



**CONGRESSIONAL
WESTERN CAUCUS**
THE VOICE FOR RURAL AMERICA

Accomplishments

*117TH CONGRESS
SESSION 1*

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THANK YOU FROM CHAIRMAN NEWHOUSE

Dear Western Caucus Members,

From day one, President Biden and his allies have made it clear that the priorities of rural America were going to be under attack by this Administration. Over the past year, we have fought tooth-and-nail to defend the values, policies, and practices that define our rural communities, and our work is far from over.

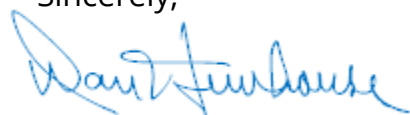
While the Congressional Western Caucus has long been united by our advancement of sound, commonsense policies to advance domestic energy development, the multiple-use mandate, local conservation and control of our lands and waters, and more, it became even more important under the Biden presidency and Democrat control of Congress that we worked to ensure the voices of the people we represent were *truly* heard in our nation's capital.

All along the way, our Caucus has worked to amplify our message because we know that what is wrong for rural communities is wrong for America. From legislative efforts and strong messaging campaigns to our work to seek out and listen to the voices of local communities firsthand, our Members have continued to hold the Biden Administration and Democrat leadership accountable for their failing policies.

When I sought to serve as Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, I wanted to bring together Members from across the country to work on our shared priorities, increase our coalitions and partnerships on and off Capitol Hill, and ensure that my staff and I are working to meet your goals. With your help, I am proud to say we have been successful.

I want to thank each of you for entrusting me with the responsibility to serve as Chairman. I hope to continue to work with you in 2022 as we build upon our efforts to lift the voices of rural communities throughout the West and beyond.

Sincerely,



Chairman Dan Newhouse

WESTERN CAUCUS INITIATIVES

President Biden's Attack on American Energy

Western Caucus Members have been fighting against the Biden Administration's attacks on the American energy industry, from Executive Orders that dismantle domestic energy infrastructure and development to misguided mineral withdrawals and preservation designations that threaten our ability to responsibly mine the critical minerals we need. Western Caucus Members brought local voices together to discuss the harm these actions would have on their local communities, businesses, and livelihoods.

[Special Order](#) – February 4, 2021

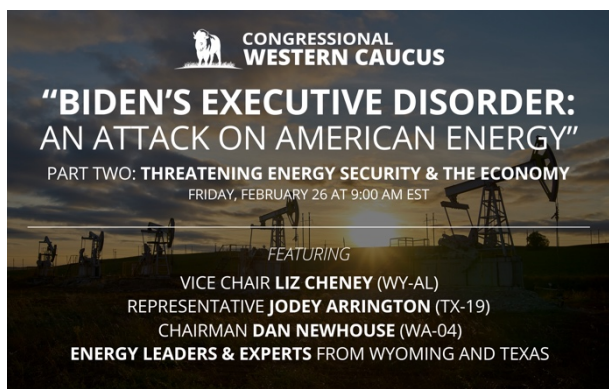
Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted a Special Order on the House floor to discuss the negative impacts President Biden's Executive Orders to revoke the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline and halt oil and gas leases on federal lands have rural communities throughout the West and across the United States. [Read more.](#)

[Virtual Series](#) – Biden's Executive Disorder: An Attack on America Energy



Part One: Devastating Rural Communities

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Vice Chair Chris Stewart (UT-02), and Rep. Yvette Herrell (NM-02) were joined by expert panelists to discuss the impacts of President Biden's energy Executive Orders on rural communities in Utah and New Mexico.



Part Two: Threatening Energy Security & The Economy

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Vice Chair Liz Cheney (WY-AL), and Representative Jodey Arrington (TX-19) were joined by expert panelists to discuss the impacts President Biden's Executive Orders on energy will have on American energy security and the economy as a whole.

Bipartisan Forum – Promoting American Energy Independence: Developing the Lonestar State



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Rep. Henry Cuellar (TX-28) hosted a bipartisan forum to highlight the benefits and importance of oil and gas development in the Lonestar State. The forum featured three panelists from Texas who spoke on the critical nature of continuing to support innovative American energy development and the impacts the Biden Administration’s anti-oil and gas actions have had on rural communities in the state. [Read more.](#)

Joint Forum with House Natural Resources Republicans – An Energy Crisis and Rising Gas Prices: A Mid-Year Review of the Biden Administration’s Energy Policy

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and House Natural Resources Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (AR-04) led a forum with Western Caucus Members, Natural Resources Republicans, and a panel of energy experts to examine the first six months of the Biden Administration’s energy agenda and its impacts on American energy security and independence. Energy experts from across the country testified on behalf of thousands of American energy workers and highlighted the work they are doing to promote safe, responsible domestic energy development.

Rural America is Committed to Clean Water



Western Caucus Members worked against the Biden Administration’s proposed rollback of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR). A return to the 2015 Obama-era Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule would be detrimental to rural communities across the United States, where the NWPR garnered bipartisan support among diverse industries.

Resolution – Maintain the Navigable Waters Protection Rule

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-02) introduced a resolution to uphold the NWPR and express the sense of the House that clean water is a national priority. The resolution is supported by over 120 Members, including nearly 60 Members of the Western Caucus.

Des Moines Register

Read more about the resolution in an op-ed by Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks: [“Rural America is dedicated to clean water”](#) in the *Des Moines Register*.

Letter – Western Caucus Member Demand Answers on Return to Obama-era WOTUS Rule

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-02), Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines (MT), and Senator Joni Ernst (IA) led Western Caucus Members in sending a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan and Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jaime Pinkham to express serious concerns with the Biden Administration’s decision to remand the 2020 NWPR and reopen the definition of “waters of the United States.” [Read more.](#)

Species Week



In June, Western Caucus Members spent a week highlighting the successes and failures of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Biden Administration's proposed reversal of the Trump Administration's ESA improvements will significantly impact state and locally-led species conservation efforts and will do nothing to improve the dismal 3% success rate of the law. By weaponizing the ESA, the Administration will devastate rural communities who are working collaboratively to recover species and promote economic development.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Brian Yablonski, CEO of the Property and Environment Research Center, kicked off Species Week with an op-ed on the importance of incentivizing species recovery efforts by local conservation partners and private landowners. Read more: ["Endangered species recovery requires flexibility, not strict regulations"](#) in the *Washington Examiner*.

[Special Order](#) – June 16, 2021

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted a Special Order on the House floor to discuss the successes and failures of the ESA, highlighted species recovery efforts across the country, and promote commonsense policies to modernize the landmark species protection law. [Read more.](#)

[Video](#) – A Successfully-Recovered American Icon

Rep. Burgess Owens (UT-04) highlights a success story of the Endangered Species Act and an American icon: the bald eagle. In 2008, the bald eagle soared off the list of endangered species.

Forum – Impacts of a Weaponized Endangered Species Act: The Case of the Northern Spotted Owl



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Rep. Cliff Bentz (OR-02) hosted a virtual forum to highlight the mismanagement of the Northern Spotted Owl in the Pacific Northwest. The forum featured three panelists who spoke on the impacts of the protections and restrictions imposed by the Endangered Species Act. [Read more.](#)

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Josephine County Commissioner Dan DeYoung penned an op-ed highlighting the leadership of Rep. Cliff Bentz (OR-02) on northern spotted owl recovery efforts. Read more: [“Follow the science, law for spotted owl designation”](#) in the *Medford Mail Tribune*.

Letter – Defending State and Local Sage-Grouse Conservation Efforts

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Vice Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04), and Senator Cynthia Lummis (WY) led a bicameral letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland in response to the Administration’s announcement to review land management plans for the greater sage-grouse. The letter urges the Biden Administration to consider the successful recovery efforts currently underway and to enhance cooperation and coordination with states, local communities, tribes, and private conservation partners. [Read more.](#)



Rep. Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL) and Michael Crowder, President of the National Association of Conservation Districts, penned an op-ed about the importance of local sage-grouse conservation. Read more: [“For greater sage-grouse success, local control matters”](#) in *The Hill*.

Podcast – Impacts of a Weaponized Endangered Species Act: The Case of the Gray Wolf

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted Rep. Tom Tiffany (WI-07) and Todd Myers, Director of the Center for the Environment at the Washington Policy Center, to discuss the successful delisting of the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act.

Chairman’s Chat – Grizzly Bear Recovery and the ESA

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chair Liz Cheney (WY-AL) discuss the successful recovery of the grizzly bear and much-needed improvements to the Endangered Species Act.

National Clean Energy Week



In September, Western Caucus Members celebrated National Clean Energy Week by highlighting the United States' leadership in emissions reduction and clean energy innovation.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Heather Reams, Executive Director of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES), penned an op-ed to kick off the week. Read more: ["America leads the way on clean energy"](#) in *RealClearEnergy*.

[Joint Roundtable with Science, Space, and Technology Republicans](#) – Scientific Innovation in the Clean Energy Sector

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), House Science, Space, and Technology Ranking Member Frank Lucas (OK-03), and Rep. Jim Baird (IN-04) hosted a roundtable with energy experts to discuss the need for continued scientific innovation in the clean energy sector. [Learn more.](#)

[Joint Forum with House Energy & Commerce Republicans](#) – Securing Cleaner American Energy

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (WA-05), and Rep. Buddy Carter (GA-01) hosted a forum to discuss the need to strengthen the American clean energy sector by investing in clean energy infrastructure. [Learn more.](#)

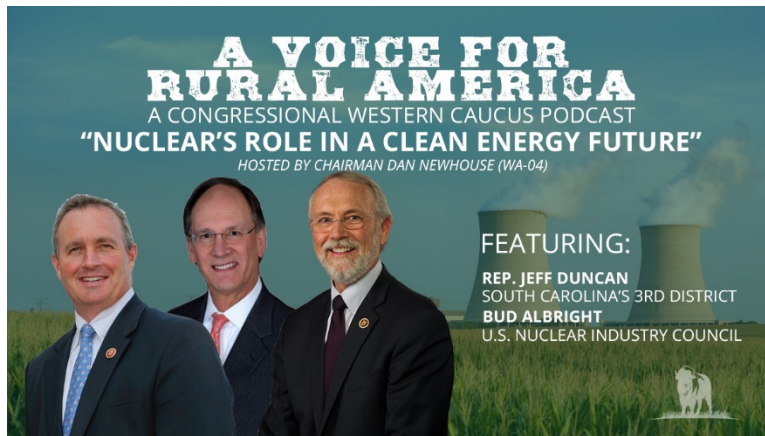
Joint Forum with House Natural Resources & Select Committee on the Climate Crisis Republicans - Unlocking Clean Energy Opportunities

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chairs Bruce Westerman (AR-04), Pete Stauber (MN-08), and Garret Graves (LA-06) hosted a joint forum to discuss the need for permitting and regulatory reform in the clean energy industry. [Learn more.](#)

Videos - Members Highlight Clean Energy in Rural America

Throughout National Clean Energy Week, Western Caucus Members highlighted different sources of clean energy, emerging technologies, and the impacts of clean energy development on rural communities.

Podcast - Nuclear's Role in a Clean Energy Future



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-03) and Bud Albright, President & CEO of the U.S. Nuclear Industry Council, to discuss the critical role of nuclear power in America’s clean energy future and how we can work to support and expand innovative nuclear technologies across the United States.

Chairman’s Chat - National Clean Energy Week

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chair John Curtis (UT-03) discuss their shared efforts to support clean energy development throughout the United States. Rep. Curtis introduced the House resolution to designate National Clean Energy Week.

Western Conservation Principles

Western Caucus Members revealed the bicameral [Western Conservation Principles](#), a holistic, outcome-based proposal to serve as an alternative to the Biden Administration’s “30 by 30 initiative.” Western Conservation Principles serves as a blueprint for responsible, effective conservation supported by rural communities across the United States.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines (MT) revealed the Western Conservation Principles with a [video](#) and penned an op-ed to highlight the commonsense conservation practices and values already utilized by rural Americans. Read more: [“A blueprint for real conservation”](#) in *The Hill*.

[Resolution](#) – Supporting Locally-Led, Voluntary Conservation



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Rep. Don Bacon (NE-02), Vice Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04), Rep. Sanford Bishop (GA-02), and Senator Steve Daines (MT) led a bipartisan, bicameral resolution to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the National Association of Conservation Districts and honor the locally-led, collaborative conservation efforts they deploy throughout the United States. [Read more.](#)

[Podcast](#) – Western Conservation Principles

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted Senator Steve Daines (MT) and Hannah Downey, Policy Director for the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), to discuss the science-based, effective conservation practices used by rural communities throughout the West and beyond. They highlight the importance of multiple-use, locally-led land and water management, and conservation partnerships with entities like counties, tribes, landowners, and private companies.

Working for Responsible Land and Forest Management

As wildfires raged across the West, Western Caucus Members were strong advocates for sound, responsible land and forest management practices. From defending rural America from extreme eco-terrorists to introducing legislation to improve active conservation of our lands and waters, our Members are urging the Biden Administration to listen to the voices of rural communities whose livelihoods depend on the land.

Idaho Statesman

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Rep. Mike Simpson (ID-02), and Rep. Russ Fulcher (ID-01) penned an op-ed on the heels of President Biden's visit to Idaho, urging him to adopt Idaho's land management practices to prevent catastrophic wildfires. Read more:

["President Biden: Act now to prevent catastrophic wildfires"](#) in the *Idaho Statesman*.



[Video](#) - Reject Tracy Stone-Manning

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) spoke on the House floor to urge the Senate to reject President Biden's nominee for Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Tracy Stone-Manning. His speech comes after Western Caucus Members spent months echoing the concerns of industry leaders and former Obama Administration officials in advocating against this dangerous and extreme eco-terrorist's nomination. [Watch here.](#)

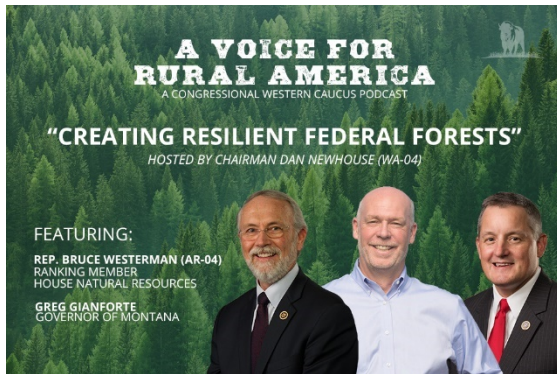
Western Caucus Members penned several op-eds to outline the impacts of her confirmation on rural communities in [Washington](#), [Colorado](#), [California](#), [Arizona](#), and [Nevada](#).

Legislation – Resilient Federal Forests Act

Vice Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04) introduced the Resilient Federal Forests Act with the support of Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Western Caucus Members across the United States. The comprehensive land management legislation aims to restore healthy federal lands and forests, increase resiliency, and prevent catastrophic wildfires. It is comprised of legislation introduced by Western Caucus Members to address specific priorities that will improve land management. [Read more.](#)

Joint Forum with House Natural Resources Republicans – Skyrocketing Lumber Prices and the Impacts on American Forests

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04) hosted a joint forum on skyrocketing lumber prices and potential solutions to the resulting impacts on American forests and communities. [Learn more.](#)



Podcast – Creating Resilient Federal Forests

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted Vice Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04) and Governor Greg Gianforte (MT) to discuss critical forest management, wildfire prevention, and desperately needed reforms.

Combatting Western Drought Conditions

Communities throughout the West and across the United States experienced historic drought conditions. The drought has increased the risk of catastrophic wildfires, impacted waters supplies and food availability, and has created a dire situation for local communities, economies, and the environment.

Letter - Calling on the Administration to Address the Drought Crisis

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Vice Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04), and Vice Chair Kevin McCarthy (CA-25) led a letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to call for action on the historic drought crisis impacting communities throughout the West. The letter highlights the inaction of the Biden Administration and the “Interagency Working Group,” which was formed to specifically address drought conditions. [Read more.](#)

Special Order - July 30, 2021

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chair Bruce Westerman (AR-04) led a joint Special Order on the House floor to showcase the devastating consequences of the Biden Administration’s inaction on western water and the severe drought season.



Chairman’s Chat - Water and Western Drought

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Rep. David Valadao (CA-21), and Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42) discuss the water challenges and drought in California and across the West.

FIELD TOURS

South Dakota



In February, Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) visited South Dakota with Reps. Dusty Johnson (SD-AL) and Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL). The three Members hosted a roundtable to discuss the impacts of the Keystone XL Pipeline termination by President Biden. At the roundtable, they heard from individuals, small business owners, and community members on the loss of jobs, economic security, and energy independence.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) penned an op-ed highlighting the trip and Rep. Johnson's leadership. Read here: ["Amplifying voices of South Dakota"](#) in the *Capital Journal*.

Minot Daily News

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) penned an op-ed highlighting Rep. Armstrong's legislation to maintain the Keystone XL Pipeline and its impacts on North Dakota. Read here: ["Armstrong stands up for ND jobs, American energy"](#) in the *Minot Daily News*.

Colorado



In April, Chairman Newhouse (WA-04) visited Colorado to visit the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Headquarters in Grand Junction. He and Vice Chair Lauren Boebert (CO-03) hosted a roundtable with local stakeholders to discuss the benefits of the headquarters in Colorado – from stable jobs to increased regional economic development. Keeping BLM Headquarters in the West helps keep the policy makers close to the lands they are managing and the individuals impacted by their decisions.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Carlyle Currier, President of the Colorado Farm Bureau, penned an op-ed to highlight Vice Chair Boebert's leadership and the importance of maintaining the BLM Headquarters in the West. Read here: ["BLM Headquarters in Grant Junction benefits entire country"](#) in the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*.

Oklahoma



In April, the Western Caucus Foundation, Congressional Western Caucus, and House Energy Action Team hosted a joint trip to Oklahoma for Members, staff, and stakeholders to see and discuss the importance of an all-of-the-above energy strategy. The Foundation hosted a roundtable with Chairman Newhouse (WA-04), Vice Chair Steve Scalise (LA-01), Rep. Markwayne Mullin (OK-02), and Rep. Kevin Hern (OK-01). Following the roundtable discussion, Members and staff toured MidAmerica Industrial Park's Grand River Energy Center, a natural gas and coal facility, as well as Grand River Dam Authority's Pensacola Dam, a hydroelectric generating station.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chair Steve Scalise (LA-01) penned an op-ed to outline Oklahoma's contributions to our domestic energy portfolio and the importance of Members seeing these energy resources firsthand. Read here: ["Biden wants to restrict American energy, we want to grow it"](#) in the *Tulsa World*.

California



In June, the Western Caucus Foundation hosted a trip for Members, staff, and stakeholders to Santa Barbara, California to discuss a multitude of issues facing the West including drought, critical minerals, wildfires, and more. Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chair Kevin McCarthy (CA-25) introduced three policy panels moderated by Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42), Rep. Tom McClintock (CA-04), and Vice Chair John Curtis (UT-03). Members also participated an aerial firefighting demonstration, agriculture exhibition, and a trip to the Reagan Ranch.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chair Kevin McCarthy (CA-25) penned an op-ed about sorting out the problems of the West in the spirit of Ronald Reagan. Read here: ["Sorting out the problems of the West"](#) in the *California Globe*.

Iowa



In August, Chairman Newhouse (WA-04) and Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-06) joined Rep. Miller-Meeks (IA-02) in Iowa to discuss the importance of maintaining the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR). The Members hosted a roundtable to highlight the importance of certainty for rural communities, businesses, farmers, and ranchers who are working towards increased economic development while promoting and protecting clean water for their local communities. Additionally, the members joined U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials and attended field tours hosted by stakeholders to learn how overburdensome regulations like the Obama-era Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule negatively impact rural communities and current conservation efforts.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Chuck Fowke, President of the National Association of Home Builders, penned an op-ed following the trip to highlight the impact a return to the 2015 WOTUS rule would have on housing affordability. Read here: [“Maintain Navigable Waters rule to make homes more affordable”](#) in *The Hill*.

Podcast - Iowa Agriculture is Committed to Clean Water

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Mike Naig, Secretary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture, to discuss the importance of clean water for Iowa’s agriculture industry and how essential it is to maintain the Navigable Waters Protection Rule.

Utah



In October, Chairman Newhouse (WA-04) and Rep. Mullin (OK-02) visited Vice Chair Stewart (UT-02) in Southwest Utah to see and hear from the communities on the frontline of energy and agricultural innovation. The Members joined an agriculture forum to discuss local conservation efforts and challenges facing Utah’s farmers and ranchers. Following the panel discussion, Members and stakeholders participated in a renewable energy field tour to see firsthand Utah’s different energy resources.



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Vice Chair Chris Stewart (UT-02) penned an op-ed to highlight the Utah trip and the renewable energy tour. Read here: [“From hog manure to geothermal energy, southern Utah’s industry leaders offer conservation ideas”](#) in the *St. George News*.

North Dakota



In October, the Western Caucus Foundation and Rep. Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL) hosted an agriculture summit and field tour in North Dakota. At the summit Members discussed the importance of local land control, the upcoming Farm Bill, and how top-down federal policies negatively impact the agriculture industry.

Podcast – North Dakotan Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead



Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted Rep. Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL) and Doug Goehring, Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, to discuss the North Dakota agriculture summit and the challenges facing North Dakota's farmers and ranchers.

Pennsylvania



In November, Chairman Newhouse (WA-04) and Rep. Yvette Herrell (NM-02) visited Rep. Fred Keller (PA-12) in northeast Pennsylvania to highlight domestic natural gas production and its impact on local communities, jobs, and education. Members had a roundtable to discuss the importance of education and job preparation in the energy sector with local energy stakeholders. Following the roundtable, Members visited different sites to see the steps of natural gas production.

The Daily Review

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Rep. Yvette Herrell (NM-02) penned an op-ed to focus on Rep. Fred Keller's (PA-12) energy leadership and their natural gas field tour in Pennsylvania. Read here: ["Celebrating collaboration and innovation in Pennsylvania's natural gas industry"](#) in the *Towanka Daily Review*.

Podcast - The Keystone State's Contributions to American Energy Dominance

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosted Rep. Fred Keller (PA-12) and George Stark, Director of External Affairs for Coterra Energy, to discuss the natural gas field tour, local partnerships fostered by the industry, and the contributions of natural gas producers to Pennsylvania's rural communities.

MEMBER LUNCHES



January: Gavel Exchange

Western Caucus Members met to thank Chairman Emeritus Paul Gosar (AZ-04) and discuss priorities for the upcoming year.



February: Senator Steve Daines (MT)

Senator Daines joined Western Caucus Members to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the Caucus in the Senate.



May: Former Secretary David Bernhardt

Former Interior Secretary David Bernhardt joined Western Caucus Members to discuss how to use the regulatory and oversight processes to fight against the Biden Administration's devastating actions.



June: Margaret Everson & Karen Budd-Falen

As Trump Administration officials Margaret Everson and Karen Budd-Falen joined Western Caucus Members to discuss the Trump Administration's improvements to the Endangered Species Act.



July: Zippy Duvall

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall joined Western Caucus Members to discuss how they can continue to support American farmers and ranchers.



November: Secretary Jennifer Granholm

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm joined Western Caucus Members to discuss the Biden Administration's energy policies and answer questions about many of the actions impacted U.S. energy security and rural communities.

STAFF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Bicameral Staff Meetings

The Western Caucus Foundation hosts monthly bicameral Western Caucus staff meetings to discuss ongoing Member priorities, Caucus initiatives, and updates from House and Senate leadership.

Bicameral Staff Briefing: Fix America's Forests – May 12, 2021

Jonathan Wood of the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) joined staff to discuss forest management and wildfire prevention. He presented and answered questions about PERC's "[Fix America's Forests](#)" report and accompanying policy recommendations.

Virtual Staff Briefing: Trump Methane Rule CRA – June 21, 2021

Congressional Western Caucus, Energy & Commerce Committee Republicans, and Americans for Prosperity staff hosted a briefing to explain the Congressional Review Act (CRA) and the Trump EPA Methane Rule. Staff also received additional insight on the CRA Methane Rule floor vote and its potential impacts on rural communities.

Virtual Staff Briefing: The Endangered Species Act and Impacts on Infrastructure – July 13, 2021

Congressional Western Caucus and members of the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC) hosted a briefing to discuss the impacts the Endangered Species Act has on proposed infrastructure packages and communities across the United States.

Western Caucus Staff Retreat – July 19, 2021

The Western Caucus Foundation hosted a staff retreat for Congressional Western Caucus staff to reflect on the first six months of the year and strategize for the remainder of 2021. The first half of the retreat featured panels to discuss committee priorities and oversight opportunities. The second half of the retreat featured guest speakers former EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

Lunch Briefing: A Clear Path to a Clean Energy Future – September 20, 2021

ClearPath hosted a lunch briefing for staff to kick off National Clean Energy Week to present their recent report, "[A Clear Path to a Clean Energy Future](#)."

Virtual Staff Briefing: Wildfire Aviation Contracting and Technology – October 4, 2021

Guests from Coulson Aviation, Neptune Aviation, Ten Tanker Aviation, Merrick Surdex, and Billings Flying Service presented new and emerging wildfire aviation technologies and discussed the contracting challenges many companies are facing.

A VOICE FOR RURAL AMERICA

A Voice for Rural America is a podcast from the Congressional Western Caucus that dives into a number of issues facing western and rural America. Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) highlights work being done by our Members in Congress, gaps that exist in our current policies, and where there is room for improvement.

Episode 1: [Impacts of a Weaponized Endangered Species Act: The Case of the Gray Wolf](#)
Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) hosts Rep. Tom Tiffany (WI-07) and Todd Myers, Director of the Center for the Environment at the Washington Policy Center, to discuss the successful delisting of the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act.

Episode 2: [Injunction on the Biden Ban: A Victory for American Energy](#)
Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Republican Whip Steve Scalise (LA-01), Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, and Western Energy Alliance President Kathleen Sgamma to discuss the recent temporary injunction placed on President Biden's ban on federal oil and gas leases and the injunction's impacts on rural America.

Episode 3: [Creating Resilient Federal Forests](#)
Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Western Caucus Vice Chair and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources Bruce Westerman (AR-04) and Montana Governor Greg Gianforte to discuss critical forest management, wildfire prevention, and desperately-needed reforms.

Episode 4: [Showcasing Rural America](#)
Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Rep. Jodey Arrington (TX-19) and Tom Sell, a member of the Southwest Council of Agribusiness, to discuss the recent West Texas Rural Summit, which showcases many of rural America's priorities, and the challenges facing America's agriculture industry.

Episode 5: [Iowa Agriculture is Committed to Clean Water](#)
Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-02) and Secretary Mike Naig from the Iowa Department of Agriculture to discuss the importance of clean water for Iowa's agriculture industry and how essential it is we maintain the Navigable Waters Protection Rule.

Episode 6: [Nuclear's Role in a Clean Energy Future](#)
Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-03) and U.S. Nuclear Industry Council President & CEO Bud Albright to discuss the critical role of nuclear power in America's clean energy future and how we can work to support and expand innovative nuclear technologies across the United States.

Episode 7: [Western Conservation Principles](#)

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines (MT) and the Property and Environment Research Center's Policy Director Hannah Downey to discuss the science-based, effective conservation practices used by rural communities throughout the West and beyond. They highlight the importance of multiple-use, locally-led land and water management, and conservation partnerships with entities like counties, tribes, landowners, and private companies.

Episode 8: [75 Years of Local Conservation](#)

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Rep. Rick Crawford (AR-01) and National Association of Conservation Districts President Michael Crowder to discuss the importance of locally-led, voluntary conservation as well as producer-led efforts happening in Arkansas and across the country.

Episode 9: [North Dakotan Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead](#)

In this episode of A Voice for Rural America, Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Rep. Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL) and North Dakota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing North Dakota's farmers and ranchers.

Episode 10: [Protecting Rural America from a Weaponized Endangered Species Act](#)

In this two-part episode of A Voice for Rural America, Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by four special guests to discuss how the Western Caucus is working to protect rural America from a weaponized Endangered Species Act. First, Jordan Smith and Tyson Kade from the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition speak with Chairman Newhouse about the proposed changes the Biden Administration is making to the landmark protection law. Then, Rep. August Pfluger (TX-11) and Permian Basin Petroleum Association Vice President Stephen Robertson join to discuss how ESA listings impact rural communities, economies, agriculture, and energy development.

Episode 11: [The Keystone State's Contributions to American Energy Dominance](#)

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Rep. Fred Keller (PA-12) and Coterra Energy's Director of External Affairs George Stark to discuss the recent Congressional Western Caucus natural gas field tour in Pennsylvania, local partnerships fostered by the industry, and the contributions of natural gas producers to Pennsylvania's rural communities.

Episode 12: [Let's Talk Turkeys](#)

Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) is joined by Rep. Michelle Fischbach (MN-07), Minnesota State Rep. John Burkel, and National Turkey Federation President Joel Brandenberger to discuss how Congress can support turkey farmers in Minnesota and across the United States.

OPINION PIECES

[Amplifying voices of South Dakota](#)

By Congressman Dan Newhouse

Published in the *Capital Journal* on February 12, 2021

[Armstrong stands up for ND jobs, American Energy](#)

By Congressman Dan Newhouse

Published in the *Minot Daily News* on February 17, 2021

[Simpson champions local sage-grouse conservation in the West](#)

By Congressman Dan Newhouse

Published in the *Idaho Post-Register* on February 18, 2021

[Biden hypocrisy on critical minerals – Here’s how it hurts U.S. industry, security](#)

By Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Andy Biggs (R-AZ)

Published in *Fox News* on March 15, 2021

[Arrington’s leadership benefits Texas energy dominance](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Jason Modglin, President of Texas Alliance of Energy Producers

Published in *RealClearEnergy* on March 24, 2021

[Rural America is dedicated to clean water](#)

By Reps. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-02) and Dan Newhouse (WA-04)

Published in the *Des Moines Register* on April 14, 2021

[Biden wants to restrict American energy, we want to grow it](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Steve Scalise (R-LA)

Published in the *Tulsa World* on April 23, 2021

[Obama-Biden water rule – Here’s why we must stop this overreach...Again](#)

By Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) and Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA)

Published in *Fox News* on April 23, 2021

[BLM Headquarters in Grand Junction benefits entire country](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Colorado Farm Bureau President Carlyle Carrier

Published in the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel* on May 9, 2021

[Sorting out the problems of the West](#)

By Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)

Published on the *California Globe* on June 3, 2021

[Biden's 1970s energy policy - He's making us more dependent on foreign energy sources](#)

By Reps. Fred Keller (R-PA) and Dan Newhouse (R-WA)
Published in *Fox News* on June 9, 2021

[Follow science, law for Spotted Owl designation](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Josephine County Commissioner Dan DeYoung
Published in the *Medford Mail Tribune* on June 13, 2021

[Endangered species recovery requires flexibility, not strict regulations](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse and Brian Yablonski, CEO of the Property and Environment Research Center
Published in the *Washington Examiner* on June 15, 2021

[For greater sage grouse success, local control matters](#)

Rep. Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL) and Michael Crowder
Published in *The Hill* on June 17, 2021

[Tracy Stone-Manning is dangerous for Washington and for Rural America](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04)
Published in the *Spokesman-Review* on July 21, 2021

[Why is the Biden Administration attacking America's 'Energy Independence?'](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Rep. Carol Miller (WV-03)
Published in *RealClearEnergy* on July 29, 2021

[Bennet and Hickenlooper must secure BLM Headquarters guarantee](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Chelsie Miera
Published in the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel* on July 29, 2021

[California Senators must continue collaborative wildfire advocacy, reject BLM nominee](#)

By Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)
Published in the *Capital Press* on August 6, 2021

[Tree spiking? Population control? Tracy Stone-Manning is too extreme to lead BLM](#)

By Rep. Debbie Lesko (AZ-08) and Steve Pierce
Published in the *AZ Central* on August 13, 2021

[BLM nominee would be bad for Nevada](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and the Honorable Crescent Hardy (NV-04)
Published in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* on August 15, 2021

[Maintain Navigable Waters rule to make homes more affordable](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Chuck Fowke

Published in *The Hill* on August 27, 2021

[President Biden: Act now to prevent catastrophic wildfire](#)

By Reps. Mike Simpson (ID-02), Russ Fulcher (ID-01), and Dan Newhouse (WA-04)

Published in the *Idaho Statesman* on September 15, 2021

[From hog manure to geothermal energy, southern Utah's industry leaders offer conservation ideas](#)

By Reps. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Chris Stewart (UT-02)

Published in the *St. George News* on October 7, 2021

[A blueprint for real conservation](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Senator Steve Daines (MT)

Published in *The Hill* on October 15, 2021

[Celebrating collaboration and innovation in Pennsylvania's natural gas industry](#)

By Reps. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Yvette Herrell (NM-02)

Published in *the Towanka Daily Review* on November 4, 2021

[We can and should dig our own future](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse and Mark Compton

Published in *the Washington Examiner* on November 8, 2021

[Nuclear power: Fulfilling JFK'S vision of conservation through innovation](#)

By Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Maria Korsnick

Published in *Seattle Times* on November 16, 2021