



December 16, 2024

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Chair, Democratic Steering and Policy Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Democratic Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and its 1.7 million members and supporters I am writing to offer our strong support for Congressman Jared Huffman to be the next Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Congressman Huffman has shown exemplary leadership throughout his career fighting to uphold the nation's bedrock environmental laws that protect our public lands, air and water, and this nation's endangered species. During the 118th Congress, Congressman Huffman stood firm against over 130 attacks on the Endangered Species Act and held the line against unprecedented attacks targeting marine mammals, public lands, and the National Environmental Policy Act. He has introduced critical legislation including the Arctic Refuge Protection Act and Canyon's Law, which would ban the use of wildlife-killing cyanide bombs on public lands.

Congressman Huffman has also fought off some of the most pernicious attacks on public participation, access to the courts, and environmental justice. During the first Trump administration, Congressman Huffman spearheaded critical oversight of Trump's numerous illegal actions and environmental rollbacks, and he was a vital voice raising awareness about the dangers of a second Trump term and Project 2025's devastating agenda for our democracy, reproductive freedom, and fundamental rights across America.

Congressman Huffman's leadership will be needed in the 119th Congress as Republicans will escalate their attacks on our core environmental laws, including those under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Natural Resources. He has the experience and the conviction to stand up to radical, anti-environmental Republicans as they continue their single-minded agenda to recklessly expand fossil fuel extraction on our public lands and waters.

President Trump's second administration will be far worse, far more aggressive, and far more willing to disregard the rule of law, even if it results in catastrophic and irreparable harm to our environment and climate. Responding to and defending against this agenda will require extraordinary leadership. This is an all-hands-on-deck moment, and we are confident that Congressman Huffman is ready for this challenge.

Sincerely,

Kieran Suckling
Executive Director
Center for Biological Diversity