

HARRIET HAGEMAN

WYOMING'S CONGRESSWOMAN

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Hello Laura,

This past week has been a busy one both in Washington, D.C. and Wyoming, as I spent time attending events, touring businesses, meeting with constituents, and visiting with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to learn more about their immediate, short-term, and long-term response to the Elk Fire in the Big Horn Mountains in northern Wyoming.

Although the House of Representatives is not in session in D.C. right now, I am continuing to focus on my legislative priorities as we finish out the 118th Congress. Just in the last few days I introduced two new pieces of legislation, signed an amicus brief opposing proxy voting (challenging the legality of Pelosi's 2022 "omnibus spending bill" for lack of a quorum), and joined a letter calling out the Biden-Harris administration's continued support of housing illegal aliens on federal lands.

Keep reading below to learn more about these important issues!

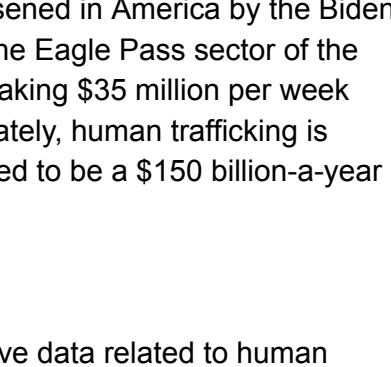
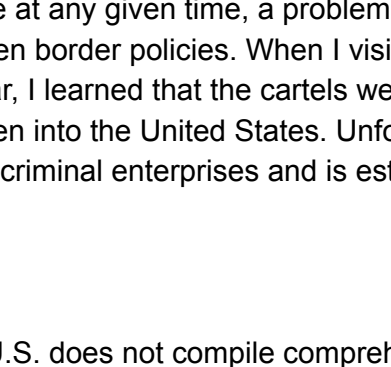
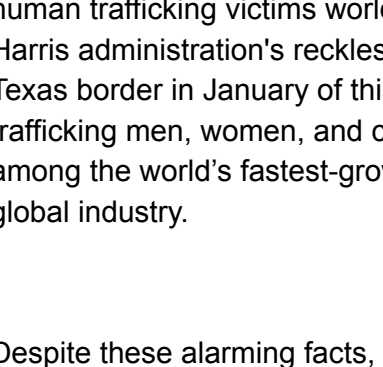
Elk Fire Update and Resources

Many of you have recently reached out to my office regarding the wildfires raging through northern Wyoming and burning hundreds of thousands of acres in our state. My staff and I have been staying closely engaged in relation to these challenging conditions and catastrophes, most recently in response to the Elk Fire that has so far burned 92,487 acres of land while being only 28% contained.

On Monday, I spent time with several officials from the Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team, first in receiving a briefing as to the on-the-ground situation then spending several hours touring the fire-impacted area and surrounding lands. I have also had the opportunity to visit with local landowners, stakeholders, forest permittees, and community leaders to stay abreast of conditions and to try to develop a plan for addressing their concerns.

While on site, I met with numerous firefighters; specialty teams (helicopter and fire behavior experts); leaders of the ground operations; and those developing the strategy for extinguishing the fire while also protecting high value assets such as homes, outbuildings, pastures, and Sheridan's water supply. I was heartened to learn that some of the most highly qualified teams in the region are handling the fire, and many of the team members live right here in Wyoming. With a fire crew of nearly 1,000 personnel and 13 aircraft, multiple crews, scores of engines, heavy equipment, and a variety of other types of machinery, I am confident and was assured that the Incident Management Team has the resources they need to fight the fire.

Efforts by firefighting crews to contain and slow the fire's progress include securing boundary lines such as the 7-mile-long control line from Big Goose Creek to Red Grade Road and clearing flammable debris. Strategic fire operations north of Burgess Junction, aerial water drops, and continued patrols have also assisted in reducing potential fire movement and intensity. For the latest updates on the Elk Fire, [click here](#).



I greatly appreciate everyone in the state who have spent so much of their time and energy this year fighting fires, providing support, feeding our firefighters and first responders, hauling equipment, and protecting homes and businesses. This has been the worst fire season in Wyoming of my lifetime, with so many family members, friends, and fellow Wyomingites affected.

I hope the forecasted moisture will finally put an end to the destruction, allow us to regroup, and provide a much-needed breather to assess the short- and long-term situation.

My Bill Would Fast-Track Resolutions for DOI Disputes

On Friday, I introduced the [Expedited Appeals Review Act](#), the purpose of which is to address a longstanding problem within the Department of the Interior (DOI) and appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). Under the current rules and protocols, it is common for parties to wait years before the IBLA hears their appeal and issues a decision, with over 90% of such cases being resolved in the government's favor (something to be expected considering the IBLA is essentially the DOI's own court system).

My bill is designed to fix this process by providing an optional off-ramp that allows appellants to opt for an expedited ruling that could reach a federal district court in as little as eighteen months. This would permit certain parties to fast-track access to a neutral arbiter while allowing those parties who wish to stay before the IBLA that opportunity as well.

This bill is a win for anyone who must deal with the DOI in relation to land use issues and moves us closer to complying with the constitutional mandate of separation of powers, as it chips away at the judicial authority claimed by the executive agencies, whose system currently allows a variety of federal agencies to write, enforce, and judicially review the law.

Working to Create a National Human Trafficking Database

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of State, there are an estimated 27.6 million human trafficking victims worldwide at any given time, a problem worsened in America by the Biden-Harris administration's reckless open border policies. When I visited the Eagle Pass sector of the Texas border in January of this year, I learned that the cartels were making \$35 million per week trafficking men, women, and children into the United States. Unfortunately, human trafficking is among the world's fastest-growing criminal enterprises and is estimated to be a \$150 billion-a-year global industry.

Despite these alarming facts, the U.S. does not compile comprehensive data related to human trafficking within our borders. It is almost as though there are people within our government who do not want to know what is happening. To combat this, I joined Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-CA) in introducing the National Human Trafficking Database Act, which would establish a national human trafficking database at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and incentivize state law enforcement agencies to report data.

This bill would also direct the DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime to award \$50 million per fiscal year in grant funding for states and tribes to collect and submit data. This would include awarding grants to and collecting data from the Missing and Murdered Unit of the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is especially important to me as Chair of the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs and the representative for the Wind River Reservation.

I am proud to support this legislation, as human trafficking is a scourge on our society. No one should be subjected to this type of treatment, and gathering the data to better understand the situation is a step in the right direction.

Taking Steps to End Proxy Voting

On Wednesday, I joined Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) and nine other House Republican colleagues in filing an amicus brief to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in *Texas v. DOJ*, a case challenging the passage of the FY23 omnibus because of its use of proxy voting. The Quorum Clause of the Constitution requires that a quorum, defined as a majority of the House, be physically present on the floor when the House transacts business.

However, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi authorized proxy voting, which allowed members of Congress to "vote" despite not even being in Washington, D.C. One of the worst bills that was passed with a majority of members participating by "proxy" was the December 2022 omnibus spending bill—a \$1.7 trillion boondoggle filled with out-of-control spending and bad policy.

Our amicus brief was filed partially in response to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's recent amicus brief in which he defended proxy voting and argued that courts should stay out of congressional procedure, despite his having opposed the practice on the Senate floor in 2020. The district court previously ruled in favor of Texas (an action in which Rep. Roy and I also filed an amicus brief), with the DOJ having since appealed that ruling.

My hope is that the 5th Circuit upholds the lower court's decision, as no one—including Congress—should be held above the law. More importantly, no one—ESPECIALLY Congress—should be allowed to violate the Constitution. To learn more and to read the brief, [click here](#).

[See What I'm Doing in D.C.!](#) [Add Me on Social Media:](#)



Events and Announcements

USDA is Hosting Town Halls for Livestock Producers Affected by Wildfires

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced that it is offering disaster assistance public meetings regarding the services and assistance the Natural Resources Conservation Service can provide to help livestock producers recover from this year's wildfires. I encourage you to attend the meeting in your county listed below:

October 29, Johnson County Public Library, Buffalo, WY at 5 PM

October 30, Sheridan County Public Library, Sheridan, WY at 1 PM

October 31, Campbell County Public Library, Gillette, WY at 9:30 AM

For more information, you may contact your local USDA Service Center [here](#).

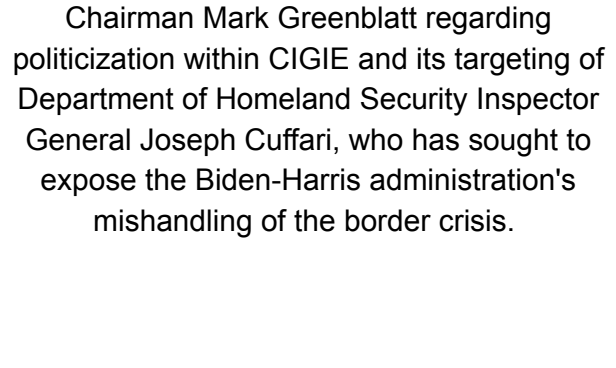
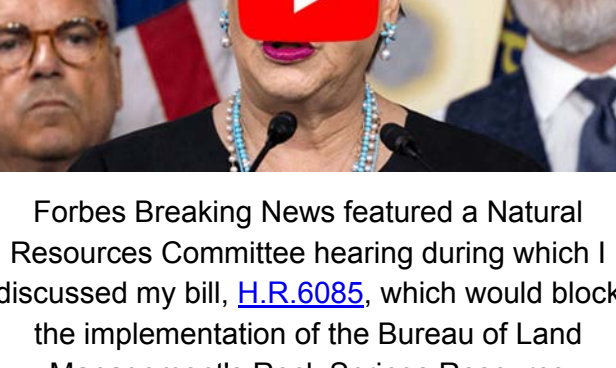
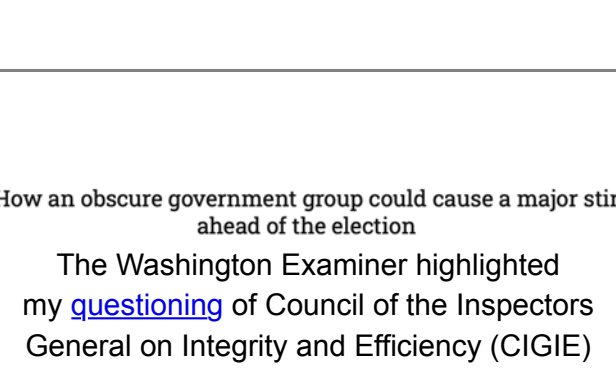
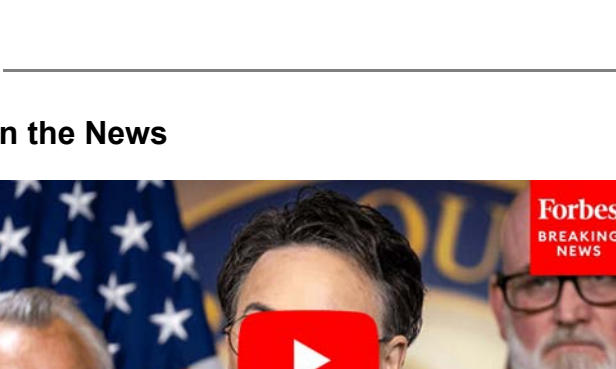
Last Call to Participate in the Congressional App Challenge!

The 2024 Congressional App Challenge is still accepting applications! Middle and high school students across Wyoming are encouraged to participate in this nationwide competition that helps students learn coding skills and explore opportunities within the STEM and computer science field.

The Congressional App Challenge is the official computer science competition of the House of Representatives. Since its inception in 2013, it has grown to become the most prestigious prize in computer science. Over 50,000 students have participated in the challenge across 374 Congressional Districts in 50 states and 5 U.S. territories.

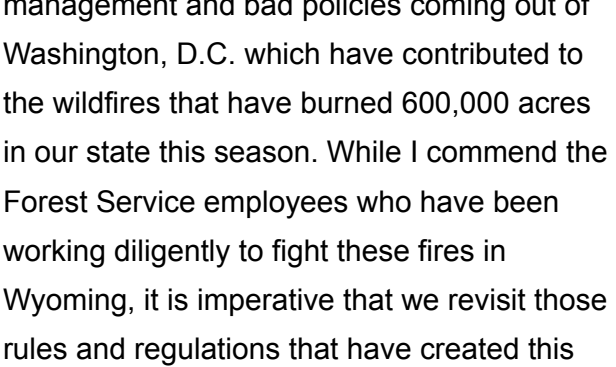
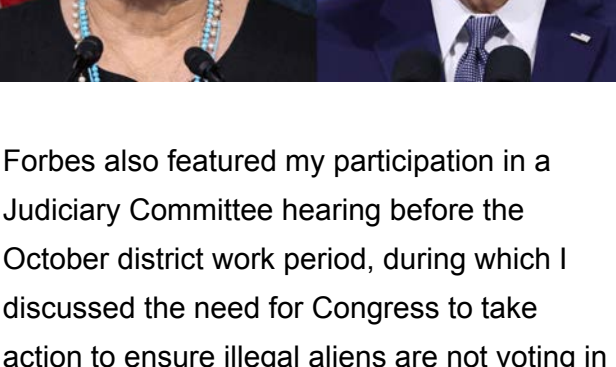
Winning apps will be announced in December 2024 and featured on the U.S. House of Representatives website and in the U.S. Capitol Building. Applications are due **October 24, 2024, at 10 AM MT**. To learn more about the rules, prizes, and more, you can [visit their website](#).

Recent Photos



I enjoyed spending time in Casper at the 2024 Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame reception the night before the Induction Ceremony! Congratulations to all of this year's recipients.

Thank you to the team at Institute of Makers of Explosives for a fantastic tour on Tuesday! Wyoming has some incredible innovators.



Thanks to a group of landowners in Wyoming, members of my staff joined several agencies in listening to landowner concerns and plans to restore grasslands and ecosystems impacted by the House Draw and Elk Fires.

Recent Votes

The House was out of session this week. For my full voting record, [click here](#).

Cosponsored Legislation

- [H.R. 9859](#), the Abundant American Resources Act of 2024, which would require federal land management agencies to conduct a study on the economic valuation of resources in areas that have been withdrawn or protected from exploration and production.
- [H.R. 9913](#), the Ending FCC Meddling in Our Elections Act, which would prohibit the use of federal funds to enforce the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) notice of proposed rulemaking related to the use of artificial intelligence in campaign advertising.

Cosigned Letters

- On Wednesday, I joined the House Natural Resources Committee in sending a [letter](#) to New York Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams questioning their decision, in conjunction with the Biden-Harris administration, to continue housing illegal aliens on National Park Service land despite heavy opposition from New York City residents.

Tweet of the Week

Video of the Week

I recently joined the Oklahoma Stockgrowers Association to discuss the USDA's electronic identification (EID) eartag mandate for cattle and bison and the Biden-Harris 30x30 land grab. As your lone representative, I will continue to fight back against the mandatory EID rule that will unfairly burden ranchers and do everything in my power to stop the 30x30 efforts.

In the News

Forbes Breaking News featured a Natural Resources Committee hearing during which I discussed my bill, [H.R. 6085](#), which would block the implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's Rock Springs Resource Management Plan.

How an obscure government group could cause a major stir ahead of the election

The Washington Examiner highlighted my [questioning](#) of Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Chairman Mark Greenblatt regarding politicization within CIGIE and its targeting of Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Joseph Cuffari, who has sought to expose the Biden-Harris administration's mishandling of the border crisis.

Forbes also featured my participation in a Judiciary Committee hearing before the October district work period, during which I discussed the need for Congress to take action to ensure illegal aliens are not voting in our elections.

Hageman says People In Path Of Wildfires Can Thank Feds And Their "Bad Policies"

I spoke with Cowboy State Daily on Wednesday to discuss a lack of forest management and bad policies coming out of Washington, D.C. which have contributed to the wildfires that have burned 600,000 acres in our state this season. While I commend the Forest Service employees who have been working diligently to fight these fires in Wyoming, it is imperative that we revisit those rules and regulations that have created this situation in the first place.

The Roadless Rule, put in place in the waning days of the Clinton administration, was not only one of the largest rulemakings in U.S. history but also one of the most destructive, with the beetle outbreak and catastrophic forest fires being directly caused by that rule. I encourage you to click the above article to learn more.

I Want to Hear From You!

I cannot do my job without your support and input. Thank you for the calls, letters, emails, and questions you have sent to our offices. Please continue to reach out via the contact information below, and stay up to date on all the latest activities and legislation by subscribing and sharing this newsletter and our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) accounts with your friends and family!

Sincerely,

Harriet M. Hageman

Rep. Harriet Hageman

Member of Congress

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