Business Meeting To Consider

A Pending Nomination And Pending Legislation

Thursday, June 22, 2022

Chairman Manchin's Opening Statement

- We have a full slate today as we meet to consider one nomination and almost 40 pieces of legislation covering public lands and water issues.
- With such a robust agenda, I'm going to keep my opening remarks brief.
- The bills we're going to be considering today represent many longstanding priorities to members both on and off committee on both sides of the aisle.
- The vast majority are bipartisan, non-controversial, or both, and will be adopted by voice vote, while others will require more discussion.
- I hope today's committee votes will help move the process forward.
- We'll also be considering the nomination of Laura Daniel Davis to be the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management.
- While I am not pleased with the state of our leasing programs, I believe that this direction is coming from the White House and the blame should not fall on Ms. Daniel Davis, who is incredibly well qualified for this role.

- Ms. Daniel-Davis has served in the Department of the Interior before. She served as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, and as Chief of Staff to Secretary Salazar and to Secretary Jewell during the Obama Administration.
- She has been serving as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management since January.
- It is my continued hope that the administration will re-adjust and begin leasing in a way that will send the signals industry needs for long term investments that get production ramped up.
- As I made clear when the proposed five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing was released three weeks ago – zero lease sales shouldn't even be an option on the table right now while we have an ongoing geopolitical war with Putin using energy as a weapon, allies in need, and Americans paying record prices.
- Meanwhile we're talking about some of the cleanest production in the world that could displace some of the dirtiest – that's decarbonization.
- With that said, I will be supporting Ms. Daniel Davis today because we need qualified people in these roles that hold such great importance for our country.
- And I will continue to encourage the Administration to see reason on leasing.