

Calvin's Eco List

A bi-monthly action list containing the info you need to contact the people in charge on issues of climate, animal welfare, public land use, and more. You may not be interested in some suggested actions--that's ok, keep reading! If you care about wildlife and the environment, there's something here for you.

New to this? Read [The Basics](#).

Find your members of Congress (MOCs) [here](#). Bills starting with **S** are in the **Senate**. Bills starting with **HR** are in the **House of Representatives**.

Tip: contact each MOC with one issue at a time; don't call and read a laundry list. Be polite and brief! I give example scripts below that you can modify.

If you have a suggestion for an action for me to include next time, [click here](#).

If I've made a mistake (yikes!) please [contact me](#) to let me know.

Remember to follow the link to the bill to see if your MOC is a sponsor! If you like the bill, praise them! If you don't like the bill, say you're disappointed in their sponsorship and tell them why. To show sponsors, follow the Govtrack link for the bill and click on "details" under the bill's title.

August 5, 2018

Environment

Weakening regulations on fossil fuel drilling is a major aim of this administration, and [HR6106](#), the Common Sense Permitting Act, is no exception. It aims to [ban environmental review](#) of fossil fuel extraction sites and pipelines in a variety of situations. This bill, the sister to [HR6107](#) which we looked at last month, got out of committee just a week after it was introduced which means it is likely to get to a floor vote. Write or call your House rep today to say **NO** to corporate passes for environmental considerations.

Good news break: The Center for Biodiversity [has won an injunction](#) against a monster, water-sucking development outside of Los Angeles.

Wildlife

1. As we frequently mention, the [Endangered Species Act](#) has been a frequent target of this Congress, and the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) has come under the same types of attacks. The latest for the MBTA is [S2942/HR6013](#), which wants to expand hunting seasons for migratory birds and add even more hunting days for special groups like children and military personnel. Ask your senators and your representative to **OPPOSE** the unnecessary expansion of hunting seasons on migratory birds. These birds already face [significant threat](#) from changing environmental policies and a warming climate.

2. Hey speaking of the ESA, three bills were introduced less than a month ago taking swipes at it. Group these together in an email or postcard and tell your rep NOPE.
 - a. The STORAGE Act, [HR6354](#), would exempt areas of water infrastructure (reservoirs, dams, etc.) from being required to follow ESA policies. A gift for corporations and local governments that don't want to spend the time or money to follow the law. Let's nip this one in the bud by telling our House rep to **OPPOSE** giving anyone a free pass on the ESA.
 - b. The PETITION Act, [HR6355](#), is even bolder, allowing listing deadlines to be ignored if a 'backlog' is declared (meaning species may go extinct waiting for review) and aims to again cut out crucial judicial review of decisions with the excuse that it will expedite petitions.
 - c. [HR6345](#) aims to weaken the ESA by allowing states and county governments to put the kibosh on ESA petitions before they even get to the federal government. It's absurd, as no county or state politician is going to agree to something that could lead to increased costs and effort to protect something "unpopular" like a plant or amphibian. A big city, county, and state thumbs down for this bill.

Good news break: The state of Oregon finally agrees to [protect the two remaining populations](#) of martens from trapping.

Public Figures

1. While we're glad to see the back of the incredibly corrupt Scott Pruitt, let's not forget about his ethically-challenged colleague, Ryan Zinke. Take a look at the [New Republic's summary](#) of his incompetence, corruption, and anti-environmental policies and then ask your senators and representative to put pressure on the White House to kick Zinke to the curb. Share the Zinke article far and wide.
2. Regardless of your general politics, consider the SCOTUS nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, in light of his court decisions regarding climate and environment. Share this [NYT article](#) and the Sierra Club's [brief video](#) with your senators and tell them you expect a NO vote.

Citizen Action: What simple things can you do today?

1. First, a pat on the back -- [citizen scientists are making a huge difference](#).
2. Second, have some fun: Participate in IAABC's Mutt Project -- [take a quiz](#) about who looks like what! The official survey is over but they are still tracking results.
3. Have a habit of watching TV and playing on your tablet, phone, or laptop? Instead of Facebook, flip through [eMammal pics](#) and click if you find a furry buddy.

More interesting/positive news:

1. Kirkland's warblers' numbers have rebounded because of Endangered Species Act protections -- it is one of many species saved -- and they may be de-listed soon. Happily, a generous couple has set aside [an endowment](#) for the future of the species.
2. [Genetic testing for dogs](#) doesn't require counseling, and it can bring risks.
3. Spiders use [electrostatic energy](#) to "balloon" (travel over distance).

Missed the earlier lists? Just follow links to see if the bills mentioned have been voted on or not -- there may still be time to contact your reps! From 2017: [Early June](#), [Late June](#), [Early July](#), [Late July](#), [Early August](#), [Mid-August](#), [Late August](#), [Early September](#), [Late September](#), [Early October](#), [Mid-October](#), [Late October](#), [Early November](#), [Nov 30](#), [Dec 15](#). From 2018: [Feb 1](#), [Feb 23](#), [March 15](#), [March 31](#), [April 15](#), [May 1](#), [May 15](#), [June 1](#), [July 15](#)

If you have a positive story you'd like to share, [send me the URL!](#)

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