July 18, 2019

Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop,

On behalf of Western Leaders Network, an association of 300 local and tribal elected leaders from the eight Interior West states, we are writing to express our support for the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act. As elected officials from the West, we all agree that this legislation is a common-sense measure that promotes responsible, modernized production of renewable energy on public lands while making sure communities – like the ones we serve – and local conservation efforts see the benefits of that production.

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. 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.
We urge the House Natural Resources Committee to move toward a cleaner energy future, support local governments and their constituencies, and advance this legislation for the benefit of communities across the West.

Sincerely,

Gwen Lachelt
Executive Director