



December 10, 2024

RE: Former Natural Resources Committee Leaders Support Jared Huffman for Ranking Member

Dear Democratic Members of Congress:

During our careers in Congress, each of us was honored to lead the House Natural Resources Committee as either Chair or Ranking Member. We know what it takes to effectively lead this important committee, and we know that strong, experienced and effective committee leadership will be more important than ever in the 119th Congress. That is why we are writing to urge your support for Jared Huffman to be the next Ranking Member of Natural Resources.

We have worked with Jared and continue to follow and appreciate his dedicated leadership on all of the issues within the committee's jurisdiction. We can attest that he has the experience, leadership qualities, environmental policy expertise, intense work ethic, and collaborative approach required to be an outstanding leader for the Committee and House Democrats on natural resources issues. We have seen firsthand how essential it is to balance the technical aspects of environmental policy with a deep understanding of the communities affected by those policies; to draw the line against Republican attacks on our environment while maintaining constructive working relationships to achieve bipartisan results whenever possible; to honor the intergenerational trust of protecting public lands and sacred sites from shortsighted exploitation and degradation; and to ensure that underserved communities including tribal and indigenous voices are not only included in conversations about the committee's work, but are lifted up and empowered. In all of these respects, Jared has proven his leadership again and again over the course of his 12 years in Congress.

Finally, Jared is a leader who listens, learns, and continues to grow as all good leaders should. He has shown an impressive commitment to understanding and helping his colleagues with unique circumstances facing their constituents, including visiting their districts and always doing more than his share to support the Caucus and members. Jared understands that congressional Democrats are a team, and he works hard to make the team stronger. House Democrats could not ask for a more qualified, proven, and ready-to-lead Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Committee. We urge members of the Steering and Policy Committee and the broader Democratic Caucus to join us in supporting him.

Sincerely,

Peter DeFazio
Former Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
Member of Congress (1987-2023)

Nick J. Rahall, II
Former Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
Member of Congress (1977-2015)

George Miller
Former Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
Member of Congress (1975-2015)