



March 1, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and House Committee on Natural Resources Members,

I write to draw your attention to an urgent matter of national importance. Specifically, I urge you to renew and expand the 2018 investigation initiated by the esteemed Committee on Natural Resources focused on foreign influence on U.S. natural resources and environmental policy.

In 2018, the Committee began an investigation of China's covert influence on American policy, specifically the actions of the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). On June 20, 2018 the Committee sent a letter to CBD's Executive Director, Kieran Suckling, seeking information on CBD's work on behalf of foreign entities and non-U.S.-based environmental groups. The letter also sought clarification on CBD's status as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, as well as information on the group's efforts to hinder U.S. military presence and operations. Similar letters were sent to other environmental groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and Earthjustice.

The Center for Biological Diversity has spent more than \$100 million over the last several years on frivolous lawsuits and bullying policy makers to carry out their extremist objectives. Congress should investigate the sources of these funds which have been used to defame innocent ranchers, bully congressmen, and file frivolous lawsuits against Americans.

Given recent revelations about foreign monitoring and operations in the US, including a recent expose from Bloomberg titled "Russia and China Have a Stranglehold on the World's Food Security,"¹ It is a national security imperative that Congress investigate any foreign influence

¹Alan Crawford, Frank Jomo, Elizabeth Elkin and Matthew Bristow. "Russia and China Have a Stranglehold on the World's Food Security." Bloomberg, February 19, 2023, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2023-02-20/feed-the-world-without-fertilizer-why-crop-nutrients-are-suddenly-political#xj4y7vzkg>.



March 1, 2023

over our natural resources that impacts agriculture and the raw critical minerals needed to ensure healthy crops and the ability for America's farmers to feed America's families.

We urge you to expand this investigation in order to uncover and expose China's, and other foreign interests', potential attempts to use front groups like the Center for Biological Diversity and other non-profit environmental groups. You have a solemn duty to protect our nation's critical assets, and I am confident that you share the commitment of Americans across our country and in your district who believe we must keep our natural resources, environment and industries secure from undue foreign influence.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to working with you to address this challenge and ensure that our nation's natural resources remain secure and protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SJC", with a period at the end.

Steve Crim
Executive Director
Common Sense America

Enclosure: Copy of June 20, 2018 Letter to the Center for Biological Diversity from the House Committee on Natural Resources