

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Chair
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Grijalva:

On March 25, 2021, Budget Committee Chairman Yarmuth (D-KY) sent a letter requesting that the Committee on Natural Resources submit its views and estimates relating to the upcoming Fiscal Year 2022 budget resolution by Friday, May 7, 2021.

As noted in Chairman Yarmuth's letter, our committee's views and estimates are a guide for the Budget Committee to construct an appropriate and fiscally responsible budget for matters that fall within the Committee on Natural Resources' jurisdiction.

To ensure that we are good stewards of taxpayer resources, it is incumbent upon us as legislators to engage in vigorous discussions when addressing any budgetary matters. Therefore, critical to constructing a fiscally responsible budget is ensuring that there is robust deliberation of the fiscal realities our nation faces, and that begins with our committee's views and estimates.

To that end, Members of the Committee on Natural Resources, who have been selected based on their subject matter expertise, should be afforded the opportunity to engage in a bipartisan and productive discussion and amendment of our committee's views and estimates as part of a regular order mark-up process. Our committee would not be alone in this pursuit. Various other committees of the House have recognized the significance of such deliberation and made the prudent decision to mark up their views and estimates last congress and will do so again this year.

Now that we have finally organized as a committee, and consistent with Chairman Yarmuth's statement that "views and estimates should be approved by your committee in an open meeting," I am calling on you to hold a markup on this important and time-sensitive matter.

I stand ready to work with you to chart a fiscally responsible course for our nation and the management of our public lands, waters, and resources.

Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources