February 24, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

You will soon consider H.R. 803, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021 (Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act). On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support the following amendments to H.R. 803:

Amendment 5 by Reps. Blake Moore (R-Utah) and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) that no wilderness or potential wilderness designation under this Act shall be effective in any county where the county has not formally approved such designation.

Amendment 10 by Reps. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), and Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) requiring approval of local counties before mineral withdrawal can take place.

Amendment 11 by Reps. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), and Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) that this Act shall not apply to any lands or waters in Colorado’s Third and Fifth Congressional District or any lands, waters, or minerals in Arizona’s Fourth Congressional District.

Amendment 12 by Reps. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), and Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) that this Act shall not apply to any lands or waters in Colorado’s Third Congressional District.

Amendment 25 by Reps. David McKinley (R-W.Va.) and Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.) that adds the National Heritage Area Act of 2021 to the bill, which establishes a system of national heritage areas (NHAs) and brings uniformity to the way NHAs are designated, managed, and assessed and provides Congress the ability to conduct oversight of the program.

Amendment 26 by Reps. Yvette Herrell (R-N.M.) and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) that strikes all “Potential Wilderness” designations in the bill.

Amendment 27 by Reps. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) that excludes lands in the Fourth Congressional District of Arizona from the permanent mineral withdrawal under this Act.

Amendment 29 by Reps. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) that delays the permanent mineral withdrawal under the Act until the Secretary of the Interior completes a mineral survey of proposed withdrawal area (including uranium, rare earth elements, geothermal resources and oil and natural gas) and determines there are no mineral resources, geothermal resources, or critical minerals present other than uranium.

Amendment 45 by Reps. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) that allows the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior to exempt any wilderness or potential wilderness designated under this Act that does not meet the definition of wilderness under the Wilderness Act.
Amendment 47 by Reps. John Curtis (R-Utah), David McKinley (R-W.Va.), and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) that requires a study to determine if any land withdrawn by this legislation contains geothermal resources, or minerals needed for battery storage, renewable energy technology, or electric vehicles.

Amendment 50 by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) that states that this Act shall not take effect until the Secretary of the Interior certifies that no renewable energy jobs have been lost as a result of this Act.

Amendment 54 by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) and Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) that states nothing in this Act shall prohibit development of new renewable hydroelectric energy and associated transmission lines and rights of way within the wild and scenic designations, wilderness designations, or wilderness study area designations under this Act.

Amendment 68 by Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) that ensures nothing in the bill would affect the establishment, access, operation, or maintenance of transmission right-of-ways.

All votes on H.R. 803 will be among those considered in CCAGW’s 2021 Congressional Ratings.

Sincerely,

Tom Schatz

President, CCAGW