

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2007 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to urge the committee to include language to prevent the future listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This commonsense language will allow the LPC Range-Wide Conservation Plan (RWP) to continue to positively impact the recovery of this species without potential retaliatory action by the federal government.

The FWS recognizes that the states are in the best position to lead the recovery effort for the LPC as its original listing allowed the five states to continue to manage conservation efforts through the RWP. In the weeks leading up to the FWS's listing decision, local landowners showed unprecedented support for LPC conservation by enrolling nearly 4 million acres in the plan and committing more than \$26 million towards conservation. This type of commitment led U.S. District Judge Robert Junell to de-list the LPC in September of 2015.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following:

*None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce any listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).*

We believe this amendment will allow state governments, landowners, businesses, and conservation groups to continue to further recover the LPC. We appreciate your consideration of this language and are prepared to further discuss this request at your convenience should you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely,



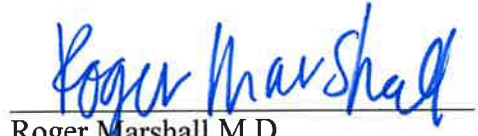
Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



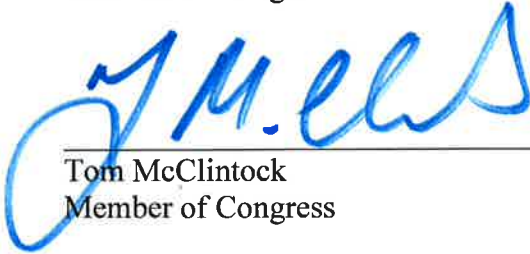
Roger Marshall M.D.  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress