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COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES – RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

November 20, 2024

“The times have found us.”
- Thomas Paine, 1776

Dear Colleagues,

Today, House Democrats stand as the most important bulwark against the coming attacks on our fundamental rights, democratic institutions, public lands, frontline and indigenous communities, and the livability of our planet. As we face this historic crucible, I know our Caucus has the talent, dedication and unity of purpose to succeed. And we are off to a strong start with this week’s election of Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries and the rest of our spectacular Leadership Team.

Now, with the shockwave of Trump’s “First 100 Days” agenda about to slam into our committees, effective committee work led by our Ranking Members will be critical to limiting the damage from Trump’s Project 2025 agenda, advancing our affirmative agenda, bolstering members in tough districts, and drawing contrasts that enable Democrats to reclaim the House Majority in 2026 *or sooner* and make Hakeem Jeffries Speaker of the House.

With that imperative as my guidepost, I humbly ask for your support to serve as Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

The work of this Committee is my life’s work. Prior to Congress, I spent my entire professional career working on issues at the core of the Committee’s jurisdiction: as a California legislator chairing environmental committees with jurisdiction over public lands, water, fisheries, and public health; as an environmental attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); and as Board President for a major municipal water district.

For the past twelve years, my work on this Committee has been my highest priority in Congress, including serving as a Subcommittee Chair/Ranking Member for the past ten years. I have worked closely with and learned from three different Democratic leaders of the Committee (Markey, DeFazio, and Grijalva), and count each of them as a friend and mentor. I am ready for this important leadership role.

My candidacy is rooted in four promises about the type of committee leader I will be:

1. **Strong values and clear priorities.** I am a lifelong environmentalist and a former civil rights and environmental lawyer with strong progressive values. My priorities will be climate action, a clean energy economy, protection and restoration of our natural environment, environmental justice, and equity for indigenous peoples and frontline communities. I will protect our public lands and bedrock environmental laws while working to advance serious, science-based policies that benefit people and the environment. My longstanding record on all these matters is second to none.
2. **Seizing opportunities.** Pushing back against GOP extremism in ways that are substantive, strategic, and effective is one of our most powerful tools in the minority. Republicans on the Natural Resources Committee regularly push reckless policies and engage in outrageous partisan stunts, giving us golden opportunities to

draw a contrast for the American people by simply being the adults in the room, and being smart about how and when we fight. I will be a stalwart defender of core values and priorities while maintaining respectful working relationships with Republican leaders so that we can produce bipartisan results whenever possible.

3. **Delivering for members and the Caucus.** I will be a member-focused leader because I consider this a team sport, and part of my job of Ranking Member or Chair is to be accessible, responsive and supportive of each of you. That includes communicating proactively with Committee members and other colleagues who have legislation before the Committee; strategizing with you to produce legislative wins at the Committee; traveling to your district if I can help spotlight achievements, participate in district events, or assist you in getting earned media; and contributing to the broader success of our Caucus.
4. **Being accountable.** Excellent committee work requires engagement, communication, and strategic direction from Ranking Members—it can't all be done by staff. I will take personal responsibility for ensuring this committee runs well. That includes anticipating potential problems, strategizing with members in advance of hearings and markups, and coordinating with Democratic Leadership, other Ranking Members, and the Senate.

Representing the vast, mostly rural North Coast of California gives me a unique perspective because my district includes virtually everything the Natural Resources Committee works on. I represent more indigenous tribes than any district outside of Alaska, along with national parks, national forests and other federal lands, pristine marine sanctuaries, and vital ocean and inland fisheries. My district experiences some of the worst impacts of the climate crisis including extreme drought, devastating wildfires, flooding, sea level rise, toxic algal blooms, and biodiversity loss. But we are also known for innovative solutions and models of resilience—the nation's first and largest floating offshore wind project, ambitious forest management projects incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge, nature-based solutions to protect coastal communities and sequester carbon, and more.

Finally, if I am successful in this campaign, my first action as Ranking Member will be to ask the Caucus to designate our friend and colleague Rep. Raúl Grijalva "Ranking Member Emeritus." He deserves this honor as he enters his final term in Congress, and I would regard it as more than a title: I would look to him as a key partner in guiding the Committee through the challenges and opportunities of the next two years.

I look forward to speaking with each of you in the days ahead. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Huffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jared Huffman