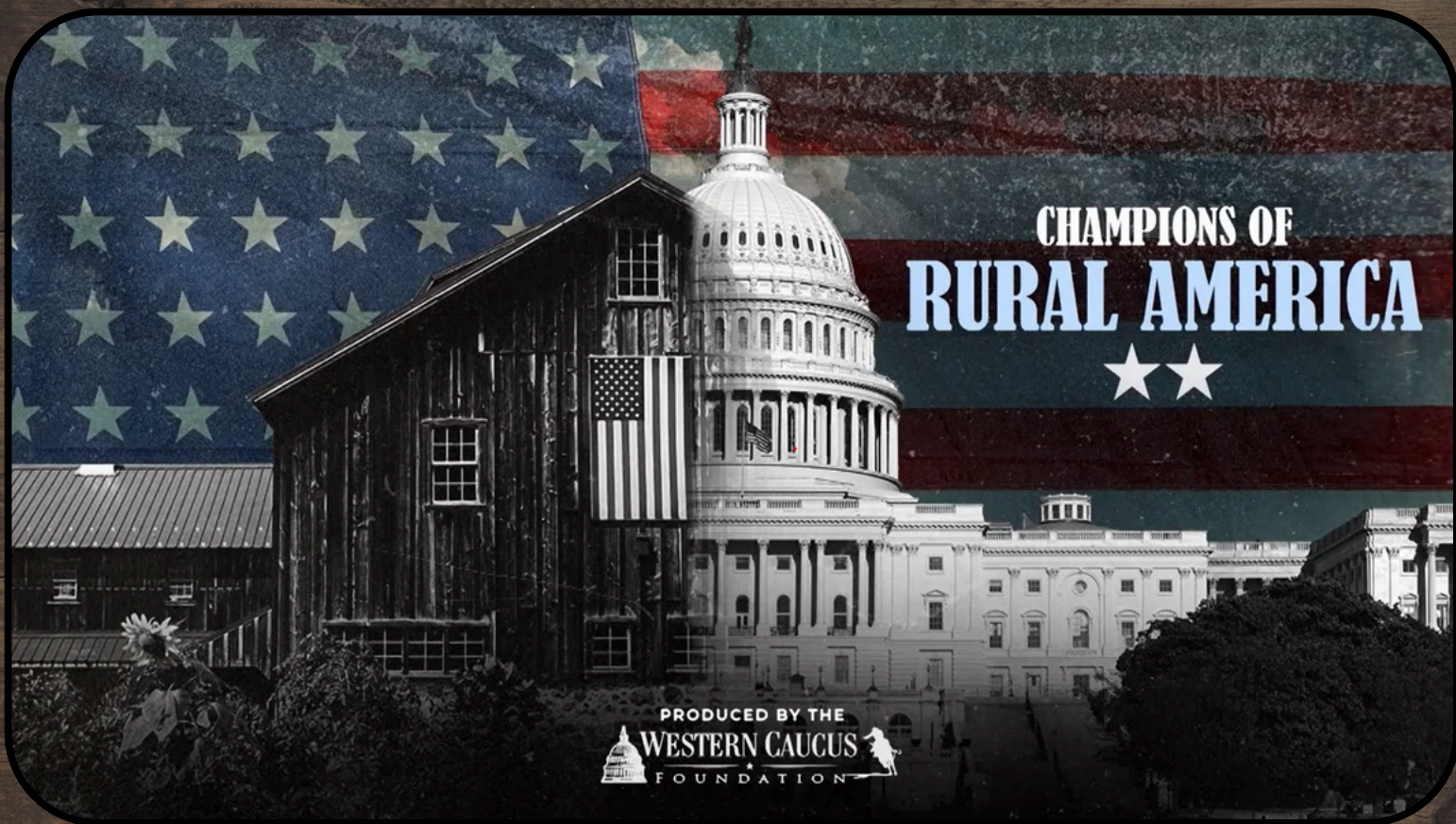
"What started 30 years ago as a handful of members from the West has grown into a group of over 100 members stretching across our country who are committed to defending the western and rural way of life," said Chairman Newhouse. "Rest assured, we will work every day advocating for the multiple-use mandate, expanding American energy production, and local control so farmers, ranchers, and landowners can continue to be stewards of their land."



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“CHAMPIONS OF RURAL AMERICA”

“Champions of Rural America” features high-level discussions with leaders from the Congressional and Senate Western Caucuses and policy influencers who understand the vital role that rural communities play in the fabric of the nation. Each episode delves into the complex landscape that is Washington D.C., where a group of U.S. Representatives and Senators are working to convey the realities faced by rural Americans and educate their big city peers who favor metropolitan and coastal agendas.



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“CHAMPIONS OF RURAL AMERICA”

EPISODES

- **Tackling the Wildfire Crisis**
 - Chairman Newhouse, Chair Lummis, Vice Chair Tiffany, Rep. McClintock, Rep. Duarte, and Rep. Valadao
- **Farm Bill Update**
 - Chairman Newhouse, Chair Lummis, Senator Marshall, Senator Boozman, Executive Vice Chair LaMalfa, Rep. “GT” Thompson, Rep. Baird, Rep. Rouzer, Rep. Bentz, and Vice Chair Westerman
- **American Energy Production**
 - Chairman Newhouse, Chair Lummis, Rep. Carl, Rep. Graves, and Rep. Hageman
- **Rodeo Bans, Water, and ESA**
 - Chairman Newhouse, Chair Lummis, Rep. Valadao, Senator Barrasso, Vice Chair Westerman, Senator Hyde-Smith, Rep. Peltola, and Senator Daines
- **U.S. Immigration Policies**
 - Chairman Newhouse, Vice Chair Stauber, Rep. Ciscomani, Rep. Curtis, Vice Chair Tiffany, Rep. Hageman, Vice Chair Westerman, Rep. Carter (GA), and Rep. Hern
- **Mining, Wild Horses, CCP**
 - Chairman Newhouse, Senator Marshall, Vice Chair Zinke, Rep. Moylan, Vice Chair Stauber, Vice Chair Maloy, Vice Chair Amodei, Rep. “GT” Thompson, and Rep. Miller-Meeks



MAJOR WESTERN CAUCUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the 118th Congress, the Western Caucus worked with Member offices, committees, stakeholders, and the Senate Western Caucus to produce legislation and letters that focused on agriculture, energy, the Endangered Species Act, forestry, natural resources, and public lands issues. Below are some highlights from the last two years:

- Endorsed H.R. 1 (Scalise) – The Lower Energy Costs Act. Passed the House on March 30, 2023
- H.Res. 987 (Newhouse) – Denouncing the Biden Admin’s energy policies. Passed the House on March 21, 2024
- H.R. 9456 (Newhouse) – Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act. Passed the House on Sept. 11, 2024
- H.R. 9533 (Westerman) – ESA Amendments Act of 2024. Product of Joint ESA Working Group
- H.R. 9859 (Arrington) – Abundant American Resources Act
- H.R. 6530 (Lamborn) – Energy Parity Act
- Multiple Letters to BLM re: Conservation and Landscape Health final rule
- Multiple Letters to EPA/Army Corps re: WOTUS
- Letter to EPA re: NAAQS pm2.5 final rule
- Letter to CEQ re: Environmental Justice

Additionally, the Western Caucus policy team produced several deliverables including:

- Expected Rules and Regulations (January 2024)
- Appropriations Priorities and Suggested Submissions
- Permitting Reform in the 118th Congress
- Summary of Resource Management Plans Proposed & Finalized by the Biden BLM

