



March 20, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: H.R. 4257 – Advancing Conservation and Education Act – SUPPORT**  
**H.R. 3997 – Free Veterans from Fees Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of The Wilderness Society, as well as our members and supporters, I write in support of **H.R. 4257, the Advancing Conservation and Education Act** by Representatives Stewart and Polis. H.R. 4257 provides new opportunities to exchange state trust lands out of America's parks, wilderness, and other conservation areas, thus benefitting America's public lands as well as schools and local economies. This legislation would help to expedite the elimination of state inholdings in wilderness, parks, and conservation sites, thus preventing incompatible development within these areas. Additionally, the bill would afford new economic development opportunities and provide new sources of revenue for schools.

H.R. 4257 is classic "win-win" legislation. It will preserve lands with outstanding ecological and recreational value, improve local economies, and benefit public schools. The Wilderness Society supports this legislation and urges the committee to advance it.

TWS also supports **H.R. 3997** and encourages the committee to advance it. H.R. 3997 is an appropriate way to honor our veterans by waiving special use permitting fees for veterans' demonstrations and other special events at war memorials on federal lands and waters.

Sincerely,

Drew McConville  
Senior Managing Director for Government Relations  
The Wilderness Society

Cc: Representative Chris Stewart  
Representative Jared Polis  
Members of the House Natural Resources Committee