

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
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GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
AVIATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

May 6, 2014

201 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3361

405 NORTH BEAVER STREET #6
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001

211 NORTH FLORENCE STREET #1
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122

11555 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE #104A
MARANA, AZ 85653

550 NORTH 9TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901

1400 EAST ASH
GLOBE, AZ 85501

P.O. Box 1952
HIGHWAY 191
CHINLE, AZ 86503

753856

Michael L. Connor
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Deputy Secretary Connor:

I am writing to support the Yavapai-Apache Nation's FY2015 funding requests to help the Nation perform the legal work and technical activities that are needed as part of its ongoing efforts to protect its federal reserved water rights to the Verde River in Central Arizona. The Verde River, which flows through the heart of the Yavapai-Apache Reservation, is the primary source of the Nation's water supply, while the continued health and vitality of the Verde also play a key role in the traditional, religious and cultural practices of the Yavapai and Apache people.

Specifically, the Nation submitted a funding request under 25 C.F.R. 89.41 *et seq.* in the amount of \$175,000 ("Attorneys Fees Request") to help pay the Nation's attorneys' fees for the legal work necessary for the Nation to (1) update its outdated water rights claim in the Gila River Adjudication, (2) coordinate and provide information to the United States as the United States updates its own water rights claim as trustee for the Nation, (3) represent the Nation before the Arizona Navigability Stream Adjudication Commission, (4) engage in water rights settlement negotiations with various parties in the Gila River Adjudication, and (5) provide representation to the Nation in Arizona's ongoing General Stream Adjudication, which is the court proceeding in Arizona that is charged with adjudicating all of the claims to those surface water supplies that drain to the Gila River, including the Verde River.

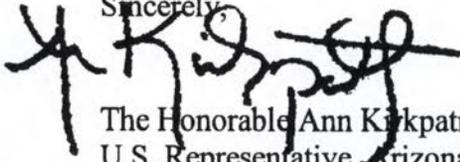
In addition, the Nation also submitted a request for \$158,870 for technical assistance funding to support (1) the technical expert assistance that the Nation needs to update its water rights claim in the Gila River Adjudication, specifically to prepare the ethnographic and in-stream flow reports for the Nation, (2) the Nation's experts as they coordinate and provide information to the United States as the United States updates its own water rights claim as trustee for the Nation, and (3) the continued utilization of technical experts as the Nation engages in water rights settlement negotiations with primary settlement parties and its Federal Negotiation Team.

It is my understanding that both of these funding requests are currently being considered within the Department of the Interior under existing funding programs. While the Nation has never been fully funded per its requests (the total amount of money available to all

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ENERGY OFFICE

tribes is limited), it has received partial funding in recent years. This funding has been fundamental to the Nation's ability to both litigate and negotiate toward a settlement of its federal reserved water rights claims to the Verde River. I urge you to provide funding to the Nation pursuant to its FY2015 requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Kirkpatrick', written over the typed name.

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One

CC: Letty Belin, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary
Pamela Williams, Secretary's Office of Indian Water Rights



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 25 2015

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick:

On behalf of Deputy Secretary Connor, we are in receipt of your letter dated May 18, 2015, regarding support for the Yavapai-Apache Nation's (Nation) FY-2015 funding requests to help the Nation perform the legal work and technical activities needed as part of its ongoing efforts to protect its federal reserved water rights to the Verde River in Central Arizona.

The Nation has submitted two funding requests in FY-2015 for this work.

The first request was for continued technical involvement and informed participation in the active negotiations and the claims updating the Nation's water rights claim in the Gila River Adjudication. The Nation is being allocated \$72,000 for this work which includes: (1) preparing the ethnographic and in-stream flow reports for the Nation; (2) utilizing the Nation's experts to coordinate and provide information to the United States as the United States updates its own water rights claim as trustee for the Nation; and (3) to continue to utilize technical experts to engage in water rights settlement negotiations.

The second funding proposal submitted in FY-2015 was for Technical Assistance under 25 C.F.R. §89.41 *et seq.* for Attorney Fee support for legal work in the Nation's effort to protect its federal reserved water rights to support these claims. This funding proposal is currently being considered by the ranking team as per 25 CFR §89.43. As stated in your letter, we have limited funding for all requests submitted this year; however, we are aware that this funding is fundamental to the Nation's ability to protect its federal reserved water rights and will make every effort to consider the Nation's request.

Should you have questions or need clarification to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Christina Mokhtarzadeh, Chief, Branch of Water Resources program at (202) 208-5480.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES

RANKING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

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SHOW LOW, AZ 85901

1400 EAST ASH
GLOBE, AZ 85501

February 18, 2015

Honorable Sally Jewell

Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear Secretary Jewell:

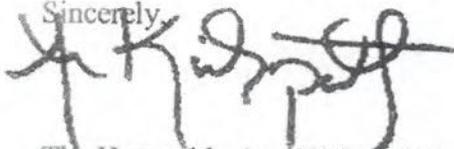
I am writing to ask that you give careful consideration to the application submitted by the Arizona Water Company for funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART grant program. Arizona Water Company is seeking funding to construct an underground storage facility to store and recharge Central Arizona Project (CAP) water that the Company receives and does not deliver directly to its Pinal Valley Water System customers.

Arizona Water Company is a public service corporation that provides public utility water service to a large portion of the state of Arizona, including Pinal County and the towns of Casa Grande and Coolidge. Casa Grande and Coolidge have significant agricultural operations with the vast majority of total water use of those communities attributed to agriculture. In addition to its local groundwater supplies, Arizona Water Company receives allocations of CAP surface water for Casa Grande and Coolidge. Arizona Water Company is increasingly constrained in its ability to pump sufficient amounts of groundwater to meet customer needs, including agriculture and industrial needs, without impacting the environment. For that reason, it is critical that it be able to store and effectively use available CAP surface water supplies.

Arizona Water Company is proposing to use WaterSMART funding to construct an underground storage facility in Coolidge to receive and store CAP water through recharge at spreading basins. Arizona Water Company is seeking \$1 million in funding from the Bureau of Reclamation, which it will match with \$1,674,900.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant application which will conserve water for future uses, reduce the cost of water delivery and have positive environmental benefits.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240

FEB 23 2015

IN REPLY REFER TO:

84-51000
ADM-1.10

Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Kirkpatrick:

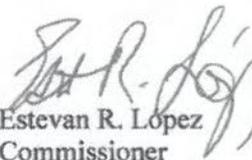
Thank you for your letter of January 21, 2015, in support of the Arizona State Parks application for fiscal year 2015 WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant funding. In October 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation posted an announcement asking that applications for funding be submitted by January 23, 2015. The applications submitted in response to that announcement, including an application from Arizona State Parks, are currently under review.

Reclamation uses a competitive process to prioritize applications for WaterSMART Grant funding. Each application is thoroughly reviewed and scored by a committee made up of Reclamation staff with technical expertise relevant to the projects funded under the program. Applications are evaluated using established criteria listed in the announcement. We are currently in the process of evaluating applications and plan to notify all applicants of their status in June 2015.

WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants are a key part of the Department of the Interior's efforts to achieve a sustainable water strategy. Improvements that save water, increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in water management, address endangered species and other environmental issues, and facilitate the use of water markets are crucial to addressing the water resource challenges faced in the western United States.

Thank you again for your interest in this important program. If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Dean Marrone, WaterSMART Coordinator at 303-445-3577.

Sincerely,


Estevan R. Lopez
Commissioner

Identical Letter Sent to:

Honorable Martha McSally
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2014 749502

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

It is our understanding that Chairman Hastings, Subcommittee Chairman Bishop and Representative Lamborn wrote a letter to you on November 24, 2014 regarding the Prospectus for Grand Canyon National Park. We agree with many of the concerns raised in that letter. The purpose of this letter is to raise separate and equally worrisome concerns regarding similar issues that may arise at Yosemite National Park. Some of us have written to raise related issues as part of the development and issuance of the Merced River Plan that preceded the release of the Prospectus and many of those concerns have not been addressed at this time.

We value the visitor experience above all else and we are concerned that the Yosemite Prospectus does not appear to provide for a smooth transition of visitor services, which is contrary to the position adopted by the National Park Service (Service) during the Merced River Plan (MRP) and contrary to written statements by Director Jon Jarvis in his July 22, 2014 letter to Members of Congress. For instance, we are concerned that the ice rink and bike stands will close by contract on March 1, 2016, the first day of the new contract, without the plan providing alternate locations for the rink. Conditions for determining alternate locations for the ice rink are onerous and it is uncertain that the ice rink would ever be reopened due to a heavy economic burden on the concessioner awarded the contract. This is significant for many reasons, including that the elimination of the ice rink was one of the most commented upon aspects of the Draft MRP and it was specifically reinstated in the final plan due to public input and involvement. We believe that contract terms may result in the elimination of the ice rink and a resulting negative impact to the visitor experience, in direct contrast to the public input process that led to the final Merced River Plan.

We are concerned that the language in the prospectus may result in a reduction in the Visitor Transportation System (VTS) through the elimination of the Badger Pass and Tuolumne Meadows shuttle systems. Expansion of the Tuolumne Meadows VTS is a key component of the Tuolumne River Plan (TRP), which provides for consolidated parking, citing an expanded VTS to be used to provide trailhead access from the consolidated parking locations. The expanded VTS is also a key attribute to allow for the elimination of the service station in Tuolumne Meadows, since the expanded VTS would reduce the reliance on personal automobiles and the winter service to Badger Pass is a key component to creating better opportunities to spread visitation from the busier summer months.

The Final Merced River Plan and the letter dated July 22 from Director Jarvis places a high priority on the replacement of employee housing. However, this action is not provided for in the Prospectus.

The Prospectus has few firm dates for implementation of the MRP, noting that all projects are "subject to funding availability." The recent need for \$100 million of National Park Service funds to be reallocated to resolve issues at Grand Canyon National Park illustrate the problems with proceeding in the face of significant uncertainty in the context of awards of major concessions. In addition, we remain concerned that cost estimates to implement the MRP and TRP may not prove viable, as it is our understanding the cost of implementing the Mariposa Grove Plan, estimated at \$21 million when the Final EIS was issued in October 2013, is now estimated at more than 50% higher than the amount in the EIS.

In contrast to the contracting process at Grand Canyon National Park, the prospectus for Yosemite National Park was issued without an agreement on the value of the contract, nor of the value of the assets under the control of the existing concessioner. Additionally, unlike at Grand Canyon, the Yosemite prospectus failed to include an arbitration process to negotiate the value of the contract. As a result of these omissions, a disproportionately large number of questions have been filed related to the prospectus and at this time, 10 amendments to the original contract have been issued. This leads to significant uncertainty for prospective bidders and legal liability for the Service.

We understand the need to finalize the selection process at Yosemite but we remain concerned that there are fundamental issues that need to be resolved to minimize disruption of visitor service and to create a transparent and fair bid process that complies with concession policy. Public confidence would erode if issues like the ones we have raised and others that may be relevant are not addressed before proposals are accepted and a contract is awarded. Therefore, we respectfully request that you take an appropriate period of time before accepting any bids to examine the Prospectus and the various positions taken by the Service to fully understand that the Prospectus meets with your expectations and those of the public as exemplified by their input to the MRP, and to ensure that all economic assumptions embodied in the Prospectus are valid. During the interim it may also be of assistance to us to seek the views of the General Accounting Office in order to ensure that we all have the benefit of an objective analysis.

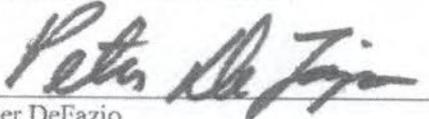
Sincerely,



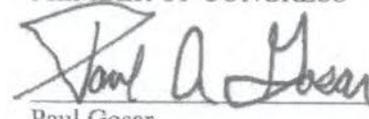
Jim Costa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



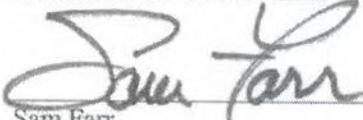
Tom McClintock
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Peter DeFazio
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



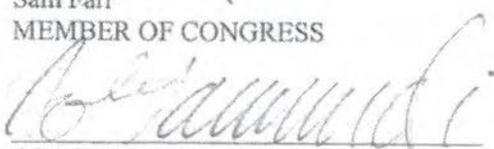
Paul Gosar
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Sam Farr
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jeff Furum
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



John Garamendi
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



David Schweikert
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ann Kirkpatrick

Ann Kirkpatrick
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Trent Franks

Trent Franks
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

JAN 26 2015

IN REPLY REFER TO:

(2410)

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 2014, to the Secretary of the Interior regarding the concession contracts for visitor services at Yosemite and Grand Canyon National Parks. The Secretary asked that I respond to you on her behalf.

The National Park Service (NPS or Service) Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 (1998 Act) established the framework under which the NPS is to award concession contracts through a competitive selection process. The NPS has been working diligently for over 4 years at Yosemite National Park (Yosemite) to develop and issue a prospectus that is consistent with law, represents the needs of visitors, and complies with the Merced River Plan (MRP).

The Service is committed to a continuation of visitor and recreational activities while implementing the MRP at Yosemite. The Yosemite prospectus was developed to allow for a smooth transition of visitor services between the existing concessioner and the newly awarded concessioner. There is roughly a 6 month timeline for transition of concession services between when the contract is awarded, and when the new contract begins. In addition, many actions called for in the MRP are implemented gradually over the term of the next concession contract. A number of actions will not take place for years, or until alternate public services are made available. Some recreational activities, like expanded boating on the Merced River, and additional public transit opportunities, will be implemented in the spring of 2015.

The NPS will coordinate with its concessioner so that there is no interruption in recreational services, as authorized, including the ice rink and bicycle rentals. The Yosemite prospectus allows for the continuation of bicycle rentals at existing locations until an acceptable plan can be developed to ensure no loss of service. We have already started planning for the relocation of the ice rink and will work with the concessioner to ensure the service is continued without interruption. Additionally, none of the housing that is necessary for the concessioner to operate under the contract will be removed until new housing is built in the locations that were established in the MRP.

The Visitor Transportation System (VTS) in the next concession contract is focused on addressing public transportation issues in Yosemite Valley, including alleviating some of the significant traffic congestion that occurs during the peak season. In addition, the prospectus authorizes the next concessioner to provide shuttle service at both Badger Pass and Tuolumne

Meadows. Regarding transportation systems and parking areas, we are developing agreements with Yosemite Area Regional Transit System (YARTS) to expand service, as conceptualized in the Merced River and Tuolumne River Plans. The expanded shuttle service proposed in the MRP, covering the full length of Yosemite Valley, is planned to be implemented this summer. The roadway system and parking improvements anticipated for Yosemite Valley in the MRP are now in the final design stage with Federal Highways and are expected to be completed in Fiscal Years 2015-2017.

While we understand your concerns about estimated project costs in planning documents, the Merced River and Tuolumne River Plans used the NPS Denver Service Center cost estimating team to develop the cost estimates for components of the plans and we believe the estimates are accurate. However, these estimates are based on conceptual designs and are used primarily to compare the costs of each alternative presented in the Environmental Impact Statements. As these projects are more fully developed, the cost estimates will be refined based on actual construction drawings. As a result of these more detailed drawings, project costs may be higher or lower than estimated.

Regarding your concern that the prospectus was "issued without an agreement to the value of the contract," this procedure is not uncommon. At Yosemite, the incumbent concessioner, unlike its counterpart at Grand Canyon National Park (Grand Canyon), does not have any leasehold surrender interest claims or possessory interest claims (the latter being the term under the former governing law for NPS concessions for a similar compensatory contract right, in real property improvements in a national park, acquired or constructed by the concessioner during the term of its contract). Accordingly, there was no need to agree to a value for possessory interest at Yosemite. Unlike the Grand Canyon contract, however, the Yosemite contract calls for the award of the next contract by the NPS to be conditioned on the purchase by the successor concessioner of "all other property of the Concessioner used or held for use" in such operations. As such, the value of this "other property" generally is negotiated between the outgoing and incoming concessioners. It has been NPS's standard practice to estimate the value of "other property" in the prospectus documents and for the outgoing and incoming concessioner to then negotiate the value.

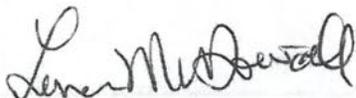
Often, if agreement cannot be reached, the contract specifies that the parties will use arbitration to determine the value. However, in this case the current contract does not include an arbitration clause and the incumbent could not be compelled to arbitrate either by the NPS or by a successor. In addition, based on our experience with three arbitrations concerning the value of possessory interest, the NPS questions the efficacy of arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism.

Our estimates of what typically constitutes "personal property" under the contract (e.g., merchandise, supplies, furniture, fixtures and equipment) are surprisingly close to those provided by the incumbent concessioner. However, despite years of requests by the NPS for information about property they believed would be subject to the purchase and sale provision, the current concessioner, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc. (DNC), waited until 2 weeks before publication of the prospectus to inform the NPS of their claim for \$51 million in "intellectual property." I think it is important to note that DNC completed an appraisal of its claimed

intellectual property back in 2010, yet did not share this information with the NPS until 2014. DNC's claims for compensable intellectual property include the names of some of the most iconic and historic facilities in the park, such as the names of the Ahwahnee and Wawona hotels, and even the name Yosemite National Park (as applied to merchandise like apparel and coffee mugs). We believe these names should belong to the American people.

I am happy to have our Business Services staff provide you, or your staff, a briefing on the status of this prospectus, as well as our concerns regarding the "intellectual property" claims of DNC, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lena McDowall".

Lena McDowall
Associate Director, Business Services



ANN KIRKPATRICK
ARIZONA DISTRICT ONE

October 2, 2014

Dear Secretary Jewell,
It was such a
pleasure to visit with
you at the Glen Canyon
Dam site visit. You were
most generous with your
time. Thank you!

Wishing you all
the best,

A stylized handwritten signature, likely belonging to Ann Kirkpatrick.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

641746

February 24, 2014

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OFFICE OF THE
FISHERY SECRETARY

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We are writing to express serious concerns with the proposed direction of the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS). In November, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a report titled "2013 Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report" that outlines the end of over one hundred years of sport fish stocking operations across the nation.

As you know, angling has been a part of the NFHS mission since its inception, and today it plays a significant role in rural and tribal economies. Around the country, the NFHS supports roughly 68,000 jobs and has an annual economic impact of \$3.6 billion. For every tax dollar invested in the NFHS, there is a return of \$28 to our national economy—largely thanks to sport fishing.

Unfortunately, the USFWS proposed to overturn this record of success by essentially eliminating sport fish stocking and instead focusing almost entirely on stocking endangered species. Over the past few months, our respective states have experienced the initial impact of this mission shift, and the results are not benefiting the NFHS or the American people.

In Arizona and Nevada, the USFWS recently announced a decision to end a fifty-year trout stocking program at Willow Beach NFH within Lake Mead National Recreation Area. According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the loss of rainbow trout and striped bass could remove \$7.7 - \$11.9 million from the area's economy.

Likewise, in New Mexico, wildlife officials were abruptly notified that Hotchkiss NFH would reduce its trout stocking by 25,000 in the Navajo Reservoir, the second most heavily fished body of water in the state. It is expected that other important sport fish populations will decline as a result of this decision. This will ruin angler satisfaction, harm economic activity, and reduce the area's biological quality. Similarly, several tribal governments around the country have been notified that USFWS may soon downgrade its trust responsibility to deliver sports fish at certain tribal recreational lakes and rivers.

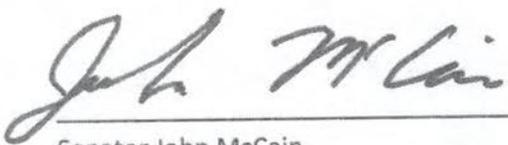
We appreciate the difficult choices federal agencies must make given the current budget climate. However, the NFHS's mission to help ensure sufficient fish stocks for sport fishing purposes is

important to the nation's economy and is vital to sustaining jobs in areas throughout the country. In support of that mission, NHFS's budget has remained steady since FY 2012 at \$46.1 million for operations and \$17.9 million for maintenance with only 10% allocated for non-native sport fish propagation. The drastic mission shift away from trout stocking and sport fish production to one that focuses solely on native fish production betrays the historical success of the NFHS in maintaining an important aspect of our economy.

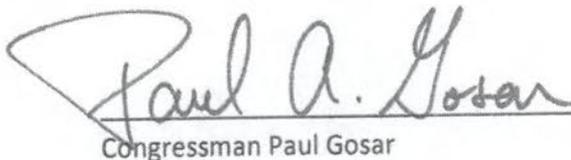
Against this backdrop, we urge you to (1) reevaluate how you propose to realign this important mission to help ensure that the negative economic impacts of the proposed alignment are mitigated as effectively as possible; (2) explain how you intend to consult and coordinate with state and tribal wildlife agencies and affected communities to ensure that the NFHS' sport fishing mission can be furthered by state and local partners wherever possible; (3) define specific targets that meet the angling public's needs for recreational fishing in a way that is mindful of its economic impact to state and local economies; and (4) explain how you intend to better utilize the resources provided to you by Congress to help ensure that the NFHS' sport fishing efforts are executed as comparably as possible to its focus on endangered species production.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

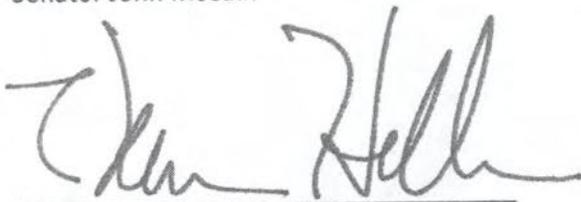
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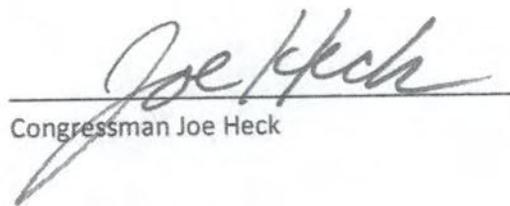
Senator John McCain



Congressman Paul Gosar



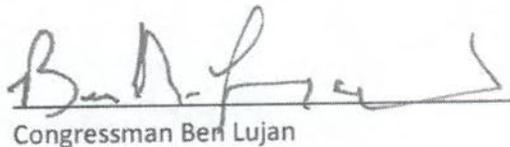
Senator Dean Heller



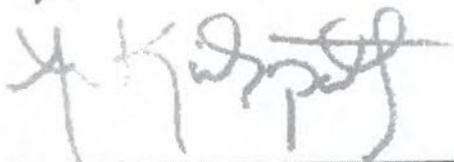
Congressman Joe Heck



Congressman Trent Franks



Congressman Ben Lujan



Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To
FWS/AFAC/056950

APR - 8 2014

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2014, also co-signed by several of your colleagues, regarding the proposed direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) following the release of the *National Fish Hatchery System: Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report* (Report). You expressed concern about reductions to trout stocking programs at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery (NFH) in Arizona and Hotchkiss NFH in Colorado.

Operations throughout the Service's NFHS have been greatly impacted by budget reductions including sequestration, as well as increasing operations costs. In the fall of 2012, the Service launched a comprehensive review of the 70 fish and aquatic species propagation hatcheries to ensure the NFHS will be positioned to address high priority aquatic resource needs now and into the future while working within its budget limitations. The Report is the product of that comprehensive review and highlights ongoing problems associated with sustaining operation of the NFHS in its current configuration and suggests possible changes under several different funding scenarios.

The Service announced in November that it does not intend to close any hatcheries in the current fiscal year, including Willow Beach NFH and Hotchkiss NFH. The Service discontinued trout production at Willow Beach NFH because we are unable to secure water of sufficient quality and quantity required by the trout. This action occurred because one pipeline collapsed, the intake to the remaining pipeline became clogged with vegetation, and water levels in Lake Mohave dropped, resulting in the loss of thousands of trout.

Because of pending sequestration and other budget shortfalls in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, Hotchkiss NFH requested fewer eggs in FY2013. The hatchery did not anticipate having sufficient funding to be able to continue all fish production at pre-sequestration levels, and the Service needed to cut fish production to keep spending in line with appropriations. However, egg hatch rates and survival have been high so stocking levels should not need to be reduced.

The Service understands your concerns about the potential impact of reductions in our fish production programs on local communities. We are using the Report to engage Congress, partners and stakeholders in a discussion on the future of the NFHS, which will include input on

a number of the issues you raised in your letter. Working together, we would like to chart a course forward for the NFHS that is financially sustainable, addresses today's most pressing conservation challenges, and, in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, continues to serve the public interest.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me personally or have your staff contact Mr. David Hoskins, the Service's Assistant Director for Fish and Aquatic Conservation at 202-208-3517.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Ashe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

RECEIVED

5:14:20 February 17, 2014

2014 MAR -5 AM 11:40

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: 1978 CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED FACILITY STUDY FOR DINÉ
COLLEGE**

Secretary Jewell:

I am writing to request your assistance in ensuring that a 35-year-old congressionally mandated Facility Study for Diné College ("Facility Study") is completed as quickly as possible.

In 1971, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Act (Public Law 92-189; hereinafter "NCC Act"). The NCC Act authorized funding for "operation, maintenance and construction." It appears that from 1971 forward, no funding was requested in the federal budget for construction. In 1978, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Assistance Act (P.L. Pub. L. 95-471; hereinafter "NCC Construction Funding Act") to correct this funding gap. The NCC Construction Funding Act authorizes \$2 million annually for construction funding for the college. Further, a 1980 Government Accounting Office (GAO) study concluded Diné College's unique funding authorization for "operation, maintenance and construction" was not adequately reflected in the funding formula the BIA used to fund the college. The GAO study made recommendations to Congress and the administration to review the college's O&M and construction-funding disparity.

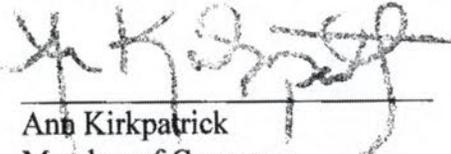
As part of the NCC Construction Funding Act, Congress provided for a facilities study to be completed by the Department of the Interior by August 1978. The 1978 facilities study was never completed. Subsequently, funding for college facilities was never budgeted nor appropriated. In 2008, Congress enacted the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act and again directed that the Department of the Interior complete the 1978 facilities study by Oct. 31, 2010. To date, the facilities study has not been completed.

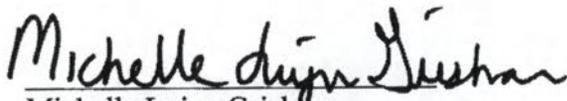
Diné College first brought this issue to our attention in February 2011. Since then, the college has personally briefed Assistant Secretary Washburn, members of his staff, the Bureau of Indian Education staff, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs facility and construction staff. In particular, as follow up to its May 2011 meeting with the college, the BIA Facility and Construction Office requested that the college submit its facility and related data. Since these initial meetings in 2011, the college has undergone several important changes, including closing two campus sites due to sequestration and drafting an academic master plan to better meet the needs of our

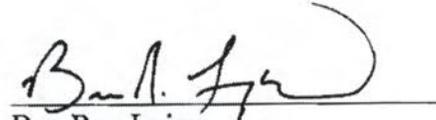
students and the Navajo Nation. On Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, the college submitted the requested facility and related data to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

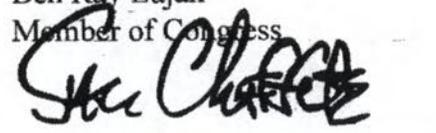
We respectfully request that you follow up on this important issue. The facilities study is 35 years overdue and warrants immediate attention. We request a status report to us on the issue no later than May 30, 2014. Please include in your report an action plan, benchmarks and date of completion of the study. Thank you for personally following up on this issue.

Respectfully,


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 26 2014

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter dated February 17, 2014, to Secretary Sally Jewell, concerning the status of a Facility Study for Diné College. Secretary Jewell has asked me to respond on her behalf.

In 1971, Congress passed Pub. L. 92-189, commonly known as the Navajo Community College Act. That statute "... authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$5,500,000 for construction..." as well as "... an annual sum for operation and maintenance..." The statute did not direct or authorize a facilities study, nor did Congress appropriate allowable construction funds to facilitate construction.

In 1978, Congress passed the Navajo Community College Assistance Act, Pub. L. 95-471, which directed the Secretary to "... conduct a detailed survey and study of the academic facilities needs of the Navajo Community College..." It also "... authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1979, and for the 2 succeeding fiscal years..." Subsequently, Pub. L. 110-315, Title IX, Part D, subpart 2, also known as the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act (NNHEA), "... authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 2009 through 2014..." for the purpose of construction grants. Additionally, the NNHEA required a study of the academic facilities needs of Diné College and preparation of a report by October 31, 2010.

Because the applicable statutes require that such "... college be designed and operated by the Navajo Tribe..." Indian Affairs cannot complete the Facilities Study/Report without input from Diné College representatives, consisting of current facilities information such as location, infrastructure square footage and condition, as well as current and expected enrollment. In addition, information regarding future need is crucial in assessing the facilities program. To facilitate development of a Facilities Report, the Indian Affairs Office of Facilities Maintenance and Construction (IA-OFMC) met with Diné College representatives on May 22, 2012, and again on February 10, 2014. The IA-OFMC provided representatives with a sample Facilities Master Plan that had been developed for the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, and requested the necessary facilities information to move forward. Another meeting was hosted between IA-OFMC, Diné College representatives, and the Navajo Regional Office on April 2, 2014, to further facilitate development of the Diné College Facilities Report.

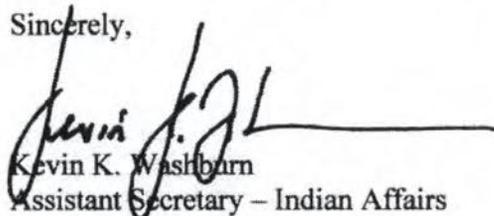
During that meeting, the need for facilities information was reiterated. To date, the Navajo Regional Office has received the 2013-2014 Academic Master Plan; Strategic Goals and Objectives; College Planning Framework; Institutional Data Review; and a 5 Year Capital Plan for Infrastructure, Site & Facility Development.

The following documents are pending submission from Diné College to the Navajo Region Office: (1) As-Built Drawings for all sites; (2) Environmental Data (Environmental Assessment, Section 106 Archaeological Clearance and FONSI) for all sites; (3) annual O&M cost for all sites; and (4) the IT Diagrams for all sites. The Diné College was contacted by email on August 11, 2014, about the pending documents to be submitted to the Navajo Regional Office.

Once the necessary information is received from the Diné College, IA-OFMC will be in a position to assess the information and begin developing the facilities assessment report. Such development will require substantial site visits, engineering and structural assessment, architectural review and government estimates, as well as, a coordinated effort with the College. Given the breadth of review, research and evaluation required to assess and recommend facilities for the Diné College, IA-OFMC anticipates a Facilities Report can be completed in 6 to 9 months.

Thank you for your interest in Indian Affairs. A similar letter has been sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

638394

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We are contacting you to bring to your personal attention concerns that stakeholders have raised about the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project.

Several Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCs) - including Cascabel Working Group, Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District, Redington Natural Resource Conservation District, and Friends of the Aravaipa Region - raised issues about the proposed project during the public comment period of both the draft and final environmental impact statement (EIS) period.

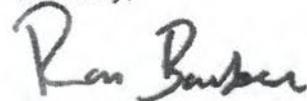
NRCs have shared with us their serious concerns that their comments were not adequately addressed by BLM during the environmental assessment process, namely that BLM did not thoroughly examine and take into account all economic feasibility studies and potential interconnectivity problems between regional natural gas production facilities and the proposed transmission line.

Attached for your review are the specific concerns NRCs have raised with regard to the proposed SunZia project. In order to achieve a complete understanding of the potential impacts of a proposed federal action and to ensure the integrity of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), it is absolutely critical that BLM review and thoroughly respond to all relevant data and analyses that have been submitted during the environmental assessment process.

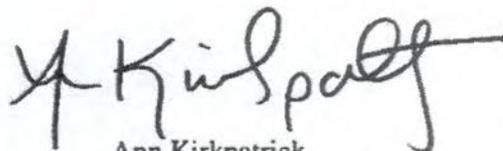
We urge you to fully review the attached documented concerns and take them into consideration before issuing a final Record of Decision on the SunZia transmission project. We also request that you respond to these concerns prior to publishing your Record of Decision regarding the project.

Thank you for expediting action on this request.

Sincerely,



Ron Barber
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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638395

RECEIVED

2013 NOV -6 PM 8:52

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing to you from the lower San Pedro River watershed in southern Arizona, the last remaining major river ecosystem in southern Arizona and the default mitigation corridor for impacts taking place elsewhere in a rapidly growing state. One of the agencies that you oversee is currently considering designation of this rare and important desert river ecosystem as a National Wildlife Refuge, while another agency in your charge is currently considering fragmentation of the landscape with a new industrial-scale electrical infrastructure project. These are the environmental stakes involved with the information that we are delivering to you today.

The Winkelman and Redington Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCs), the Cascabel Working Group (CWG), and the Friends of the Aravaipa Region (FAR) were unsuccessful in their repeated attempts to have information submittals considered in the SunZia Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These information submittals are relevant to the BLM's federal mandate to describe the reasonably foreseeable effects of the proposed SunZia action. Below is a summary of four of our information submittals, the response to these submittals by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the EIS, and our explanation of why these responses are inaccurate or incomplete:

Submittal #1: All of the above mentioned stakeholder groups challenged the BLM's energy development scenario for the proposed transmission project by repeatedly submitting specific findings of a third-party economic feasibility study, the High Plains Express (HPX) Economic Feasibility Study of 2008, that contradict the BLM's assertion that 81% to 94% of energy developed as a result of installing the SunZia lines would be renewable. Specific findings of the HPX study were submitted by the stakeholder groups nine times over a two-year period.

BLM Response: The only BLM response in the EIS to extensive comments on the HPX study was given to the NRCs in EIS response #1606-57, page J-288. In this response, the BLM selected a quote from the results summary in the HPX study, stating "...results would indicate that HPX would provide economic benefits to customers in the HPX states over a variety of resource mixes and CO2 tax scenarios, with the sole exception of a fossil only scenario. As such, HPX's economic feasibility appears to be sufficiently positive and consistent with emerging public policy to warrant further investigations."

The BLM's response concluded, "The HPX report does not rule out the use of a higher percentage of renewable energy."

Why this response is inaccurate: The HPX study is available at:

<http://www.rmao.com/wtpp/HPX/HighPlainsExpress%20First%20Stage%20Feasibility%20Report%200608.pdf>

Economic feasibility studies are used in this EIS and others as the basis for evaluating alternatives and establishing input assumptions. The submitted study compares delivery costs for various energy resource scenarios, and has implications on the marketability of these scenarios, especially for merchant line proposals in the Southwest.

As alluded to in the HPX statement that was quoted by the BLM, the results in Table 8 (page 37 of the study) are based upon enacting a federal tax on CO₂ emissions in the range of \$10 to \$40 per ton. The United States currently has no tax on CO₂ emissions, and there is little reason to believe such a tax will be enacted during the SunZia construction/implementation timetable that was presented by the BLM.

The same HPX results summary that was selectively quoted by the BLM clearly states "At low CO₂ taxes, the renewable-dominated scenarios do not perform well." (page 36) In Figure 8, a graph on page 37 of this study, data points indicate that the energy development forecast presented by the BLM and SunZia (81 to 94% renewable energy) would not be economically feasible in the absence of a tax on carbon emissions. The same graph indicates that the energy mix with the highest benefit/cost result, and the most likely to occur in the absence or at low levels of a carbon emissions tax, is the inverse of the SunZia forecast (25% renewable, 75% fossil fueled). According to the results graphed in Figure 8, the energy development scenario presented by the BLM would not be competitive with more balanced scenarios unless CO₂ emissions were taxed at \$25 per ton.

The study uses a third party computer model (Frontier Economic Assessment Screening Tool) developed by Pacific Gas and Electric and the Frontier Line Economics Subcommittee. The SunZia project was considered an integral part of the HPX project at the time the HPX study was conducted.

These findings contradict the energy development assumptions underlying both required and optional analyses presented in the SunZia EIS, including the analyses of cumulative effects, climate effects, and economic/jobs benefits. The required analysis of secondary effects must be based upon reasonably foreseeable generation projects, defined as those that are highly probable, not remotely possible, to obtain power purchase agreements. No other economic feasibility study was submitted by the applicant or provided by the BLM that would justify the energy development scenario currently used as the basis for analysis in the EIS.

Thus, according to the best available study on the marketability of various energy development scenarios under market conditions likely to occur during the SunZia construction/implementation timetable presented by the BLM, it is highly probable that the BLM has overestimated renewable energy development and underestimated fossil-fueled generation development by a factor of two to three times. This is not a trivial projection error.

Submittal #2: The four stakeholder groups repeatedly submitted information on the historical and current relevance of the applicant's dual interests in the transmission proposal and a planned natural gas-fired power plant in Bowie, Arizona. This issue was brought to a head with CWG's comments 1604-1 on page J-271 of the EIS, noting that SunZia would provide an opportunity for expanding the Bowie plant's markets beyond what could be offered by existing infrastructure. CWG comments specifically referenced the applicant's 2010 Petition for Declaratory Order to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

BLM Response: The BLM apparently did not address this comment submittal independently. In Appendix J of the EIS, response 1604-1 on page J-271, the BLM deferred to the applicant's denial that the Bowie plant and the transmission proposal are connected actions:

"The Bowie Power Station (Bowie) was permitted to interconnect with the existing TEP 345kV Greenlee-Winchester-Vail transmission line at the Bowie Willow-345kV substation. The Bowie Willow substation does not afford Bowie a direct interconnection with the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. The Applicant states that, although the SunZia Project may have been initially conceptualized as an interstate generation-tie line for Bowie with a transfer capability of 1,500 MW (thus only adding an additional 500 MW of capacity to the electrical grid), the configuration of the proposed SunZia Project (two 500kV transmission lines adding an additional 3,000-4,500 MW of capacity to the electrical grid), and Bowie are not 'connected actions', as each has an 'independent utility' from the other."

Why this response is inadequate: Simply deferring to the applicant on this highly contested point in the EIS, rather than exercising independent oversight, is not appropriate, because:

- a) The applicant made a contradictory statement, during the same EIS process for the expanded SunZia configuration, to another federal agency, on page 18 of the 2010 Petition for Declaratory Order to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC): *"It is possible that other LLC Members will also use some or all of their portion of the [SunZia] Project for affiliated generation (e.g., SWPG's Bowie power plant, ECP SunZia-affiliated generation projects in early-stage development located in the vicinity of the Project). Such generation may also be renewable or may be combined-cycle gas-fired generation."*
- b) The applicant's above statement to FERC in 2010 indicates that the Bowie plant did not abandon SunZia as another transmission option just because the SunZia project was expanded in 2009, as the Applicant's response to CWG's comments implies.
- c) The close siting between SunZia's 500-kV Willow substation and TEP's 345-kV lines near the permitted but not built 345-kV Willow substation will facilitate direct power exchanges between the Bowie plant and SunZia's lines.
- d) The historical interrelationship between the Bowie plant and the SunZia endeavor as a means of expanding markets for the Bowie plant was extensively and repeatedly documented by the stakeholder groups since the end of the scoping period in 2009.

- e) The HPX study provided documentation on the need for significant amounts of fossil-fueled energy to compensate for the unreliability of wind energy being transmitted on extra high voltage lines.
- f) The HPX study provided explicit statements and graphic projections on the lack of marketability of renewable-dominated energy scenarios at low levels of CO2 emissions taxation.
- g) Other major transmission proposals in the region (Southline, Lucky Corridor, HPX) openly recognized the importance of natural gas energy in current power markets and as a compensating factor for lower reliability renewable resources.

The majority owner of SunZia is also the owner of the Bowie plant. The Bowie plant would benefit from the SunZia transmission project, and the SunZia transmission project would benefit from the Bowie plant. This is a case where the BLM needs to provide independent oversight, rather than deferring to the applicant's desire to deny the mutually beneficial relationship to one agency while disclosing this relationship to another agency.

Submittal #3: All four stakeholder groups submitted comments asserting that fossil-fueled generation, including from natural gas resources, has been significantly underestimated in the BLM's energy development forecast by projecting a 270 to 570 MW range. It was pointed out by FAR on EIS page J-441 (comments 2197-20) that the Bowie plant could provide up to 1000 MW on its own, and it was just one of several fossil-fueled plants located in close proximity to three of SunZia's planned substations. FAR also cited the HPX study's findings related to the superior benefit/cost results of incorporating greater amounts of fossil fueled energy in the transmitted energy mix.

BLM's first response: The BLM response on the same page states, "Although FERC rules do not allow for discriminatory preference among generation subscribers to a transmission line, 'it is the intent of the Applicant to provide infrastructure to increase transmission capacity in areas of potential renewable energy generation'".

Why this response is inadequate: The first part of the response acknowledges free market access to transmission lines, but the second sub-quoted part of the response defers to the "intent of the Applicant". The intent of the Applicant is irrelevant to the market factors that determine the probability of obtaining power purchase agreements. Three of the four planned SunZia substations are based in the southern portions of New Mexico and Arizona, where the potential for fossil fueled generation is just as great or greater than the potential for renewable energy generation. The HPX study indicates that market competition clearly favors fossil-fuel dominated energy scenarios (25% renewable, 75% fossil fuel) in the absence of a tax on CO2 emissions. It is these market factors, not the intent of the organization that happens to file a Notice of Intent with the BLM, that will determine which portions of the proposed lines are likely to be constructed and what the energy mix will be on those lines. According to the HPX study, it is highly improbable that the SunZia lines will stimulate the development of 270 to 570 MW of fossil-fueled energy (6% of 4500 MW to 19% of 3000 MW), as indicated in the current energy development forecast.

Submittal #4: All of the referenced stakeholder groups submitted comments on the Southline transmission proposal as an alternative to the southern portions of the SunZia proposal, and cited other more northerly transmission proposals as alternatives to the wind portion of the SunZia proposal. CWG best summarized these alternatives in their comment 2412-11 on page J-552, citing the Southline proposal as a less environmentally harmful alternative in the southern portions of New Mexico and Arizona and citing the HPX, Centennial West, Lucky Corridor, and Power Network NM proposals as competing for wind energy transmission originating in central New Mexico.

BLM response: The BLM response to comments 2412-11 on page J-551 states, *"The range of alternatives considered included potential transmission line routes that could provide electrical interconnections with renewable energy resources located primarily within the Qualified Resource Areas (QRAs) for wind energy, in south-central New Mexico, and the QRAs for solar energy located in southwestern New Mexico (e.g., BLM designated Afton Solar Energy Zone) and southeastern Arizona. Alternatives due west from the northern portion of the study corridors in New Mexico (High Plains Express Transmission Project and the Centennial West Clean Line Project) would not be practical or feasible to achieve this objective.*

The proposed Southline Transmission Project (345 kV), located between southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, could transport additional electricity generated from sources in those areas; however, the purpose and need for the Southline project is different than for the SunZia Project. The Southline project's capacity would be limited according to the plan to construct portions of the proposed transmission lines within existing rights-of-way."

Why this response is inadequate: The first paragraph of this response narrowly defines the transmission challenge in a way that makes the SunZia proposal the only possible solution, by stating that neither the HPX project or the Centennial West proposal could achieve the objective of transmitting both wind resources from central New Mexico and solar resources from the southern portions of New Mexico and Arizona. This is obvious, but the response avoids addressing CWG's comment that a multi-project approach could achieve the same objective. The Centennial West, Lucky Corridor, Power Network New Mexico, and HPX proposals would compete with SunZia in their potential to deliver wind-generated electricity from the wind QRA in central and northern New Mexico, and two of these proposals would have the added potential of benefiting the transmission of wind resources located along the same general latitude in Arizona's QRA.

The second paragraph of the response takes a similar approach, stating that the purpose and need for the Southline project is "different than for the SunZia project". That is also obvious, because Southline is not designed to transmit wind-generated energy from central New Mexico. The relevant point is that Southline would not have to match the capacity of the SunZia proposal if it does not need to transport wind energy from central New Mexico. If other projects can fulfill the wind transport function, then Southline's design to follow existing rights-of-way is a major asset, not the liability described in the BLM's response. The BLM has a federal directive to follow existing rights-of-way to the highest degree practical, and should be very interested in the possibility of avoiding SunZia's approach of building a new industrial-scale infrastructure corridor through previously undisturbed landscape on 40% of its route, significantly impacting the riparian ecosystems of the Rio Grande and lower San Pedro Rivers.

The Southline project would compete with SunZia in its potential to deliver solar-generated power from southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, as well as competing for natural gas powered resources located along the El Paso Natural Gas Line in the same region. These overlapping functions should be listed and considered in the EIS.

The competing projects cited by CWG will provide access to the same QRAs noted by the BLM in their response. All of these projects would duplicate SunZia's function to some extent, and sufficient information is known about their purpose, capacity, and status of development to include them in the SunZia EIS. This duplication of power distribution must be fully considered to prevent the wasteful and uneconomic construction of excess capacity, and to avoid unnecessary environmental impacts. This has not been done in the EIS. These alternative projects may achieve the same basic ends with fewer overall environmental impacts than SunZia.

The first three of the above information submittals have been pending for several years. Attached is a copy of Rep. Barber's pre-EIS letter to the BLM regarding the need to include meaningful consideration of these submittals in the EIS.

We respectfully urge you to address BLM's flawed responses in the SunZia EIS and ask that you do so prior to issuing a final Record of Decision.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

<signature by emailed consent on 11/06/2013>

Peter Else
Chair, Friends of the Aravaipa Region, bigbackyardfar@gmail.com
Member of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

CC:

Pearl Mast and Norm Meader, Co-Chairs of the Cascabel Working Group
William Dunn, Chair, Winkelman Natural Resources Conservation District
Andrew Smallhouse, Chair, Redington Natural Resources Conservation District

Attachment:

Congressman Barber's letter of May, 2013

RON BARBER
2ND DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEES:
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
READINESS
HOMELAND SECURITY
OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT
EFFICIENCY, RANKING MEMBER
SMALL BUSINESS
ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX AND
CAPITAL ACCESS
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND TRADE

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-0302

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TWITTER:
twitter.com/RepRonBarber

Jesse Juen
Acting State Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Juen:

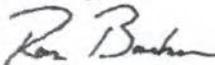
I am contacting you regarding concerns my constituents have raised about the proposed SunZia power transmission project.

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District and the Redington Natural Resource Conservation District submitted formal comments highlighting concerns they had about the data and information the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) used to evaluate the SunZia transmission project. In letters dated August 17, 2011 and January 6, 2012 from yourself and Ronnie Levine, respectively, BLM indicated that these concerns would be addressed in BLM's Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). These concerns were not addressed in BLM's Draft EIS, which has elicited concern that they will not be addressed in BLM's Final EIS.

The processes laid out in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are intended to ensure agencies utilize a fair and transparent analysis of the environmental impacts of a given project. I know that my constituents have been concerned about the environmental assessment process up to this point, and I urge you to treat all parties' concerns fairly as you conduct the final review so that Southern Arizonans will feel confident in the process, and therefore confident in the review's findings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact my district director, Jessica Floyd, at Jessica.floyd@mail.house.gov or 520-881-3588.

Sincerely,



Ron Barber
Member of Congress



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Washington, D.C. 20240

<http://www.blm.gov>

DEC 30 2013



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter dated November 6, 2013, to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell requesting a review of concerns from various stakeholders regarding the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. Secretary Jewell asked me to respond to your letter.

The information you provided on behalf of the Friends of the Aravaipa Region (FAR) includes four informational submittals that, according to FAR, are relevant to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Federal mandate to describe the reasonably foreseeable effects of the proposed SunZia Transmission Project. The BLM responded in detail to comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SunZia Project, including comments submitted by the Cascabel Working Group, Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD), Redington NRCD, and the FAR. The responses included detailed information specific to the issues raised by these stakeholders, including those relating to the High Plains Express Economic Feasibility Study, the planned Bowie natural gas-fired power plant, the BLM's energy development forecast, and the proposed Southline transmission line.

The FAR and the Winkelman and Redington NRCDs also submitted protest letters to the BLM Director during the land use planning protest period that began following the release of the Final EIS in June 2013. The content of the FAR's protest letter is substantially similar to the content of the attachment included with your letter. The BLM is currently considering all protests received, including the FAR's protest, and will render a decision on all protests, setting forth the reasons for that decision, before issuing a Record of Decision on the project.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. A similar reply is being sent to Representative Barber.

Sincerely,

Tommy P. Beaudreau
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

ANN KIRKPATRICK
16TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3361

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FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001

211 NORTH FLORENCE STREET #1
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122

11556 WEST CINDY CENTER DRIVE #104A
MARANA, AZ 85653

550 NORTH 8TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901

1400 EAST ASH
GLOBE, AZ 85501

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES
HARRIS MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

October 22, 2013

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

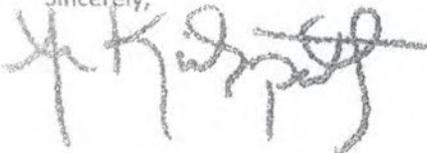
I am writing to express my gratitude to the Department of Interior for working diligently with the State of Arizona to reopen the Grand Canyon National Park throughout the government shutdown. As you may know, the Grand Canyon is a major economic driver in my district, attracting about 5 million visitors from around the world and generating \$467 million annually into our local economy.

I am pleased that my colleagues and I were able to reach a bipartisan agreement to reopen the government and resume paying our bills. In Sec. 116 of the Continuing Resolution legislation (H.R. 2775), states and other grantees that used their own funds to carry out a federal program or activity during the shutdown should be eligible for reimbursements. The State of Arizona contributed \$465,000 to reopen the Grand Canyon for five days, and I feel strongly that Arizona should be federally reimbursed for these costs.

I am asking that your office provide me with information on the process for reimbursing the State of Arizona and for resolving this matter expeditiously. This is a top priority for me and for the people of Arizona – especially those in the Northern Arizona communities of Flagstaff, Tusayan and Williams.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



ANN KIRKPATRICK

Member of Congress

EXERCISES AND EXERCISES
OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2013 OCT 22 PM 1:02

RECEIVED

527923

Highlights of the Continuing Resolution and Debt Limit Deal

A partial government shutdown that began Oct. 1 with the start of fiscal 2014 ended in the early morning hours of Oct. 17. That's when President Barack Obama signed a bill (HR 2775) to provide appropriations through Jan. 15, suspend the statutory debt limit through Feb. 7, provide back pay for furloughed federal employees, and require that the income of individuals seeking health care subsidies through state insurance exchanges be verified.

The House cleared HR 2775 on the night of Oct. 16 when it concurred in Senate amendments passed earlier in the evening. The measure, which originally dealt only with the income verification issue, was first passed by the House on Sept. 12. Following are highlights of the enacted legislation.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

The bill provides funding for most government operations through Jan. 15 at sequester-reduced fiscal 2013 levels in effect at the end of September, with increases for a few activities. It extends until Jan. 15 the general pay freeze for federal employees and specifically prohibits a pay increase for members of Congress for fiscal 2014.

BACK PAY

The amendment provides for retroactive pay for those federal workers furloughed as a result of the current partial government shutdown that began Oct. 1. Affected employees of the District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service or D.C. government also would be eligible for retroactive pay. States and other grantees that used their own funds to carry out a federal program or activity during the government shutdown (such as reopening national parks) would be eligible for reimbursements, including payments for furloughed state employees who are financed with federal funds.

INCREASES OTHER PROVISIONS

The bill provides an additional \$636 million for fighting wildfires and allows the Federal Highway Administration to provide up to \$450 million in emergency relief to states that have exceeded a \$100 million cap for a single natural disaster. It gives an additional \$470 million to the Social Security Administration to conduct disability reviews, and increases funding for the Federal

Aviation Administration, federal courts and for the Veterans Affairs Department to speed disability claims processing.

The measure also increases from \$775 million to \$2.9 billion the authorization for the Olmsted Lock and Dam project on the Lower Ohio River between Illinois and Kentucky. Some critics accused Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., of adding a prohibited earmark for the project, although Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it was necessary to protect an ongoing project from losing money at the end of the calendar year.

The bill appropriates \$174,000 — the customary one-year salary level — to Bonnie Englehardt Lautenberg, the widow of Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, D-N.J.

The legislation does not continue a provision from the March continuing appropriations law (PL 113-6) that critics say would allow genetically modified organism crops to be cultivated and sold even when courts had found they posed a potential risk to farmers of nearby crops, the environment and human health.

BORROWING AUTHORITY

The bill provides for the suspension through Feb. 7 of the current \$16.7 trillion statutory limit on federal borrowing, allowing the government to borrow whatever it needs through that time to finance government operations.

Congress could cancel this suspension of the debt limit and prevent any further borrowing by the Treasury by enacting a resolution of disapproval, which could follow an expedited process through Congress.

On Feb. 8, a new statutory debt limit would automatically be set at whatever level had been reached.

INCOME VERIFICATION

The bill requires the Health and Human Services Department to ensure that the marketplace exchanges under the 2010 health care overhaul, where individuals purchase insurance, are verifying that the individuals applying for tax credits or cost-sharing reductions are eligible for those federal benefits. Before making those credits and reductions available, the HHS secretary must certify to Congress that the exchanges are verifying eligibility. The original House bill would have given this responsibility to the HHS inspector general.

THE LAST STAND

The outlines of a deal began to emerge Oct. 14 after a weekend in which House Republicans had tried without success to agree on a plan supported by Boehner and Budget Chairman Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., for a six-week debt limit increase so negotiations could be held on a bigger budget package. After Obama rejected that approach, House Republicans exited a meeting Oct. 12 saying they were not planning another offer, effectively taking themselves out of the negotiations.

Reid and McConnell began a series of closed-door meetings Oct. 14, with House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, occasion-

ally dropping by. "I think it's safe to say we've made substantial progress, and we look forward to making more progress in the near future," McConnell declared in mid-afternoon. Reid added: "We're doing our best to make everybody happy, but everyone knows we're not going to be able to do that."

The tentative deal was outlined Oct. 15 after Boehner failed to persuade his conference to unite behind several different alternatives to preserve remnants of GOP goals, such as barring health insurance subsidies to the president, members of Congress and their staffs or to delay a tax on medical device manufacturers. Democratic Whip Steny H.

Hoyer of Maryland said the proposals were designed to "snatch confrontation from the jaws of reasonable agreement."

Two conservative groups that had been pushing the faceoff with Obama, the Club for Growth and Heritage Action, announced that they would consider as betrayals any lawmaker's votes to accept half-measures.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., joined Boehner in telling colleagues to accept the Senate deal.

Senate leaders chose as their vehicle a bill the House had passed Sept. 12 that would stiffen income verification proce-

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of appropriations set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this joint resolution may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2014 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this joint resolution that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This joint resolution shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the joint resolution shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2013, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2013 but not later than 90 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this joint resolution may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this joint resolution that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) Of the amounts made available by section 101 for "Social Security Administration, Limitation on Administrative Expenses" for the cost associated with continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, \$273,000,000 is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(B)(ii)(III) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and

\$469,839,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(B) of such Act.

(c) Section 5 of Public Law 113-6 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. (a) Employees furloughed as a result of any lapse in appropriations which begins on or about October 1, 2013, shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation, for the period of such lapse in appropriations, as soon as practicable after such lapse in appropriations ends.

(b) For purposes of this section, "employee" means:

- (1) a federal employee;
- (2) an employee of the District of Columbia Courts;
- (3) an employee of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; or
- (4) a District of Columbia Government employee.

(c) All obligations incurred in anticipation of the appropriations made and authority granted by this joint resolution for the purposes of maintaining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bringing about orderly termination of Government functions, and for purposes as otherwise authorized by law, are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of this joint resolution.

(a) If a State (or another Federal grantee) used State funds (or the grantee's non-Federal funds) to continue carrying out a Federal program or furloughed State employees (or the grantee's employees) whose compensation is advanced or reimbursed in whole or in part by the Federal Government—

(1) such furloughed employees shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation for such period;

(2) the State (or such other grantee) shall be reimbursed for expenses that would have been paid by the Federal Government during such period had appropriations been available, including the cost of compensating such furloughed employees, together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code; and

(3) the State (or such other grantee) may use funds available to the State (or the grantee) under such Federal program to reimburse such State (or the grantee), together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "State" and the term "grantee" shall have the meaning as such term is defined under the applicable Federal program under subsection (a). In addition, "to continue carrying out a Federal program" means the continued performance by a State or other Federal grantee, during the period of a lapse in appropriations, of a Federal program that the State or such other grantee had been carrying out prior to the period of the lapse in appropriations.

(c) The authority under this section applies with respect to any period in fiscal year 2014 (not limited to periods beginning or ending after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution) during which there occurs a lapse in appropriations with respect to any department or agency of the Federal Government which, but for such lapse in appropriations, would have paid, or made reimbursement relating to, any of the expenses referred to in this section with respect to the program involved. Payments and reimbursements under this authority shall be made only to the extent and in amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

SEC. 117. Expenditures made pursuant to the Pay Our Military Act (Public Law 113-39) shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization provided in this joint resolution.

SEC. 118. For the purposes of this joint resolution, the time covered by this joint resolution

shall be considered to have begun on October 1, 2013.

SEC. 119. Section 3063 of division G of Public Law 113-6 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this joint resolution by substituting "fiscal year 2014" for "fiscal year 2013" each place it appears.

SEC. 120. Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for "December 31, 2012".

SEC. 121. Amounts made available under section 101 for "Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and Construction" may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned launch schedules for the Joint Polar Satellite System and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite system.

SEC. 122. The authority provided by sections 1205 and 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-61) shall continue in effect, notwithstanding subsection (h) of section 1206, through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 123. Section 3(a)(6) of Public Law 100-676 is amended by striking both occurrences of "\$775,000,000" and inserting in lieu thereof, "\$2,318,000,000".

SEC. 124. Section 14704 of title 40, United States Code, shall be applied to amounts made available by this joint resolution by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for "October 1, 2012".

SEC. 125. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for "The Judiciary—Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Salaries and Expenses" at a rate of operations of \$4,820,321,000. Provided, That notwithstanding section 302 of Division C, of Public Law 112-74 as continued by Public Law 113-6, not to exceed \$25,000,000 shall be available for transfer between accounts to maintain minimum operating levels.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for "The Judiciary—Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Defender Services" at a rate for operations of \$1,012,000,000.

SEC. 127. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading "District of Columbia Funds" for such programs and activities under title IV of H.R. 2786 (113th Congress), as reported by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, at the rate set forth under "District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses" as included in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request Act of 2013 (D.C. Act 20-127), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

SEC. 128. Section 302 of the Universal Service Anti-deficiency Temporary Suspension Act is amended by striking "December 31, 2013", each place it appears and inserting "January 15, 2014".

SEC. 129. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for the "Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board" at a rate for operations of \$3,100,000.

SEC. 130. For the period covered by this joint resolution, section 550(b) of Public Law 109-295 (6 U.S.C. 121 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for "October 4, 2013".

SEC. 131. The authority provided by section 532 of Public Law 109-295 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

SEC. 132. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives RECEIVED

520906 Washington, DC 20515-0301

2013 AUG 19 AM 11:57

330 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3361
405 NORTH BEAVER STREET #6
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001
211 NORTH FLORENCE STREET #1
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122
11555 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE #104A
MARANA, AZ 85653
550 NORTH 9TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901
1400 EAST ASH
GLOBE, AZ 85501

August 14, 2013

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Re: North Central Arizona Water Supply Feasibility Study

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I am writing to request your assistance in helping complete the North Central Arizona Water Feasibility Study. As the U.S. Representative for Congressional District One, I am deeply concerned about the water challenges our state faces and what these challenges mean for my constituents, including 12 Native American tribes.

The current practice of high-volume groundwater mining not only reduces Arizona's water supply but also compromises water quality and results in unacceptable impacts to the environment. It is critical to Arizona's future to assess the feasibility of water supply alternatives.

The North Central Arizona Water Feasibility Study is currently in its third year, and upon completion will provide critical information regarding how north central Arizona can meet future water needs, including a preliminary design for water source alternatives to supply rural communities in north central Arizona. The study's continuation and completion is crucial to the implementation of a water project that will ensure the availability of quality groundwater for future Arizona generations.

The Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council asks that the Department of the Interior include \$900,000 for funding in the FY 2015 budget, in addition to the \$400,000 excess funds from the FY 2014 budget, for the Reclamations Rural Water Program, specifically the North Central Arizona Water Feasibility Study. Federal funding was unavailable for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, and the cities, counties and tribes of north central Arizona have been supporting the study with their own funds. This study is critical to the area, and without federal cost-sharing it cannot be completed.

I strongly urge the Department of the Interior to help support the completion of the North Central Arizona Water Feasibility Study.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240

NOV 12 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick:

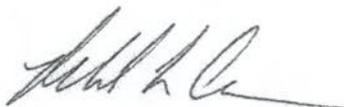
On behalf of Secretary Jewell, I am responding to your letter of August 14, 2013, regarding the North Central Arizona Water Supply Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study). Both the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the non-federal partners have invested significant time and resources into investigations to address water supply issues on the Coconino Plateau in Northern Arizona. Reclamation understands the magnitude and significance of the Feasibility Study and appreciates your concerns regarding its completion.

The Feasibility Study was authorized and funded by the Rural Water Supply Program, developed pursuant to the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006, Public Law 109-451. There are currently seven active Rural Water construction projects with a backlog of \$1.3 billion. At current funding levels, Reclamation estimates that some of these projects will not be completed for several decades. Therefore, the President's budget requests for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014, which did not include funding for Rural Water Supply Program studies, reflected the Administration's commitment to completing construction of the currently authorized projects before adding to the backlog.

Although the President did not request and Congress did not appropriate funds for Rural Water Supply Program studies in FY 2013 and FY 2014, Reclamation has been able to continue its participation in the Feasibility Study using funds previously appropriated for this purpose and contributed funds from the non-federal partners, who have committed to provide \$300,000 in cash for FY 2014. At this time, additional federal funding for the Feasibility Study is not available. We will consider your request for \$900,000 in FY 2015 for the Feasibility Study, but expect it will be extremely difficult to support funding for the Rural Water Supply Program under current budgetary circumstances.

Reclamation recognizes that completion of the Feasibility Study will provide information that will help rural communities in north central Arizona better understand how to meet future water needs, and remains committed to working closely with all of the study partners toward that end. Please contact Ms. Deborah Tosline, in Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office at 623-773-6277 for further information on the Feasibility Study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Connor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael L. Connor
Commissioner

ANN KIRKPATRICK
15TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

330 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3361

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TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

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11555 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE #104A
MARANA, AZ 85653

550 NORTH 9TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901

111 EAST ASH
GILBERT, AZ 85501

RECEIVED
2013 JUL 23 PM 3:50

July 17, 2013

Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn,

I would like to thank your staff for meeting with the White Mountain Apache Tribe and my Chief of Staff, Carmen Gallus, regarding the reopening of the Fort Apache Timber Company (FATCO) sawmill.

I developed a deep understanding of the need for good-paying jobs and economic development on tribal land by growing up on the White Mountain Apache Nation in Whiteriver, Arizona. Whiteriver's current population is 4,000, and the unemployment rate hovers above 40 percent. The reopening of the sawmill will not only create desperately needed jobs but also will restore a major source of hope and pride for our community.

The reopening of the sawmill folds seamlessly into my vision for a diversified and stable economy in my district. The White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) estimates that the reopening of the sawmill will create 185 jobs and infuse more than \$10 million into the local economy through the New Markets Tax Credit Program. The sawmill will provide a source of income for the WMAT while improving forest health in the region.

The sawmill allows WMAT to play a pivotal role in restoring forest health and economic development to our region as the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) is implemented. The overall goal of 4FRI is to restore the structure and composition of our forests, which will reduce forest fires while improving forest health, wildlife and plant diversity. Local businesses such as FATCO will play a role in the harvesting, processing and selling of timber products.

In a recent House Natural Resources Committee hearing, the White Mountain Apache Tribe was recognized for its successful management of forest lands, which was credited with stopping the 2011 Wallow fire at the Nation's border. The reopening of the sawmill will allow the WMAT to take a leadership role, on the national level, in forest health and economic development.

I fully support the reopening of the sawmill, and I ask that you work closely with my office and the WMAT to determine the most appropriate course of action moving forward.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Kirkpatrick". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Ann" written in a large, bold script.

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 20 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Division of Forestry and
Wildland Fire Management
IACC000079

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0301

Dear Ms. Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 2013, to Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, regarding the White Mountain Apache Tribe reopening the Fort Apache Timber Company (FATCO) sawmill.

We would like to thank you and your Chief of Staff, Carmen Gallus, for recognizing the importance of economic development on tribal land. Your vision for a diversified and stable economy in your district along with your support for the FATCO sawmill reopening is appreciated. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is collaborating with the White Mountain Apache Tribe in determining the feasibility of reopening the FATCO sawmill and is committed to improving the economic development for tribal communities.

Thank you again for your support. If you have any questions or additional correspondence regarding this matter, you may contact Bryan Rice, Deputy Bureau Director, Trust Services at (202) 208-5831 or by e-mail at Bryan.Rice@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

Acting Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Congress of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 11, 2013

524766

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
MS 7328
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED
2013 JUL 12 AM 9:27
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Re: *Bill Williams Water Rights Settlement and Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan Enhancement*

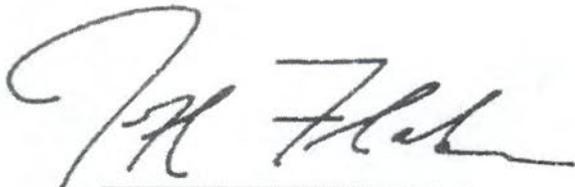
Dear Secretary Jewell:

We appreciate the commitment you made during your confirmation process to make the ongoing negotiations to settle water rights in the Bill Williams River Watershed a priority. It is our understanding that those efforts are progressing. However, it has come to our attention that certain statutory triggers (a 5-year time clock to put water to beneficial use) have increased the sense of urgency with regard to completing the negotiations.

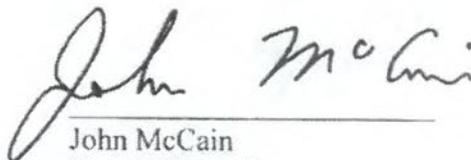
By resolving water rights claims along the Bill Williams River, we believe there is the potential for significant benefits for stakeholders throughout Arizona. Those potential benefits could include finally incorporating the long-sought Planet Ranch property into the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan, providing certainty for non-Indian and Indian water users in the basin, and facilitating further analysis of the Hualapai Tribe's water rights. We urge you to continue giving this matter attention at the Department's highest levels. As always, we ask that this request be handled in strict accordance with Department rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Thank you for your continued dedication to bringing the settlement negotiations to a close.

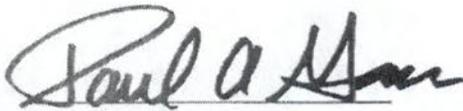
Sincerely,



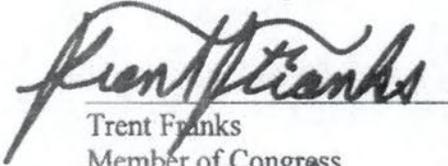
Jeff Flake
United States Senator



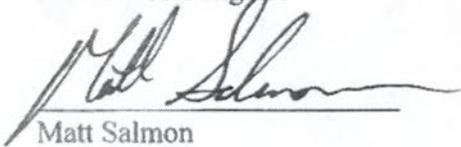
John McCain
United States Senator



Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



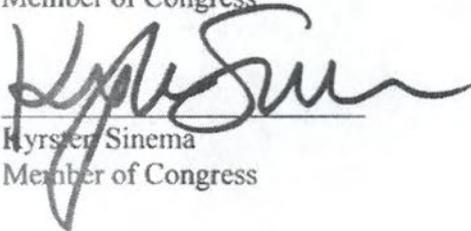
Trent Franks
Member of Congress



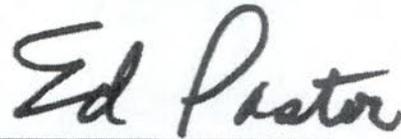
Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



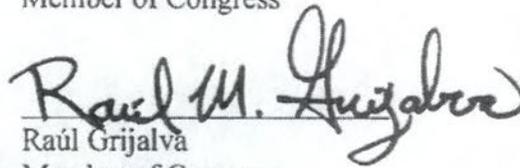
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



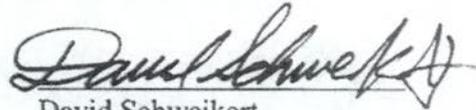
Hyrster Sinema
Member of Congress



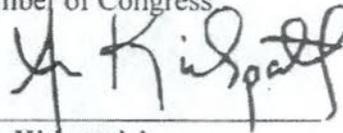
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

cc: Ms. Letty Belin, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary
Ms. Pamela Williams, Director, Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

AUG 13 2013

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 2013, regarding the ongoing negotiations to settle water rights in the Bill Williams River Watershed. As I expressed during my confirmation process, I understand the importance of the Indian water rights claims in Arizona and the trust responsibility that the United States has with Indian tribes. I assured you that, if confirmed as Secretary of the Interior, I would make working on a Hualapai water settlement a priority.

Ms. Pamela Williams, Director of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office, has been personally involved in the Hualapai discussions along with the Federal Team that was appointed to handle this matter. I understand that the Team, the Freeport McMoran Corporation (Freeport), and other settlement parties have been holding regular meetings and have worked diligently to reach a final agreement focusing on the key water rights issues and related interests of the parties whose timely resolution is important to all. In addition, former Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes and his Counselor, Ms. Alletta Belin, participated in a high-level meeting with representatives of Freeport and the Tribe in Washington, DC on June 26, 2013, to discuss a path forward. More recently, Ms. Belin traveled to Phoenix to host a follow-up meeting with Freeport and the Tribe to solidify agreement on key issues that will need to be included in a Phase 1 settlement. Ms. Belin has subsequently met on two occasions with representatives from Freeport and the Tribe in Washington, DC.

I am hopeful that the continued efforts by the Federal Team and Washington DC staff from my office will yield an agreement that provides additional habitat for endangered species in the Lower Colorado River basin. I am also hopeful that these efforts have created greater certainty for non-Indian, Indian, and Federal agency water users in the basin with respect to important core water rights and will facilitate further analysis of ways in which the Hualapai Tribe's water rights must be satisfied in a Phase Two settlement.

An identical letter is being sent to each cosigner of your letter. I appreciate the interest that you and other members of the Arizona congressional delegation have shown in this settlement. We are all hoping that it will prove to be a success. If you have any questions concerning this matter, feel free to contact Ms. Williams by phone at (202) 262-0291 or via email at pamela_williams@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

REPRESENTATIVES:

W. TODD AKIN
BOBBY BRIGHT
PAUL C. BROUN
KATHY DAHLKEMPER
J. RANDY FORBES
VIRGINIA FOXX
LARRY KISSELL
PHIL ROE
BOBBY SCOTT
HEATH SHULER
CHARLIE WILSON
JOE WILSON



Jeff Miller
Ann Kirkpatrick
Members of Congress
NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST CO-CHAIRS

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JOHNNY ISAKSON
AMY KLOBUCHAR
BILL NELSON
MARK L. PRYOR
ROGER F. WICKER

November 15, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary and Mrs. Salazar:

On behalf of the Congressional Committee, we have the pleasure of inviting you to join us for the 59th National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, February 3, 2011, 7:30 a.m. at the Hilton Washington in Washington, D.C.

Annually, Members of Congress, the President and other national leaders have gathered to reaffirm our trust in God and recognize the reconciling power of prayer. Friends and leaders from throughout the United States and more than 130 countries come in the spirit of friendship to set aside their differences, seeking to build and strengthen relationships through our love for God and concern for one another. Although we face tremendous challenges each day, our hearts can be strengthened both individually and collectively as we seek God's wisdom and guidance together.

Your prompt response is essential and greatly appreciated. We sincerely hope you will be able to participate in this special time.

Sincerely,


Jeff Miller


Ann Kirkpatrick

NPB 5

*Members of the Congress
of the United States of America
request the pleasure of your company at the*

*59th Annual
National Prayer Breakfast
with*

*The President of the United States
and other national leaders in the Executive,
Judicial and Legislative Branches
of our government*

*Thursday, February 3, 2011
at eight o'clock*

*Hilton Washington
International Ballroom
Washington, D. C.*

*Guests to be seated
by 7:30 a.m.*

*Adjournment
by 9:30 a.m.*

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND
MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER, MARITIME AND GLOBAL
COUNTERTERRORISM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING AND
TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
October 1, 2010

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCE AND TAX

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND TRADE

kirkpatrick.house.gov

The Honorable Larry EchoHawk
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Assistant Secretary EchoHawk,

I write today in light of the recent signing into law of my bill, HR 3553, the Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act, which will amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 to exclude from consideration as income any amounts received by a family as compensation for service-related disabilities or dependency and indemnity.

Thus, I would like to resubmit my request for your support in correcting a similar oversight in the administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Housing Improvement Program which treats compensation -- either paid to Veterans with service-related disabilities or to families of those killed in service -- as income

Native Americans have made incredible sacrifices to keep our country safe. Despite their honorable service, Native American Veterans often return home to tribal land to face extraordinary difficulty in finding safe, quality, affordable housing.

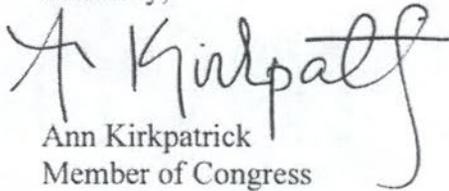
As I mentioned, the program regulations -- which I found in Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations -- make no exceptions for compensation paid to Veterans with service-related disabilities or for the families of those killed in service. As a result, these benefits can push Veterans and survivor families above the limit, making them ineligible and costing them assistance that they badly need.

It is unacceptable that Native Veterans and their families have been unable to receive the benefits they have earned for so many years.

I request that you make this regulation consistent with the now updated NAHASDA and fix this flaw by changing the definition of income to explicitly exclude Veterans disability and survivor compensation, ending this unfair practice and lifting this burden from Native American Veterans.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff directly at (202) 225-2315.

Sincerely,



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

AK/mb

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

2010 OCT -5 PM 1:27

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492995



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DEC 08 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington D.C 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of October 1, 2010, requesting that we take action and correct an alleged oversight by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in its administration of the Housing Improvement Program (HIP).

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, in administering the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act (NAHSDA), has the primary responsibility in providing housing assistance to Native Americans and Native American veterans. The Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act (HR 3553) benefits both Native American veterans and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) under NAHSDA, in terms that TDHEs are able to serve more veterans with home ownership and rental assistance because disabled veterans now have a fixed/stable source of non-taxable income for mortgage and rental payments. Additionally, other organizations, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, American Veterans, Disabled Veterans, and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development can either directly or indirectly assist with referrals to meet veterans' housing needs. The HIP, on the other hand, is a secondary program that targets Native American families that have no other resources available to meet their housing need.

If 25 CFR Part 256 were modified to include Native American veterans by discounting their service-related disability incomes, all clients who currently receive HIP assistance would be displaced. The 25 CFR Part 256.6(c) requires that a HIP applicant's annual income not exceed 125 percent of the Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) poverty income guidelines. The proposed modification would require raising the Income Poverty Guideline of 125 percent. This would greatly increase the number of applicants eligible for the HIP program. We currently receive about 7,000 applications, and a modification to the regulation's income criterion could conceivably raise the number of eligible applicants to 90,000 families. The current level of funding for the HIP program is \$12.6 million, which serves approximately 150 individuals or families.

Considering the opportunities that Native American veterans now have because of the Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act (HR 3553), and the relatively small funding amounts for the HIP program, the BIA will continue to serve those individuals and families in most need under the existing regulations.

If you should have any questions, please contact Mr. Les Jensen, Chief Housing Officer, Juneau, Alaska, at (907) 586-7397. Your interest in housing assistance and the programs of the BIA is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Echo Hawk", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER, MARITIME AND GLOBAL
COUNTERTERRORISM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING AND
TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCE AND TAX

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND TRADE

kirkpatrick.house.gov

September 30, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Ken Salazar
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretaries Vilsack and Salazar:

This summer the area around Flagstaff, Arizona ignited into a fast moving wildfire caused by an unattended campfire and fanned by high winds. The devastating fire and following monsoons led to the death of a twelve-year old, over 1,000 people evacuated, \$8.6 million spent to combat the fire, and 15,000 acres charred. Similar fires are burning this season in New Mexico and Colorado.

Each of these ignitions is a matter of luck and weather that they are not full blown catastrophic events. Those of us that understand these forests know that fire is not a matter of *if*—it is *when*. The certainty of ignitions due to people or lightning guarantee that this drama will continue to plague the dry forests of the Intermountain West in the absence of management action.

For many of these dry Western forests that are ecologically degraded and overstocked, there is broad consensus among diverse stakeholders that active restoration across large landscape scales is urgently needed. By using science-based restoration strategies, this challenge can be met head on at the pace and scale that's required to make meaningful progress.

In 2004, the Southwest Forest Restoration Institutes (SWERI) were established by a bipartisan Act of Congress (P.L. 108-317) to help provide the biophysical and socio-economic science needed to overcome the barriers to restoration. The three institutes in SWERI -- the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWR) at New Mexico Highlands University, the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) at Colorado State University and, the Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI) at Northern Arizona University -- provide a unique program of work that bridges the gap between academic knowledge and applied on-the-ground action. They advance restoration at multiple scales on all lands by using collaboration, best available science and adaptive management.

The Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act authorizes up to \$15 million per year for the three Institutes. Each year the Institutes work cooperatively with the public agencies and stakeholders involved with forest restoration and wildland fire management to identify a relevant program of work. The program is reviewed by the leadership of the appropriate federal and state

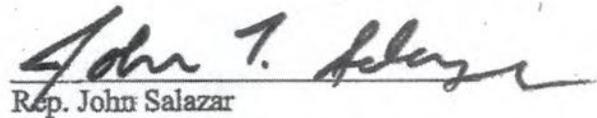
agencies to guarantee that their decision support needs are met. Based on five years of experience of the institute work plans, we request that you include \$5 million for the work of the three institutes in the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2012.

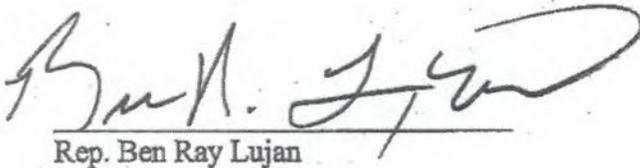
A Congressionally-mandated 5 Year Review of the Institutes was completed in 2009 and concluded that the Institutes warrant continued federal assistance and that there is no other existing entity with the capacity or mandate to provide the support needed for landscape-scale restoration.

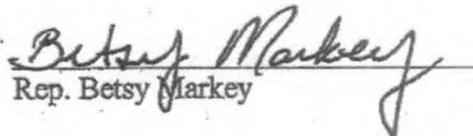
The Institutes fill a crucial niche in our efforts to restore forests, protect watersheds, avoid unwanted wildfires and improve the economic vitality of rural communities. We appreciate your support of forest restoration in the Southwest and urge you to fund the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act in FY 2012.

Sincerely,


Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick


Rep. John Salazar


Rep. Ben Ray Lujan


Rep. Betsy Markey

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

2010 OCT -1 PM 4:04

RECEIVED

492950

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Salazar:

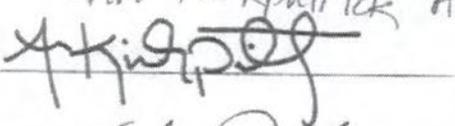
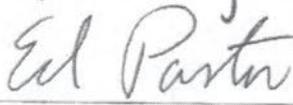
The dry forests and woodland ecosystems of the Southwest are particularly vulnerable to unusually severe wildfires. At the same time, these forests are responsive to forest restoration and hazardous fuel reduction treatments. The use of the best available science is critical to maximize the effectiveness of every dollar spent on forest treatments so that projects address multiple resource problems simultaneously, including catastrophic wildfire, declining wildlife habitat, impairment of watershed function and the loss of recreational value and economic opportunities for people.

The Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-317) received strong bipartisan support. It establishes a unique program of applied research and translation and transfer of information to inform forest management via three restoration institutes: The Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI) at Northern Arizona University; the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) at Colorado State University; and the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWRI) at New Mexico Highlands University. The institutes collaborate with each other, federal and state land management agencies, private land owners, and other stakeholders to design and implement forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction treatments on a variety of scales to accomplish landscape restoration.

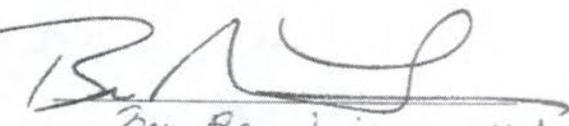
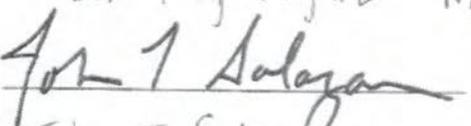
The Act authorizes \$15 million per year in federal appropriations to operate the program. The institutes have worked with the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to develop and approve programs of work for each fiscal year, as required in the Act. For fiscal year 2011, the program budget is \$5 million allocated as follows: \$3 million to ERI, and \$1 million each to CFRI and NMFWRI. This program budget will enable the Institutes to meet the high degree of demand for their work across the Southwest.

The institutes fill a void in forest restoration that will slow the spiraling costs of wildfire suppression and restore critical ecosystem functions. As you consider the budget request for fiscal year 2011, we urge you to provide sufficient funding to maximize the important work of these institutes.

Thank you for your support of effective forest restoration in the Southwest.

Ann Kirkpatrick AZ

Ed Pastor

Ed Pastor AZ

Sincerely,


Ben Ray Lujan NM

John T. Salazar CO

Harry Teague NM
Harry Teague

Betsy Markey CO
Betsy Markey

~~Martin Heinrich~~

Martin Heinrich NM

Jared Polis CO

Jared Polis
Raul M. Grijalva

Raul Grijalva

AZ

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479672



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 08 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your January 14, 2010, letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and me urging the Department of the Interior to provide funds in Fiscal Year 2011 to continue implementing the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004. Similar responses are being sent to the cosigners of your letter, Representatives Pastor, Lujan, Salazar, Teague, Markey, Heinrich, and Grijalva.

The FY 2011 Department of Agriculture budget for the Forest Service includes \$1.5 million for the institutes established under the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-317) to enhance the capacity to develop, transfer, apply, monitor, and update practical science-based forest restoration treatments that will reduce the risk of severe wildfires, and improve the health of dry forest and woodland ecosystems in the interior West. You may also be interested to know that the FY 2011 President's Budget requested full funding (\$40 million) of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.

We have a long-standing history of collaboration with partners to apply the best available science to hazardous fuels reduction treatments. The efforts of the Ecological Restoration Institute, the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, and the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute are important contributions to the knowledge needed to help agencies restore critical ecosystem functions.

Thank you for your continued support of effective forest restoration in the Southwest.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 7 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Secretary Salazar has asked me to respond to your letter of September 30, 2010, urging the Department of the Interior to support forest restoration in the Southwest and to provide funds for the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 in fiscal year 2012.

As you know, the President's FY 2012 budget is currently under development, and no specific information is available regarding any dedicated funding at this time. However, I believe the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERI) -- Ecological Restoration Institute, the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, and the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute have made valuable contributions to the design and implementation of restoration-based fuels treatments. In fact, as a result of the work of the SWERI, it is now generally recognized, by me and others with fire management responsibilities, that there is a need for a new way of thinking about Wildland fire.

To that end, and with the opportunity presented by the passage of the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (the FLAME Act), (Public Law 111-88), the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture, is leading an intergovernmental committee of Federal, state, tribal, county and municipal government officials to develop a new national cohesive wildfire management strategy. During the next few years, regional committees will be working to develop appropriate strategies and science-based risk assessments to address how best to restore and maintain resilient landscapes, promote fire-adapted communities, and respond to Wildland fires. The SWERI will certainly be important contributors to those efforts in the West.

The Department will continue to rely on the best available science to guide its planning, and support the inter-departmental Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) with investments in science and science delivery projects from an interagency perspective. The JFSP has invested heavily in research evaluating fuel treatment effectiveness and effects, and is currently investing in fuel treatment guides for managers, research on lifecycle fuel treatment regimes, insect and wind effects on fuel profiles, and climate change effects on fuel treatment effectiveness. The JFSP is also focused on smoke emissions for wildfires and prescribed fires and is invested in science addressing regional haze and low-level smoke dispersion. These activities are consistent with those of the SWERI as well, and they are well suited to take full advantage of the grants provided by the JFSP.

Finally, subsequent to enactment of the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11) amended this legislation. The Public Law 111-11 established the "Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund" under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture. Under the authorities provided by this Act, funds may be used "to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System land for each proposal to be carried out under subsection (d)." Subsection (d) requires the Secretary of Agriculture to consult in the project selection with both an advisory panel and the Secretary of the Interior.

The Department has a long-standing history of collaboration with partners to apply the best available science to hazardous fuels reduction treatments, and as directed within the amended legislation, we will consult with the Department of Agriculture in the project selection process to select and fund ecological restoration treatments for priority landscapes. The efforts of the SWERI are important contributors to the knowledge needed to help agencies restore critical ecosystem functions, and the Department will continue to support these collaborative efforts.

I sincerely appreciate your continued interest in the Department's fire programs. Please contact the Director of the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination, Mr. Kirk Rowdabaugh, if you have further questions. He can be reached by phone at (202) 606-3447 or by email Kirk_Rowdabaugh@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,



Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget

cc: The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
House of Representatives

The Honorable John T. Salazar
House of Representatives

The Honorable Betsy Markey
House of Representatives

RECEIVED

2010 AUG 23 PM 12:19

490933

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS



FAX from

Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick

First District, Arizona

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
Assistant Secretary Larry Echolfhawk	Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick's Office
	Attn: Kathryn Stewart

COMPANY:	DATE:
Bureau of Indian Affairs	8-20-10

FAX NUMBER:	PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
202-208-4623	3

PHONE NUMBER:
202-208-5706

RE:
San Carlos Irrigation Project

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Please reply.

Received OCLA-IA

AUG 23 2010

Congressional Affairs Indian Affairs

CONGRESSWOMAN ANN KIRKPATRICK
 1123 LONGWORTH H.O.B
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
 PHONE: (202) 225-2375
 FAX: (202) 226-9739

IA-ES 23 AUG '10 09:50

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ORGANIZATION AND
GENERAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION AND
TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
August 20, 2010

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT
AND TRADE

<http://kirk.house.gov>

The Honorable Larry EchoHawk
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Assistant Secretary EchoHawk,

I write today to request a response to the attached inquiry.

Several constituents recently approached my office with concerns regarding the oversight and management of the San Carlos Irrigation Project (SCIP)—which is operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Please address each of the concerns listed thoroughly and comprehensively. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact Kathryn Stewart on my staff at Kathryn.Stewart@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-2315.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

AK/ks



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240



SEP 29 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2010, to Mr. Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your constituent's concerns regarding their request of a fiscal and operational audit of the San Carlos Irrigation Project (SCIP) Power Division by an impartial source external to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

All items that are described in the correspondence from Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition; Mayor of Mammoth, Arizona; Oracle Democratic Club; Citizens of Aravaipa Canyon, Coolidge, Dudleyville, Mammoth, Oracle, and Winkleman, Arizona, will be addressed before moving onto the request for an independent audit by all factions.

The BIA operates the SCIP within the framework of 25 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 175. Section 12 of 25 CFR Part 175 describes the procedure for adjusting electric power rates. The Western Regional Director has the authority to approve SCIP rate increases. Before the Western Regional Director approves any rate increase, SCIP management requires the following protocols to be followed:

- A Rate Review Study to determine if a rate increase is required
- Publishing rate adjustment information in the Federal Register
- Publishing notices in local newspapers
- Public meetings to provide a forum for SCIP customer's oral and written comments.

The Regional Director considers all oral and written comments before rendering a decision to approve or disapprove a rate increase.

Sections 60 and 61 of 25 CFR Part 175 describe the SCIP Electrical Utility appeal process for redress of customer concerns:

1. There are frequent outages in the SCIP's Oracle service area; most outages are a result of forces that are beyond SCIP's control. SCIP's Oracle service area is through mountainous foothills area north of Tucson eastward to Hayden and north to SCIP's

Coolidge Dam Switchyard which traverses primitive wilderness areas with the potential of severe weather during summer monsoon and winter seasons. SCIP can minimize on outages and improve system reliability by rebuilding the existing infrastructure; however there are statutory processes and protocol that have to be followed before any rebuilding starts.

Most outages in the Oracle service area which encompasses all said areas excluding Coolidge are the result of monsoon storm activity and/or man made problems, e.g., severe weather, lightning strikes, hunters, wildlife, and/or vehicles running into poles.

Currently SCIP is obtaining Archeological and Environmental clearances and Rights of Way permits in order to rebuild SCIP 69kV Transmission facilities system wide. Rehabilitating SCIP's Transmission facilities will provide increased system capacity and reliability.

SCIP does not have records of system outages lasting more than one day. SCIP has disconnected customers for nonpayment and issues with the customer's service panel/ meter socket that do not meet code and are hazardous; these disconnections can last for days, depending on the timeliness of the customer's repair service.

When SCIP encounters service panel hazards, the customer must bring the service panel up to code and have an inspection and clearance by the local governing inspecting authority before the meter is reconnected. SCIP works with the customer to assist in the inspection process in order to get power restored as quickly as possible.

SCIP does not arbitrarily disconnect service. Notices are sent prior to taking action, and a required payment due date and a cut-off date are denoted on the notice.

2. SCIP's current Purchased Power Adjustment (PCA) became effective October 2007 and was implemented to pass along higher purchased power expenses from the Salt River Project (SRP). The SRP has since terminated SCIP's supplemental power purchase agreement. SCIP replaced the SRP supplemental power purchase agreement with a five-year purchased power agreement from another supplier. The cost of the new purchased power agreement is not significantly different than the cost of power supplied by SRP. SCIP is currently reviewing its rate structure and in all likelihood will be adjusting its base rates to reflect current costs. However, based upon the preliminary results of the rate study, SCIP does not anticipate a rate decrease and is evaluating options to minimize rate increase impacts.
3. SCIP is continually improving internal controls to minimize customer billing errors. SCIP's Automated Meter Reading system generates an Exceptions Report to check meter reads and minimize errors on customer bills.

SCIP is aware of phone communication issues and has established an e-mail inbox for customers' use. The SCIP Business Office e-mail address information is displayed on

monthly billing statements. Furthermore, SCIP is building a new office building with a phone system capable of fielding several calls at once and staffing will be increased when the new building is finished. This should improve customer service to SCIP customers. Due to current space limitations, SCIP is unable to fully staff its office.

SCIP now offers Budget Billing to assist customers with an average annual billing amount to minimize peak period billing impact. E-billing is also offered to customers by transmitting a billing statement via e-mail. On-line payments are also accepted through www.pay.gov. The instructions for using either method are located on the monthly bill.

4. SCIP works within the Federal Safety Guidelines for Electrical Utilities. SCIP employees are required to attend safety training two days each month. Safety is not taken lightly and adherence is required agency-wide for all employees.

Job-related training is provided to employees. SCIP also has an apprenticeship program to develop skilled line worker positions. SCIP does not overwork employees. Each employee is offered overtime on a pass/accept basis. SCIP does not require any employee to work overtime.

5. SCIP encourages customers to develop renewable energy; however SCIP cannot offer incentives for renewable energy offered by private utilities as SCIP is a federal agency and does not qualify for the federal program monies being offered through private utilities.

SCIP has developed an Interconnect agreement for residential customers for renewable energy system interconnection. Customer savings are realized through less power consumption from the utility.

SCIP handles requests for large scale renewable energy generation on a case by case basis. The requesting party is required to submit plans and an application for a System Impact Study. The System Impact Study is required to ensure customer loads are not impacted and facilities are capable of handling the non-firm power.

6. Project Management deals with customers on a daily basis. To date, SCIP Management has not been contacted by any of the groups above except for the Oracle Democratic Club to discuss their concerns. The Project Management is willing to work with all groups in moving towards a common goal, and looks forward to the opportunity.
7. As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, tribal governments may utilize funds to develop alternate renewable energy generation. SCIP is aware of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCAT) plans and fully supports and offers their cooperation in plans to develop said resources.

SCIP is not a wholesale energy provider and does not resell energy to the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority.

As stated above in item 6, SCIP is willing to work with all groups.

Recent audits have been conducted through a program review and KPMG sample auditing independent from the BIA. Federal financial systems auditing is performed on an annual basis through established procedures within the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. John Anevski, P.E., Chief, Division of Irrigation, Power and Safety of Dams at (202) 208-6041.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Anevski', written over a horizontal line.

Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2010

439700

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0002

2010

Dear Secretary Salazar,

We write to ask that you join us in preserving the unique and powerful legacy of a group of heroic Arizonans that was instrumental in saving the lives of countless American servicemembers, and bringing an end to fighting in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

During World War II, the nation turned to the Navajo people to develop the most important and successful military code in our country's history.

Before the development of the Navajo code, U.S. radio transmissions in the Pacific theater were frequently intercepted by Japanese intelligence officers and sabotaged or used to issue false commands leading to the ambush of American troops. As a result, U.S. military codes necessarily became more and more complex. Military leaders in the Pacific Theater complained that decoding even the shortest messages could take up to two and a half hours. In an attempt to develop an undecipherable and manageable code, the Marine Corps recruited members of the Navajo Nation.

The first 29 Navajo who enlisted were sent to Camp Pendleton, California to develop the code, which eventually grew to include over 600 terms. The Code Talkers created messages by translating Navajo words into English, then using the first letter of each English word to decipher the communication's meaning. Certain military terms without Navajo equivalents were given their own code word—tanks became turtles and submarines became fish. The code developed by the Code Talkers was never broken by the Japanese.

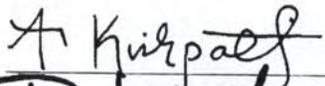
Military commanders in the Pacific Theater credited the Navajo's code with playing a decisive role in the United States success at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, and with saving the lives of countless American servicemembers. Major Howard Connor of the 5th Marine Division, who worked with six Navajo Code Talkers, said that "were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima."

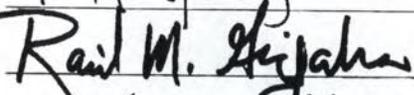
Following the war, the Navajo were prohibited from discussing their unique and substantial contribution to their country. The Navajo code was classified for 25 years following the war because of its potential postwar use. The group's heroism went unrecognized until 2001 when Congress voted to award the Code Talkers the Congressional Gold Medal.

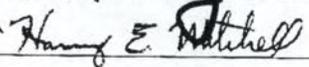
Approximately 400 Navajos served as Code Talkers during World War II. Of those 400 men, only approximately 50 remain. Today, the Code Talkers are working to prevent their legacy from dying with them. In July 2009, The Chevron Mining Company donated 208 acres of land in northwest New Mexico to the Navajo Code Talkers Association. The group plans to use the donated land to construct a Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center. The museum will be dedicated to preserving the Code Talkers' story and the Navajo language, and the Veterans Center will be a vital resource for veterans living in the four corners region, who now must travel hours to Albuquerque, Phoenix or Salt Lake City to receive services.

The Code Talkers' contribution to this country is not only a treasure to the Navajo people, but to the United States as a whole. We must preserve this legacy. Please join us by publicly voicing your support for the Code Talkers' efforts to establish the Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center.

Sincerely,

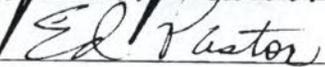














THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

SEP 07 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of July 16, 2010, informing me of the work in progress to establish the Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center in New Mexico. The project is a fitting tribute to the unique and critical contributions of members of the Navajo Nation to the war effort of the United States during World War II.

I have taken preliminary action on your request by involving the cultural resources programs in the National Park Service (NPS). Among the staff of the NPS cultural resources programs are specialists with expertise in museum management, land and building development for visitor access, and oral histories. Meetings have already begun between NPS staff in Washington DC, the Denver Regional Office, and the Navajo Code Talkers museum planning group. The NPS plans continued assistance to this project and will act as an ongoing source of technical assistance. I encourage the planning group to speak with Secretary Shinseki of Veterans Affairs concerning the Veterans Center.

I appreciate the efforts of the Navajo Code Talkers Association and look forward to seeing their goals become a reality.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND
MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER, MARITIME AND GLOBAL
COUNTERTERRORISM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING AND
TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
May 20, 2010

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCE AND TAX
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND TRADE

kirkpatrick.house.gov

The Honorable Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk,

I write today to request your support in correcting an oversight in the administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Housing Improvement Program which treats compensation -- either paid to Veterans with service-related disabilities or to families of those killed in service -- as income.

Growing up in Indian Country, I learned at an early age of the long history of Native Americans sacrificing in service to our country. This history includes Indian scouts assisting U.S. units throughout the American west. It includes the best known example -- the brave and honorable service of the Navajo Code Talkers, who saved the lives of countless Americans in World War Two and the Korean War by using Diné to transmit sensitive military communications. It continues to this very day as Native Americans serve proudly and honorably in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 22% of Native Americans are Veterans or are currently serving. That is the highest percentage of any ethnic group.

Despite this honorable service, Native American Veterans often return home to face extraordinary difficulty in finding safe, quality, affordable housing. I introduced HR 3553, the Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act, to prevent disabled Native Veterans, their families and their survivors from being unfairly denied support because their service-connected disability and survivor benefits count as income under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996. The Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act passed the House unanimously on April 20, 2010.

It has come to my attention that the program regulations for the Housing Improvement Program (Title 25, Code of Federal Regulations) similarly make no exceptions for compensation paid to Veterans with service-related disabilities or for the families of those killed in service. As a result, these benefits can push Veterans and survivor families above the limit, making them ineligible and costing them assistance that they have earned and deserve.

I request that you immediately address this flaw by changing the definition of income to explicitly exclude Veterans disability and survivor compensation, ending this unfair practice and lifting this burden from Native American Veterans.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at (202) 225-2315.

Sincerely,



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

AK/mb

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF THE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

2010 MAY 24 PM 1:20

RECEIVED

487305



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 03 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2010, requesting that we take action and correct an alleged oversight by the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) administration of the Housing Improvement Program (HIP). Your request requires significant modifications to 25 CFR Part 256, the regulation that the BIA must adhere to in the administration of the HIP. We hope that our explanation of the HIP will provide clarification to the concerns you have.

In accordance with 25 CFR Part 256, the HIP provides grants to fund services to repair, renovate, replace, or provide housing to the neediest Indian families who live in substandard housing. The program serves only members of federally recognized tribes living in approved tribal service areas – reservations and certain Indian-owned land, including land of Alaskan Native Villages. Furthermore, 25 CFR Part 256.6(c) establishes a criteria that an applicant's annual income does not exceed 125 percent of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) poverty income guidelines.

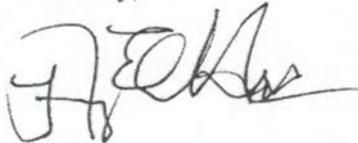
It is the intent of the HIP to focus on serving the neediest in Indian communities – Indians with extremely low income, as defined in regulations. The HIP considers Veterans' disability and survivor compensation as income; unfortunately, this income may cause an applicant to be ineligible for HIP benefits. In light of the global nature of growing housing needs in Indian Country, American Indian veterans may not have a need as compelling and extraordinary as the neediest Indian individuals and families – especially tribal elders.

In FY 2010, the BIA received in excess of 7,000 nation-wide applications from eligible Indian individuals and families. The total construction cost to accommodate these applicants exceeds \$900 million. The HIP appropriations allows for the renovation and construction, nation-wide, of approximately 170 homes annually.

Native American veterans can seek assistance from the Native American Direct Loan Program, sponsored by the Department of Veteran Affairs. Native American veterans are entitled to adequate, safe, and sanitary homes like any other American and, if deemed ineligible for HIP benefits, may choose to seek assistance to improve inadequate housing conditions through services provided by Indian housing programs delivered by Veterans' Affairs.

You point out that your bill HR 3553, the Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act, would address this issue. Should this legislation or similar legislation impacting the definition of income at 25 CFR Part 256 become law, we will take steps to modify these regulations. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know. You may contact Mr. Les Jensen, Chief Housing Officer, Juneau, Alaska, at (907) 586-7397. Your interest in housing assistance and the programs of the BIA is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Echo Hawk', written in a cursive style.

Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Bob Abbey
Director, Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar and Director Abbey:

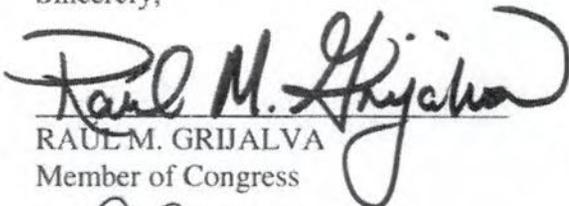
We would like to commend the Arizona state office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for its pioneering Restoration Design Energy Project, and to urge you to support other BLM state offices in undertaking similar initiatives that prioritize contaminated lands for renewable energy development.

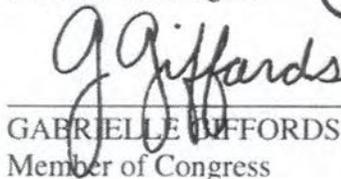
As you know, the Restoration Design Energy Project uses American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to identify and assess disturbed lands that may be appropriate for renewable energy generation facilities. These locations include brownfields, abandoned mines, landfills and other sites. This public process began in June 2008 with a solicitation for potential sites, and the project is scheduled to release a draft environmental impact statement for selected sites this summer.

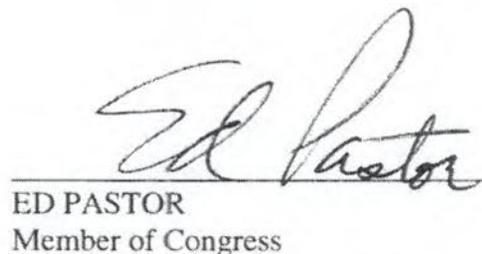
Prioritizing disturbed lands for renewable energy development is one important way to meet the energy needs of our society and protect our landscapes. Building large industrial facilities on contaminated sites creates new jobs and protects sensitive lands, both public and private, by easing development pressure. We have already begun to see resource conflicts with a handful of proposed projects on BLM-managed lands, and these disputes should be minimized as much as possible. Importantly, this initiative and others like it support Secretary Salazar's vision of using public lands to move America toward a clean energy future and maintain proper stewardship.

Arizona BLM's initiative is a smart policy that should be replicated by other state BLM offices. As the Secretary of Interior and the Director of the BLM, you have the ability to kick-start these discussions and offer a means for states to share best practices and receive implementation guidance. We strongly encourage you to bring the concept of Arizona's Restoration Design Energy Project to the rest of the country.

Sincerely,


RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress


GABRIELLE GIFFORDS
Member of Congress


ED PASTOR
Member of Congress


ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress

Harry E. Mitchell

HARRY E. MITCHELL
Member of Congress

Mazie K. Hirono

MAZIE K. HIRONO
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján

BEN RAY LUJÁN
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

EXECUTIVE SECRET
OFFICE OF THE

2010 MAY 24 AM 10:56

PROFESSOR

487210



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 17 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your May 18, 2010, letter regarding the Bureau of Land Management Restoration Design Energy Project. I appreciate your support for the Bureau's renewable energy efforts in Arizona.

The Restoration Design Energy Project Environmental Impact Statement is a broad-based, programmatic evaluation that is identifying the types and locations of disturbed lands—both public and private—that may be appropriate for renewable energy development. The BLM is hopeful the project will stimulate demand for building renewable energy projects, and provide a prototype that can be broadly applied outside of Arizona. At the national level, the BLM has begun discussions about expanding the Restoration Design Energy concept to other states. The lessons learned through this project will provide valuable information that can be used to expand this initiative more broadly.

The BLM is moving forward on the Restoration Design Energy Project. The scoping process, which included 10 public meetings across Arizona and identified more than 80 potential locations to be used in the analysis, has been completed. The draft EIS is expected to be ready in spring 2011. The final EIS and record of decision is scheduled to be completed in 2012.

Thank you again for your interest in this project. Identical letters have been sent to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

2010 MAR 18 PM 4: 05

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL
& LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Dear Secretary Salazar,

We are writing to request a briefing concerning the Department of the Interior's efforts to protect Lakes Powell and Mead from the damaging spread of invasive zebra and quagga mussels, which can reduce fish populations, ruin boat engines, and dramatically increase the operating costs of drinking water and hydroelectric facilities.

As you know, invasive mussels are threatening the Colorado River system, its lakes and its tributaries. Two years after the discovery of quagga mussels at Lake Mead in 2007, the number of mussels has multiplied well into the trillions. At every infested reservoir in the Lower Colorado River Basin, there is a significant financial and recreational burden placed on local governments and federal agencies, with costs reaching as much as \$3 million per year in mitigation efforts.

Fortunately, despite predictions that Lake Powell would be the first water body infested in the West, the lake appears to remain "mussel free." This is largely due to several proactive initiatives developed by the National Park Service, such as screening every vessel that enters Lake Powell and establishing a mussel prevention program. Implementing these programs has proven to cost far less than the potential price of mitigating the damage posed by invasive mussels.

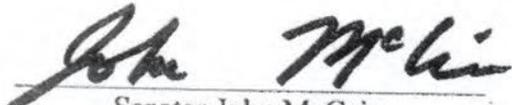
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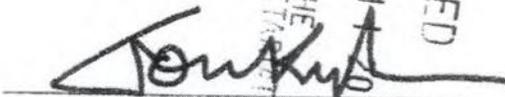
It is vitally important that we continue and enhance these mussel prevention programs at Lakes Powell and Mead. Visitation at the lakes and the effective operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam are important to Arizona's economy and future. For these reasons, we request that you brief us on what actions you have taken and will be taking to prevent a mussel outbreak at Lake Powell and to address the mussel outbreak at Lake Mead.

RECEIVED
2010 MAR 22 PM 1:30
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,


Senator John McCain


Senator Jon Kyl

John Shadegg

Representative John Shadegg

Jeff Flake

Representative Jeff Flake

Trent Franks

Representative Trent Franks

Ann Kirkpatrick

Representative Ann Kirkpatrick

Ed Pastor

Representative Ed Pastor

Raul M. Grijalva

Representative Raul Grijalva

Harry E. Mitchell

Representative Harry Mitchell

Gabrielle Giffords

Representative Gabrielle Giffords



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 28 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your January 14, 2010, letter cosigned by you and your colleagues, urging the Department of the Interior to provide sufficient funding for continued implementation of the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004. The Department received your letter on January 25, 2010.

I sincerely appreciate your interest in this matter and you will receive a more detailed response in the near future.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND
MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER, MARITIME AND GLOBAL
COUNTERTERRORISM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING AND
TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
October 14, 2009

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCE AND TAX
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND TRADE

kirkpatrick.house.gov

The Honorable Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk,

I write to thank you for taking the time to travel to Copper Country and meeting with representatives from Resolution Copper, the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, and environmental and conservation groups.

As you know, this job creation initiative is one of my top priorities and I am grateful to see your active involvement. It is important, however, that those who will be impacted most by the outcome of the land exchange—including Copper Basin and local tribal communities—are engaged in this discussion. Local officials must have an opportunity to share their concerns, their hopes, and ideas on how to move forward on this project. The town of Superior and surrounding communities have been watching the progress being made on this project for years and have valuable insight to share with you.

I strongly urge you to seek out a local perspective on the pending land exchange. It is time to give all sides—the state of Arizona, the Copper Basin Communities, the tribal communities, and interested stake holders—a chance to contribute to this discussion. Again, thank you for your active interest in this jobs project.

Sincerely,

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

AK/MF

CC: The Honorable Bob Abbey

2009 OCT 20 02:00:00Z

581894

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 21, 2009

2009 SEP 21 PM 5: 15

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFICE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL
 & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Honorable Ken Salazar
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 1849 C Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Thank you for coming to Superior, Arizona, on August 21, 2009, to learn firsthand the facts surrounding the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2009. We are grateful for the time you spent in the Copper Basin and trust that you began to see the tremendous potential this legislation will have in creating jobs, jumpstarting Arizona's economy, and reviving communities throughout the region.

As you know, for the last five years, the Arizona delegation has worked with interested members of the community to craft legislation that would facilitate the Resolution Copper Mine project. Our intent has been to balance the Native American cultural concerns and possible environmental impacts associated with the exploration activities of what may be the largest copper ore body in North America, and to ensure that subsequent commercial production would be conducted in compliance with all existing federal and state environmental laws. The legislation we introduced in this Congress illustrates our continued commitment to working with interested stakeholders to strike this important balance.

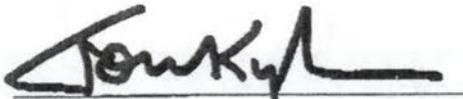
The Resolution Copper Mine project enjoys considerable support throughout Arizona, particularly in Pinal and Gila counties, so our constituents rightfully demand action by Washington to bring this project to fruition. At the town hall, you made it clear that you were interested in pursuing further dialogue with interested stakeholders to reach a consensus solution to move the project forward. Your willingness to engage and encourage others to do the same will be helpful in moving this critical legislation to passage. Drawing on our history with this issue, we strongly believe that if this effort is going to be successful, there must be a clear plan laid out for all stakeholders and that the dialogue must include Secretary Tom Vilsack and the U.S. Forest Service.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you take the first step toward facilitating the dialogue you envision by bringing together the parties on all sides of the Mine project, including those who so far have been unwilling to engage constructively with the Arizona delegation, as early as the week of October 5, 2009.

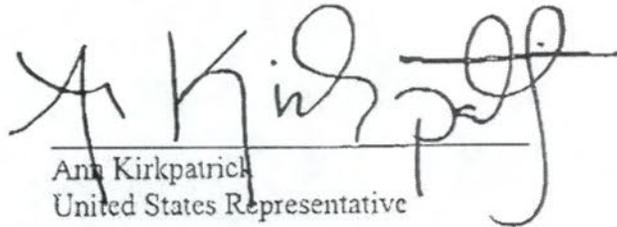
Letter to Secretary Salazar
September 21, 2009
Page 2

Please let us know as soon as possible when this meeting will occur. We look forward to working with you to find a way forward on this important economic and employment opportunity for our state.

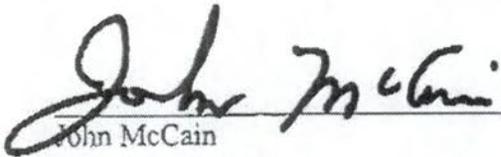
Sincerely,



Jon Kyl
United States Senator



Ann Kirkpatrick
United States Representative



John McCain
United States Senator

Cc: Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture

2009 SEP 22 11:02

561994

SENATOR

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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2009 APR -3 PM 12: 21

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

First, let us congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of Interior. We look forward to working with you in a collaborative fashion as we strive to help sustain and improve western and rural communities while producing long-term benefits to America's federal lands.

One area we believe merits the immediate attention of both Congress and the Administration is that of improving electric transmission capacity in the West. As the Administration moves forward with its ambitious objective to build several thousand miles of new transmission lines, we respectfully request that you work to build off the knowledge base and careful coordination already achieved by the western states we represent.

We commend President Obama for recognizing early in his campaign the challenges our current electric transmission system pose toward energy conservation and increased, efficient use of America's diverse energy resource portfolio – particularly renewable energy resources. These challenges are well documented. In its November 10, 2008 report on *Reliability Impacts of Climate Change Initiatives*, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) underscored the obstacles of overlaying new electric power from renewable resources on the existing transmission grid. Specifically, the report stated that “existing transmission infrastructure is inadequate to reliably integrate new renewable resources to demand centers.” As the report further states, “areas that are rich in renewables ... do not correspond with areas where the transmission system is the strongest.”

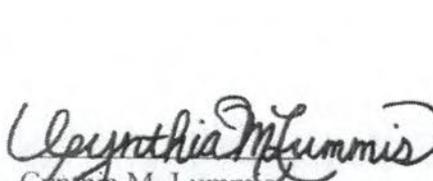
Western policymakers are well aware that our best opportunities for renewable generation exist in location-constrained areas. Currently, the transmission infrastructure simply doesn't exist to get these resources – namely wind, solar, and geothermal power – to market. The financial, manpower and regulatory investment to do so will be steep. If the administration is serious about tapping these currently underutilized western resources in any significant way, it will be best served by partnering with our state leaders to determine a coordinated path forward.

In a January 27, 2009 letter to House and Senate Leadership, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) outlined one of the most important ways in which the federal government can assist states in their effort to bring new renewable power online: by helping to ensure new transmission lines are "adequately sized to meet long-term needs." Successfully harnessing the full potential of our renewable resources will not happen overnight. Interest and investment in new renewable projects will depend largely on the ability to deliver that energy to consumers. Due to design, cost, and reliability constraints, however, it is often cost prohibitive, if not impossible, to "upsized" a major long-distance transmission line once it has already gone into service. By working with states in a proactive manner, the federal government can prepare for future increased power transfer capability as new lines are being constructed. As the WGA letter signals, state regulatory agencies do not have the tools to accomplish this particular capacity issue alone. Specifically how the federal government should assist in this effort will continue to be an issue of active debate.

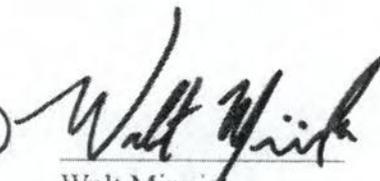
Finally, we would appreciate an update from your agency regarding the implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) new, western state Renewable Energy Coordination Offices, as established by Secretarial Order on January 16, 2009. It is our understanding that these offices, to be located in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Wyoming, will not only work to support the timely processing of renewable energy project applications, but will focus on improving coordination with the various federal agencies involved in the siting and approval of renewable energy projects and associated transmission. We feel such inter-agency coordination is paramount to getting such projects online expeditiously and encourage you to move forward with bringing these proposed offices up to operational status as quickly as possible.

You have recently been quoted in the press as stating that the "Interior Department stood ready to deal with issues of siting and transmission," and that our nation is on the brink of an "energy revolution." The potential for renewable power in the west is clear, but so are the challenges. We look forward to working with you and our respective states to ensure the correct policies are in place to encourage substantial growth in this emerging energy arena, while recognizing the leadership of those state and regional entities that have, to date, driven this effort forward on their own.

Sincerely,



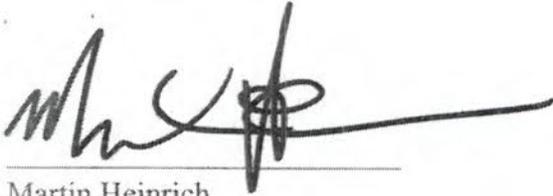
Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress



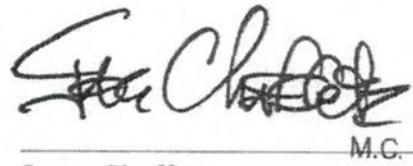
Walt Minnick
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



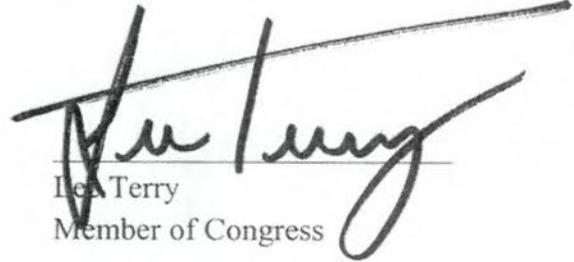
Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress


M.C.

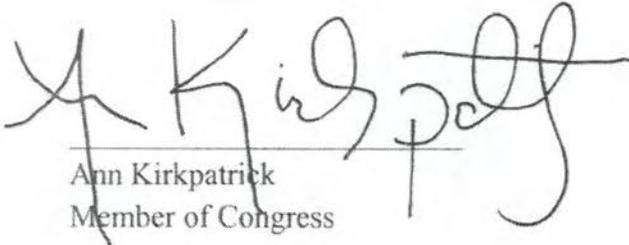
Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



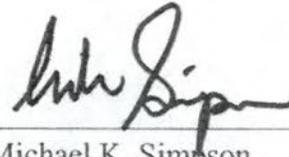
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Lee Terry
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



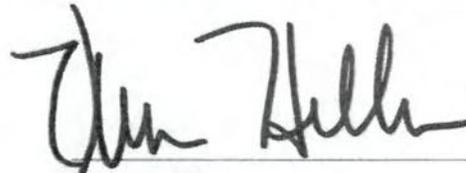
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



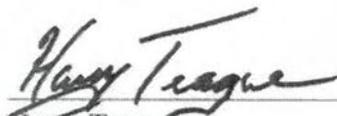
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Dan Boren
Member of Congress



Dean Heller
Member of Congress



Harry Teague
Member of Congress



Denny Rehberg
Member of Congress

Cc: Carol M. Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUL 14 2009

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your March 27, 2009, letter on behalf of yourself and 14 other Members of Congress regarding efforts to improve electric transmission capacity in the West and the implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) new western states Renewable Energy Coordination Offices. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues to develop policies that encourage significant growth in the renewable energy arena.

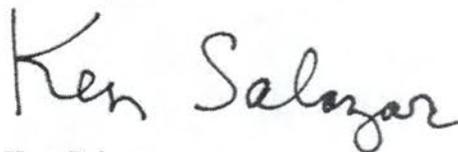
I agree that interagency coordination is pivotal to getting renewable energy projects online in the most expeditious manner. I strongly support committing the resources necessary to support the processing and permitting of environmentally sound renewable energy projects and electric transmission projects on Federal lands. As you are aware, we plan to establish Renewable Energy Coordination Offices (RECO), modeled after the pilot offices established for oil and gas permit processing under Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, to process renewable energy and transmission applications. The purpose of these offices will be to work on the timely processing of renewable energy project applications, as well as improving coordination with the various Federal agencies involved in the siting and approval of renewable energy projects and transmissions. We plan to locate RECO offices in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Wyoming, as well as Renewable Energy Teams in New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Oregon.

I also share your concerns regarding the many challenges we face in improving electric transmission capacity in the West. The western states' knowledge base, as you pointed out, does have much to offer in resolving the problems associated with building thousands of miles of new transmission lines. The Department is actively engaged in the siting of several proposed interstate transmission lines and is working with other Federal agencies on overall transmission strategy.

Since collaboration at all government levels is necessary to overcome the electric transmission challenges, I have directed my staff to work closely with western regional transmission planning entities, such as the Western Energy Coordinating Council, and to continue our participation with state and regional transmission planning efforts such as the Western Governors' Association's Western Renewable Energy Zone project.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this and other energy matters with you. An identical letter has been sent to the 14 other signatories of your March 27, 2009, letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Salazar

cc: Carol M. Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460