

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:


We write to urge for the inclusion of H.R.2787/S. 1577, the *East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*, in the final conferenced Energy Bill package that is currently being negotiated. This bill, which passed with unanimous, bipartisan support from the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in July of this year, is broadly supported, from the entire Montana delegation, including Senator Jon Tester, all the way down to the local business and ranching community. The bipartisan Energy bill, which includes a series of land designation bills under discussion in conference negotiations, poses a unique opportunity to protect the East Rosebud, which is renowned for its incredible and diverse recreational opportunities that represent the very best of what Montana has to offer.

East Rosebud Creek, which cuts through the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, is a celebrated location for quality fishing, hunting, hiking, and some of the most pristine views that define Montana as the Last Best Place. Our bill would ensure 20 miles of the creek would be officially protected under the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* so generation after generation of Montanans and tourists alike can enjoy this spectacular area. The bill protects historical uses like agriculture, recreation, and motorized uses. It was also important to ensure activities occurring outside the protected river segment can continue, so the Senate companion bill, S. 1577, was amended to include this critical language.

It is a testimony to Montana's collaborative spirit that the *East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* features unique support across the state. Local involvement from the very beginning of the process has fostered unique collaborations among ranchers, conservation groups, recreationists, homeowners, and county commissioners. This is precisely how land management decisions should be made and why we strongly support this bill's advancement.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on a path forward.

Sincerely,


STEVE DAINES
U.S. Senator


RYAN ZINKE
Member of Congress