

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

July 15, 2015

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As the House-Senate conference committee finalizes the conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act for 2016, we write to urge you to reject all extraneous provisions on the bill which have nothing to do with national security and would have widespread, negative consequences for the management of our public lands and the conservation of our imperiled wildlife.

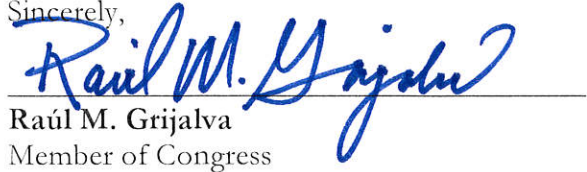
The 2016 Defense Authorization Bills contain numerous, controversial anti-environmental provisions that are unrelated to military readiness. These deceptive provisions would cause irreparable harm to our public lands and wildlife. Many provisions undermine the management of our federal public lands, including lands that are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. One provision even goes so far as to transfer management of as many as 60 million acres of public lands to 11 western states.

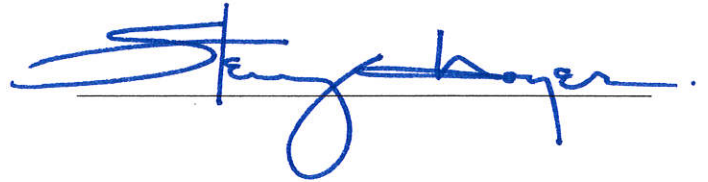
Additional provisions included in the House bill undermine the science-based decision-making process used to protect all wildlife, plants and fish in danger of extinction under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by delaying a listing decision for the greater sage-grouse for at least ten years and legislatively delisting two species currently protected under the ESA – the lesser prairie chicken and the American burying beetle. These are attacks not only on the individual species, but on the ESA itself and are out of step with the American public. A national poll conducted this June found that ninety percent of American voters support this critical law, while seventy-one percent agree that decisions about how to protect species under the ESA should be based on science and made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

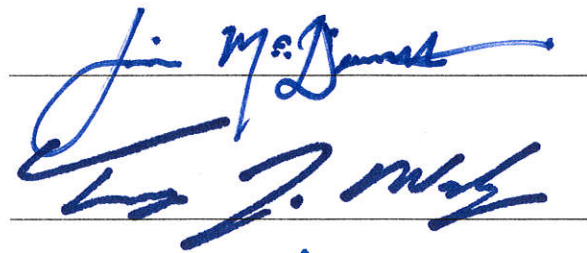
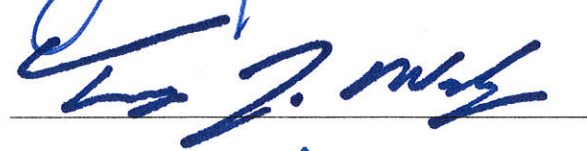
Again, we urge you to stand up for laws that conserve our natural heritage for future generations by removing these attacks on public lands and imperiled species from the final conference report for the NDAA.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

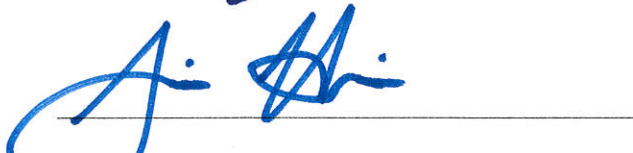
  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

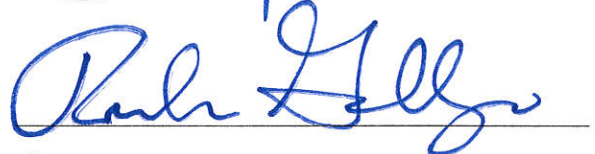


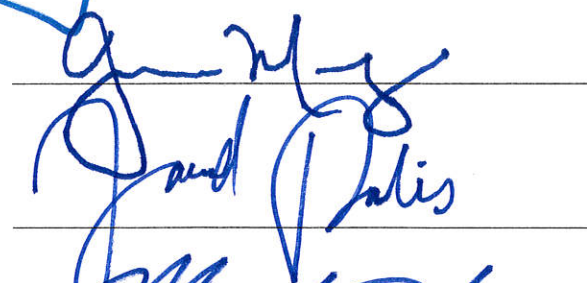
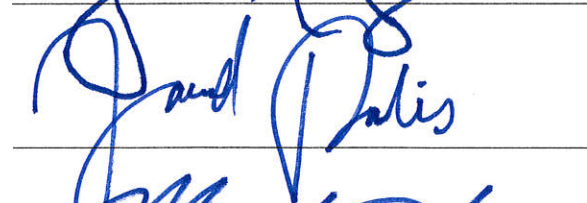
  


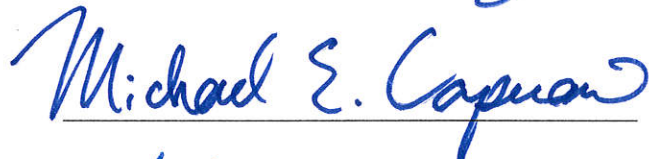




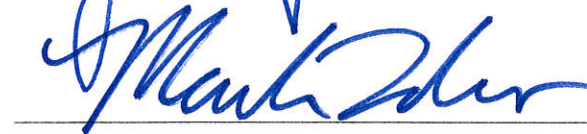


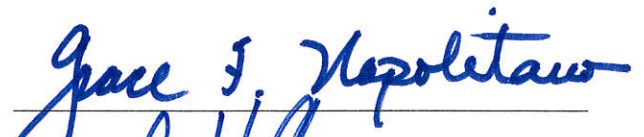


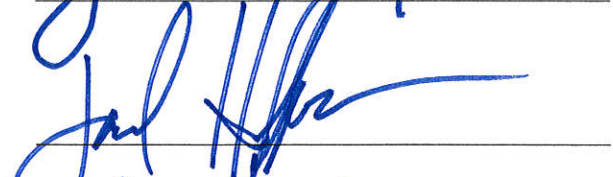


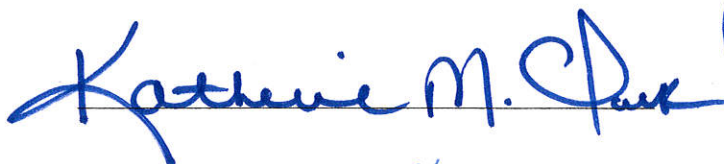






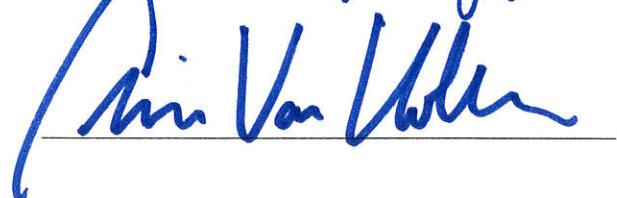












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