

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

March 5, 2019

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Bishop:

Thank you for your letter of March 4, sharing your concerns with Committee operations. I sincerely hope we can continue this dialog throughout the Congress.

The Minority's decision to move to adjourn our Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing last week was unfortunate. The similarities between industry schemes to mislead the public regarding cigarettes, traumatic brain injury, and opioids, and the current fossil fuel industry campaign to hide the impacts of climate change, are striking. The only reason to block the hearing was to assist the industry in perpetuating this fraud on the American people.

It is not simply industry attempts to deny science you do not wish the public to hear about; you and other Republicans on the Committee have repeatedly stated that the House Natural Resources Committee should have no interest in the Earth's changing climate at all. That was clearly your belief as Chairman. It is not mine.


The Departments of Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture, and the agencies, bureaus, and natural resources they manage, play significant roles in determining whether the federal government is responding to climate change, or worsening it. Building on the seven we have already held, hearings on this topic, both oversight and legislative, will continue.

For the entirety of your tenure as Chairman, virtually the only focus of this Committee was the economic benefit derived by multinational corporations if Congress would allow drilling, mining, dumping, clear cutting, and burning to happen faster, and with as little environmental review as possible, on federal lands. The shift under Democratic leadership to highlighting the economic impacts when ecosystems are degraded by these activities, or the incredible economic engine of renewable energy development, is significant.

The Committee will continue discussing the critical economic impacts of resource management decisions, but the focus will be on impacted communities and future generations, as opposed to industry profit margins.

Regarding Committee transparency, the Minority is provided extensive information regarding the topic of each hearing, as well as all witness testimony, as it is received. The contention that the Minority further requires a memo from Committee Democrats interpreting that testimony is not credible.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Chair
Committee on Natural Resources