



## Congressional Western Caucus

**Chairman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S**

[Congress In Review](#)



# Chairman



When Congressman Paul Gosar was elected Chairman, he did so under the promises to **1)** grow membership and establish a strong executive leadership team, **2)** continue education and engagement-building trips and meetings, **3)** draft legislation and amendments and provide other legislative support for CWC members, **4)** grow the CWC brand on social media and broaden its influence in Congress, and **5)** pass caucus bylaws governing caucus structure and decision-making.

In the pages to follow, you will see that the Western Caucus accomplished all this and much more under Chairman Gosar's leadership in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

As a result, the CWC is positioned to be an even bigger player across the Congressional landscape in 2019.

This has only been made possible by the engagement and diligence of our Members and staff. Thank you for helping make this Congress a major success.

The Western Caucus is on 

## TOP 30 Highlights of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress:

- 1) [Recruited 49 new dues-paying members and increased membership to 79 total members.](#)
- 2) [Spearheaded introduction of 14 Congressional Review Act bills that rolled back Obama regulations; 3 were signed into law, and 8 were acted on by the Administration.](#)
- 3) [Secured additional \\$576.5 million for wildfires and active forest management language.](#)
- 4) [Blocked the Obama Administration's power-grabbing BLM Planning 2.0 Rule via law.](#)
- 5) [Passed active forest management provisions and budget fix into law.](#)
- 6) [Spearheaded effort that cancelled the 425,000-acre Obama land grab in Minnesota.](#)
- 7) [Key role in bill passed into law to Protect Pacific Northwest Fisheries.](#)
- 8) [Led successful effort to scrap Obama's 10-million-acre Sage Grouse mineral withdrawal.](#)
- 9) [Authored bipartisan Endangered Species Act Modernization Package; unprecedented rollout, 170+ endorsements, hearing on 9 bills, 4 bills passed Committee.](#)
- 10) [Passed the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act into law; 300 votes in House.](#)
- 11) [Spearheaded effort to reverse the Obama Administration's job-killing WOTUS Rule.](#)
- 12) [Prevented a new "dirt tax" and new fees for hardrock mining in President's budget.](#)
- 13) [Authored and passed provision into law to expand Good Neighbor forest management authority to counties.](#)
- 14) [Led Congressional effort on monument review that shrunk footprint in Utah by over 2 million acres.](#)
- 15) [Prevented the sale off the transmission assets of the PMAs within DOE.](#)
- 16) [Led Congressional effort to scrap Obama's duplicative EPA CERCLA Rule.](#)
- 17) [Passed provision into law to open up Section 1002 of ANWR for energy production.](#)
- 18) [Spearheaded effort to unwind the Obama Admin's land grab via Sage Grouse Plan Amendments.](#)
- 19) [Blocked outrageous fee increases that threatened whitewater rafting and outfitter jobs.](#)
- 20) [Passed 30+ Interior Approps amendments in House including preventing a listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken.](#)
- 21) [Passed bill through House to protect the operations of the four Lower Snake River Dams.](#)
- 22) [Attached streamlined permitting for critical and strategic minerals to the House NDAA.](#)
- 23) [Ensured strong forestry title & healthy crop of Caucus' priorities in Farm Bill.](#)
- 24) [Authored and passed provision through the House to modernize ESA habitat requirements.](#)
- 25) [Blocked an Obama Rule by law that harmed hunting and wildlife management in Alaska.](#)
- 26) [Spearheaded effort to secure a 5-year offshore plan that recognizes energy dominance.](#)
- 27) [Passed legislation through House & convinced the Administration to build life-saving road in AK.](#)
- 28) [Spearheaded successful passage of the MINER Act through the House.](#)
- 29) [Authored House-passed amendment redirecting \\$32.5 million to reclaim abandoned mines.](#)
- 30) [Passed legislation that creates a one-stop permitting process for new water storage projects in 17 Western states.](#)

## Other Caucus Milestones in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress:

- 1) Transformed the Western Caucus into the most effective Congressional entity on the Hill.
- 2) Passed Caucus bylaws at first member meeting – a campaign promise kept.
- 3) Recruited Rep. Schrader to make Caucus bipartisan. He has backed numerous initiatives.
- 4) Increased annual Caucus revenues from \$117,000 to \$317,250.
- 5) Established monthly Member meeting with speakers including Secretaries Zinke, Perry, Chao & Perdue, Administrator Wheeler, Director Mulvaney and Commissioner Burman. Catered lunch provided.
- 6) Gathered thousands of endorsements for Members bills, letters and initiatives.
- 7) Designed and launched completely redesigned Caucus website, Instagram page and newsletter.
- 8) Issued 122 press releases featuring a total of 839 unique quotes from Caucus Members.
- 9) Phenomenal educational trips to Alaska, Montana, Arizona, Nevada and Colorado.
- 10) Grown the CWC brand on social media; no real use of graphics prior.

# Membership

1. Ralph Abraham (LA-05)\*
2. Mark Amodei (NV-02)
3. Brian Babin (TX-36)\*
4. Don Bacon (NE-02)\*
5. Jim Banks (IN-03)\*
6. Andy Biggs (AZ-05)\*
7. Rob Bishop (UT-01)
8. Kevin Brady (TX-08)\*
9. Ken Buck (CO-04)
10. Ken Calvert (CA-42)\*
11. Liz Cheney (WY-At Large)\*
12. Mike Coffman (CO-06)
13. Doug Collins (GA-09)
14. Mike Conaway (TX-11)
15. Paul Cook (CA-08)\*
16. Kevin Cramer (ND-At Large)
17. Rick Crawford (AR-01)\*
18. John Curtis (UT-03)\*
19. Jeff Duncan (SC-03)
20. Tom Emmer (MN-06)\*
21. Ron Estes (KS-04)\*
22. Bill Flores (TX-17)\*
23. Bob Gibbs (OH-07)\*
24. Greg Gianforte (MT-At Large)\*
25. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)\*
26. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (PR-At Large)\*
27. Morgan Griffith (VA-09)\*
28. Paul Gosar (AZ-04)
29. Garret Graves (LA-06)
30. Jamie Herrera Beutler (WA-03)\*
31. Jody Hice (GA-10)\*
32. George Holding (NC-02)\*
33. Duncan Hunter (CA-50)\*
34. Lynn Jenkins (KS-02)
35. Bill Johnson (OH-06)\*
36. Mike Johnson (LA-04)\*
37. Jim Jordan (OH-04)\*
38. Mike Kelly (PA-03)
39. Steve King (IA-04)\*
40. Raul Labrador (ID-01)
41. Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)
42. Doug Lamborn (CO-05)
43. Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)\*
44. Mia Love (UT-04)
45. Frank Lucas (OK-03)\*
46. Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-03)\*
47. Roger Marshall (KS-01)\*
48. Kevin McCarthy (CA-23)
49. Tom McClintock (CA-04)
50. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)
51. Martha McSally (AZ-02)\*
52. Mark Meadows (NC-11)\*
53. Alex Mooney (WV-02)
54. Markwayne Mullin (OK-02)
55. Dan Newhouse (WA-04)
56. Kristi Noem (SD-At Large)
57. Ralph Norman (SC-05)\*
58. Pete Olson (TX-22)\*
59. Steve Pearce (NM-02)
60. Aumua Amata Radewagen (AS-AL)\*
61. Tom Reed (NY-23)
62. Dennis Ross (FL-15)
63. Paul Ryan (WI-01)\*
64. Steve Scalise (LA-01)
65. Kurt Schrader (OR-05)\*
66. David Schweikert (AZ-06)
67. Pete Sessions (TX-32)\*
68. Mike Simpson (ID-02)
69. Jason Smith (MO-08)\*
70. Lamar Smith (TX-21)
71. Chris Stewart (UT-02)
72. Glenn Thompson (PA-05)
73. Scott Tipton (CO-03)
74. David Valadao (CA-21)
75. Greg Walden (OR-02)
76. Mimi Walters (CA-45)
77. Bruce Westerman (AR-04)
78. Ted Yoho (FL-03)\*
79. Don Young (AK-At Large)

\* Indicated new Member in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

# Graphics & Design

The Caucus has taken a new approach to design under Chairman Gosar, providing members with visually appealing content on the issues of the day for use in social media and other communications. Contact [Emilio.Navarrete@mail.house.gov](mailto:Emilio.Navarrete@mail.house.gov) if you have a graphic idea and want the Caucus to get involved.

## Some examples:



A small showing of the Caucus' design portfolio. Check out our instagram for more

**BREAKING**  
2:30 P.M. EST  
SALT LAKE CITY

**TRUMP SHRINKS UTAH LAND GRABS**

and **MAINTAINS PROTECTIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC & HISTORIC ARTIFACTS**



# Social Media

The Caucus grew in social media reach substantially this Congress by releasing graphics, press releases and reposting our members' content. Our members also took advantage of our content by sharing it around.

## Social Media Quick Hits:

- Boosted net [Twitter](#) followers from 2654 --> 3536 (882 gain)
- Boosted net [Facebook](#) likes from 1410 --> 2738 (1,328 gain)
- Launched Caucus [Instagram](#) page on September 22, 2017 garnering 508 followers since launching.

### Most-engaged Caucus tweet -->



### Most engagement for Caucus-provided tweet -->



←-- The Caucus spends a lot of its social media capital boosting the efforts of its other members on the floor, in committee, and in the media.

## Monthly Member Meeting

The Monthly Member Meeting is a new Caucus opportunity introduced by Chairman Gosar that connects Members with Administration and other officials over a catered lunch. Our members this Congress had the opportunity to hear from: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry, EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, OMB Director Mick Mulvaney, Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, BOR Commissioner Brenda Burman, the U.S. Forest Service Chief and numerous others.



## Monthly Staff Policy Breakfast

This Congress, the Western Caucus Foundation hosted bicameral monthly staff policy briefings in the Capitol Building. These meetings draw a big, standing-room-only crowd because they keep member offices up-to-date on land, water and energy issues at the Congressional level while also giving a voice to important issues from outside the beltway. 100-120 House and Senate staffers, staff from multiple federal agencies, leadership and committee staff as well as speakers from industry attend this monthly staff policy meeting.





# Western Caucus in the Field

Chairman Gosar believes that a great way for members and staff from all over the United States to learn about important policy issues is to see, feel and experience them firsthand. Accordingly, educational trips in partnership with the Western Caucus Foundation are another critical service provided by the Caucus.

## Arizona



## Colorado



Montana



## Alaska



Nevada/Arizona



# Our Legislative Packages

## CRA Package



Western Caucus hit the ground running in the new Congress [introducing a package of 14 bills](#) on the first day possible to overturn job-killing rules from the Obama Administration utilizing the Congressional Review Act (CRA). In total, the House passed 15 CRA bills, four of which were spearheaded by the Western Caucus. Eight other overreaching regulations targeted by the Western Caucus through legislation have subsequently been addressed by executive action and three of our bills were signed into law.

## Bipartisan Endangered Species Act Modernization Package



On July 12, the Western Caucus rolled out an important bipartisan ESA modernization package comprised of 9 bills that has earned the endorsement of 170+ industry groups and individuals. The package addresses the shortcomings of the ESA by fixing the listing process, adding framework for a clear de-listing process, addressing the petition backlog issue, removing unnecessary impediments to economic development, involving state and local input, and creating a mechanism that facilitates voluntary conservation efforts. All 9 of our bills received a hearing and 4 of them passed Committee. Click [here](#) to view our landing page.

# A Few of Our Other Legislative Victories

## H.R. 1873 by Rep. LaMalfa



## H.R. 2936 by Rep. Westerman



## H.Amdt.647 by Rep. Amodei



## H.Amdt.598 by Rep. Young



## H.R. 2907 by Rep. Tipton



## H.R. 1654 by Rep. McClintock



## H.R.3144, by Reps. McMorris Rodgers, Newhouse, Walden, Schrader and Herrera Beutler



# Caucus-led Letters

## **Western Caucus letter securing an additional \$576.5 million for wildfires**

- On 10/4/17, 32 Members sent OMB Director Mulvaney a letter asking that the Administration send Congress a proposal that includes comprehensive forest management and wildland fire budgeting reforms as part of disaster relief.
- This effort was successful and resulted in \$576.5 million for wildfires and strong active forest management language. [Press Release](#) | [Letter](#)

## **Western Caucus letter to Budget Committee preserving PMA assets**

- 52 Members signed onto a letter led by **Reps. Gosar, Schrader, Newhouse and Tipton** requesting that the Budget Committee not include provisions in the FY'18 budget which aim at selling off the transmission assets of DOE's Power Marketing Administrations.
- The Budget Committee eventually heeded our advice and did not include the provisions in question in the House's FY'18 budget. [Press Release](#) | [Letter](#)

## **Western Caucus letter to EPA Admin. requesting CERCLA rule rollback**

- On 7/31/17, 42 Members sent a letter to EPA Administrator expressing concerns about Obama-proposed financial responsibility requirements for hardrock mining companies.
- Subsequently, the EPA [announced on 12/01/17](#) that it would be issuing no final financial requirement regulations, listing equivalent reasons as contained in our original letter as justification. [Press Release](#) | [Letter](#)

## **Western Caucus letter requesting President Trump reduce political monuments**

- 24 Members signed onto the letter, and in his Utah announcement on December 6, 2017, President Trump acted on some of our recommendations as pertains to the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante Monuments, shrinking over 2,000,000 acres and devolving land from 'monument' to assorted federal statuses. [Press Release](#) | [Letter](#)

## **Western Caucus letter on Dirt Tax and other new fees for hardrock mining**

- The Caucus caught wind that career employees were pushing for a new "dirt tax" and new fees for the hardrock mining industry in President Trump's budget.
- On May 3, 2017, 45 members of Congress [wrote](#) opposing including these four misguided proposals and successfully blocked these new taxes. [Letter](#)

## **Western Caucus letter that blocked outrageous fee increases for guides and outfitters**

- In April, 20 Members raised concerns that a new NPS' prospectus would have negative consequences on whitewater rafting and the visitor experience.
- NPS agreed with the Caucus and cancelled proposals to impose exorbitant fees on guides and outfitters that would have harmed tourism and killed jobs. [Press Release](#) | [Letter](#)

## **Western Caucus letter requesting the President implement coordination**

- 22 Members signed a letter led by **Reps. Buck, LaMalfa, Gosar and Thompson** urging federal agencies to coordinate with state and local governments.
- Included with the letter was a draft Executive Order which would effectively implement coordination on land use planning and other regulatory actions. [Press Release](#) | [Letter](#)



# Interior Appropriations

## *Programmatic & language request letters*

The Western Caucus attacks every aspect of the appropriations process. This includes authoring dozens of programmatic and member language letters in early March to get our members' priorities into base appropriations bills. In total, we submitted more than 50 Caucus generated requests this Congress. Some of the Caucus-drafted requests are below:

- ➤ [Western Caucus Members Marshall and Gosar lead effort to prevent funds for the Obama Administration's Waters of the United States \(WOTUS\) rule.](#)
- ➤ [Western Caucus Member Flores and Reps. Olson and Latta lead language request to harmonize EPA's 2008 and 2015 ozone standards.](#)
- ➤ [Western Caucus Member Cramer leads language request to prevent funds for carrying out the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan.](#)
- ➤ [Western Caucus Member McSally leads programmatic request to ensure the Secure Rural Schools program is fully-funded in FY18.](#)
- ➤ [Western Caucus Member Biggs leads programmatic request that reduces EPA's enforcement budget by 20%.](#)
- ➤ [Western Chairman Emeritus Pearce leads language request to prevent funds for carrying out a listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken.](#)
- ➤ [Western Caucus Vice-Chairman Tipton seeks to prohibit government agencies from circumventing state law and encroaching on private water rights.](#) □

## *Caucus Appropriations Amendments*

The Caucus generated more than 50 appropriations amendment drafts this Congress, containing both summaries and draft language. The Caucus notified Member offices of the opportunity to select & introduce the amendments noted above on a first-come, first-serve basis. Member engagement was substantial. Some of the Amendments that passed the House include:

- Pearce (R-NM) – amendment prohibiting the use of funds to carry out any rule-making on the status of the Lesser Prairie Chicken.
- Smith (R-MO) – amendment preventing the payment of attorney's fees as part of settlement agreements entered into by the Federal Government.
- Mullin (R-OK) amendment prohibiting the use of funds for enforcing the Obama Administration's EPA Methane Rule.
- Newhouse (R-WA) amendment prohibiting the use of funds to reintroduce grizzly bears into certain areas in the State of Washington.
- Stewart (R-UT) – amendment allowing the Department of Interior to use sterilization in the management of wild horses and burros.
- Amodei (R-NV) – amendment prohibits funding to require the transfer of groundwater rights as a condition for approving certain permits.
- Johnson (R-OH), Griffith (R-VA) – amendments redirects \$30,000,000 to the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and allows more states to participate in the program.

# Pushing our Members' Agenda

In addition to the Caucus' substantial role interfacing with Members, Committees, Leadership and the Administration on Caucus priorities, the Caucus spends a considerable amount of time promoting our Members' bills, amendments and other initiatives. Here is a sample of some of the initiatives the Caucus pushed:

- **Reps. Cook (CA-08) and Gosar (AZ-04)** seek cosponsors for H.R. 3270, Historic Routes Preservation Act.
- **Rep. Liz Cheney (WY-At Large)** seeks signers for a letter to the White House on the state of the domestic uranium industry.
- **Rep. McClintock (CA-04)** seeks signers for a letter to the USFS chief on the regulation of over-snow vehicles (OSV).
- **Rep. Hunter (CA-50)** seeks cosponsors for H.R. 788, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act.
- **Senators Daines (MT) and Hoeven (ND) and Congressman Gianforte's (MT-At Large)** seek signers urging Administration to get Keystone XL over the finish line.
- **Rep. Stewart (UT-02)** Seeks Co-Signers on Letter to USTR regarding China 301 tariffs and exemptions for certain hunting, camping, motorized, and outdoor recreation.
- **Rep. Crawford (AR-01)** seeks cosponsors for H.R. 6178, the Honest Operators Undertake Road Safety Act.
- **Rep. Emmer (MN-06)** seeks signers for a letter supporting the PolyMet land exchange in the NDAA .
- **Rep. Curtis (UT-03)** seeks cosponsors for H.R. 6088, the Streamlining Permitting Efficiencies in Energy Development (SPEED) Act.
- **Reps. LaMalfa (CA-01) and Young (AK-At Large)** invite members to sign a bipartisan letter to support NAWCA funding in FY19.
- **Chairman Conaway (TX-11)** seeks cosigners for a letter supporting Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loans.
- **Rep. Gianforte (MT-At Large)** invites you sign letter urging action to clarify the current exemption for recreational horse trailers.
- **Rep. Johnson (LA-04)** seeks cosponsors for H.R. 3593, Securing Our Borders and Wilderness Act.
- **Rep. Graves (LA-09)** seeks Cosponsors for H.R. 2996, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Reform Act of 2017.
- **Reps. Thompson (PA-15) and Tipton (CO-03)** seek support for funding the U.S. Forest Service large air tanker program in the FY 2018.
- **Reps. Scalise (LA-01), Bishop (UT-01), Cuellar (TX-28) and González (TX-15)** seek cosponsors for H.R. 4329, the SECURE American Energy Act.
- **Rep. King (IA-04)** seeks cosponsors for H.R. 4599, the Protect Interstate Commerce Act (PICA).
- As wildfires continue to rage across the west, **Rep. Simpson (ID-02)** invites your boss to cosponsor H.R. 2862 the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act.
- **Reps. Gohmert (TX-01) and Babin (TX-36)** seek cosponsors for H.R. 2603, the Save America's Vulnerable Endangered Species Act.
- **Rep. Cramer (ND)** seeks cosigners on letter supporting cutting edge-clean coal research.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Congressional Western Caucus was founded during the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress in 1993. In 2018, we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was our featured speaker at our celebration and there were numerous people that have helped make the Caucus great over the years in attendance. The Western Caucus has never been stronger and will continue to be a dominant force on Capitol Hill.

