



WESTERN LEADERS NETWORK CALLS ON HOUSE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT PUBLIC LANDS RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ACT

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Today, Western Leaders Network, a nonpartisan nonprofit network of 300 local and tribal elected leaders from the eight Interior West states, sent a letter of support for the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act to Congressmen and committee members Raul Grijalva and Rob Bishop, calling for the committee to advance the legislation to promote responsible, modernized production of renewable energy on public lands while ensuring that states and communities see the financial benefits.

“Energy production is the backbone of so many local western economies, and as local elected officials we are responsible for maintaining economic stability in our communities. We bear a financial burden every time federal lands are leased for renewable energy within our counties and municipalities, and this legislation would create a revenue-sharing policy for impacted states and counties – something that exists for fossil fuel production, but not for renewable energy projects,” Western Leaders Network Executive Director Gwen Lachelt said. “Not only this, but by modernizing the renewable energy leasing model, PLREDA would help us address climate change and transition to clean, renewable sources of energy.”

The letter urged the House committee to move toward a cleaner energy future, support local governments and their constituencies, and advance the bill for the benefit of communities across the West.

Background

The Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act was introduced in the 115th Congress with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. The legislation would equally distribute the revenue collected from renewable energy development on public lands to states, counties, a wildlife and land conservation fund, and the Bureau of Land Management to facilitate permitting of renewable energy projects. It would also direct the Department of Interior to identify priority areas for renewable energy projects.