

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 16, 2020

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva;

We, the undersigned members of the House Natural Resources Committee, write to urge you to cease broadcasting partisan, misleading virtual “forums” through the Committee’s webpage, Facebook Live, and YouTube accounts. Broadcasting partisan meetings is in direct violation of Committee Rules, as approved on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

To date, the Majority have held more than a dozen virtual “forums” or “roundtables” through the Committee’s YouTube and Facebook accounts<sup>1</sup>. These meetings have been hyperlinked on the Committee’s “Hearing” webpage and been featured by a live banner on the Committee’s homepage, in a fashion identical to a Committee hearing or markup.<sup>2</sup>

These meetings, which have taken place without Minority involvement, are strictly partisan in nature. With titles such as “Behind the Curtain: The Trump Administration's Fossil Fuel Agenda During the Pandemic,” Minority members and staff have not been given the opportunity to participate in the planning or execution of these meetings, much less offer a witness or prepare members.

However, it is not merely the partisanship or minority omission that we take issue with, but the way these meetings have been portrayed to the American public. By utilizing the same methodology and distribution as official Committee business, these partisan meetings are portrayed as official Committee business. This is deliberately misleading. Further, this portrayal clearly violates Committee Rule 2(c), which states: “Operation and use of any Committee internet broadcast system shall be fair, and nonpartisan, and in accordance with clause 4(b) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.”

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<sup>1</sup> YouTube. *House Natural Resources Democrats -- Videos*. Accessed 5.21.20  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NaturalResourcesDems/videos>

<sup>2</sup> House Committee on Natural Resources. *Committee Hearings – 116<sup>th</sup> Congress*. Accessed 5.21.20.  
<https://naturalresources.house.gov/hearings>

Mr. Chairman, the ongoing use and operation of the Committee's broadcast systems is neither fair, nor bipartisan. Posing these partisan events as hearings is incredibly misleading, and in violation of Committee and House rules. It would be wise for you to review these rules and evaluate potential avenues to operate within them. We have some specific recommendations that could be helpful as you assess options, if you're inclined to work together. In the meantime, we ask that the distribution of these meetings on Committee systems cease immediately.

We look forward to the day in which we can continue our spirited debate on Natural Resources issues in person. Until then, we ask that the Committee rules be followed, and that the broadcast and distribution of these partisan and grossly misleading forums cease immediately.

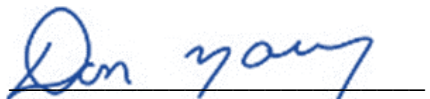
Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



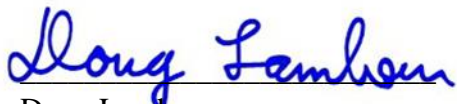
Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



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



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



Amata Coleman Radewagen  
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



John Curtis  
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

CC:

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chairperson, Committee on House Administration

The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, House Committee on House Administration