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June 16, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of its 1.1 million members, the National Association of REALTORS® supports several provisions in the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations bill, which is scheduled for mark-up on Tuesday, June 16 in the House Appropriations Committee. If passed, these three provisions will bring relief to millions of Americans from costly regulations and federal government overreach.

These three provisions include:

1. Sec. 422, which prohibits the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from using any funds to implement the recently finalized "Waters of the U.S." rule. This rule significantly expands the federal government's jurisdiction over more U.S. waters, which will make property development more expensive and burdensome.
2. Sec. 428, which prohibits the EPA from using any funds to implement various restrictions on power plants related to the proposed Clean Power Plan. This rule would increase the cost of electricity, making it more expensive to own a home.
3. Sec. 117, which prohibits any funds to be used to develop a proposed rule that would list the greater sage grouse as an endangered species. Listing this species as endangered would place millions of acres of property off-limits from development and resource extraction, placing jobs and the economy of the West in jeopardy.

NAR urges the Committee's support for these provisions of the FY 2016 Interior Appropriations bill.

NAR looks forward to working with Congress to protect the environment while minimizing unnecessary red tape and permitting burden on the real estate market and the rest of the economy.

Sincerely,



Chris Polychron
2015 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations

