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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

**BARBARA CUBIN**

WYOMING—AT LARGE

Testimony

of

**The Honorable Barbara Cubin  
Representative for All Wyoming**

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Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands:  
Legislative Hearing on H.R. 713, H.R. 754, and H.R. 929

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Thank you Mr. Chairman for including in this hearing today H.R. 754, a bill I sponsored to federally designate a museum in my home state as the National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States. I appreciate the Committee's attention to this institution which is important to western and national heritage alike.

As a Member of this Committee for twelve years, I was rarely shy when the opportunity presented itself to discuss the unique natural resources my home state of Wyoming offers to the rest of America. Our energy resources fuel the nation, the beauty of our pristine public lands are unparalleled, and the number of recreational opportunities available to the American public simply cannot be matched.

Another defining aspect of the west, however, is the rich and diverse wildlife population with which we have always shared our land and resources. Our American Indian population and early Wyoming settlers depended on western wildlife for survival. Our current public lands policy decisions are largely swayed by the impact on native wildlife. This symbiotic relationship of our lands, wildlife, and the western people is a vital piece of our heritage — and one worthy of preservation.

That is what makes the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located in Jackson, Wyoming, such a special facility. Founded in 1987 through the generous gift of a private collection of art, this institution is the premier museum in our nation dedicated to enrich and inspire public knowledge and appreciation of fine art devoted exclusively to nature and wildlife. This is best reflected by the fact that the National Museum of Wildlife Art is the only museum accredited with the American Association of Museums that focuses on this subject matter. In all, the museum boasts over 2,000 pieces of art portraying wildlife, some dating as far back as 2000 B.C.

The impact of this museum has by no means only been felt in the west. Members of the Museum hail from every state in the union, and both its Board of Trustees and National Advisory Board are national in scope. With over 92,000 visitors annually from across America and around the world, the museum is truly an institution of national importance.

With the passage and subsequent enactment of H.R. 754, this museum would be part of an elite group of less than twenty nationally designated museums in our nation. Much like the National Children's Museum, designated by Congress in 2003, this museum provides our nation with a unique and important artistic resource. I want to be very clear, however, that this designation includes no appropriation of federal funds now nor in the future.

Again, I thank you for the attention of the committee on H.R. 754 and I look forward to working with you to move this bill through the legislative process.