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**Kate Miller**  
*Director of Government Affairs*

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, Chairman  
The House Committee on Natural Resources  
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee

The Honorable Paul Gosar, Ranking Member  
The House Committee on Natural Resources  
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee

April 29, 2019

**RE: "Public Lands and our Clean Energy Future" - April 30, 2019 Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources oversight hearing.**

Chairman Lowenthal, Ranking Member Gosar, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for holding a hearing to consider testimony regarding public lands and our clean energy future. Many of Trout Unlimited's 300,000 members and supporters are trout and salmon anglers who invest time and resources on public lands, in pursuit of hunting and fishing opportunities and in partnership with the federal agencies, states and counties to complete habitat conservation and restoration projects on public lands.

Public lands contain some of the most valuable trout and salmon habitat in the nation. These lands also provide a great opportunity for well-planned and properly mitigated renewable energy development projects that could contribute to job creation, reduce carbon pollution, and contribute to the protection and restoration of natural resources for the benefit of this and future generations

In considering the role of federal lands in our clean energy future, TU is interested in working with the Committee to develop legislation that advances clean energy projects in a manner that ensures the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and reflects a fair return to taxpayers.

For example, we applaud and support the bipartisan work from this Committee on the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act (PLREDA), a bill that was considered and advanced by this Committee during the last several congressional sessions. Most recently, this bill passed out of the Committee by unanimous consent (HR 825, 115th Congress).

PLREDA strikes the important balance between development of new clean energy infrastructure and the conservation of our natural resources. By identifying priority areas for wind, solar and geothermal development, PLREDA encourages smart siting and efficient permitting of projects in places with high

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**A mission to conserve, protect, & restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.**

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potential for energy and low impact on wildlife and habitat. Planning ahead for development in priority areas offers developers certainty for their project timelines and saves both time and money.

Further, the bill would improve management of public lands because it would create a positive incentive for counties and states to support the construction of renewable energy projects on public lands by ensuring that a portion of project revenue would flow back to states and counties. Importantly, the bill would also help to improve public lands for future generations by directing a portion of project revenues for conservation for fish and wildlife management. Finally, the revenue sharing model laid out in PLREDA would also help permitting agencies advance renewable energy by securing necessary resources to efficiently manage, review and advance applications for new projects.

We believe that public lands have an important role to play in a clean energy future and that legislation such as the PLREDA is an important step in advancing renewable energy projects on public lands while strengthening communities and conservation efforts for sportsmen and women and local communities. We encourage the Committee to consider and advance this bill again in the 116th Congress. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Miller". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kate Miller