

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 06, 2013

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As members of the Congressional Western Caucus (CWC), we have an extremely large stake in your appointee to serve as Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI). CWC members, and the hard-working people we represent, experience the daily and lasting effects of the rules and decisions that come from the DOI. A full and careful review of Mrs. Jewell's credentials is necessary and begins tomorrow in the Senate where her nomination is rightfully discussed in full. In light of tomorrow's hearing, we respectfully ask you and she take into consideration our concerns as the nomination process moves forward.

We believe the best and most successful policies advanced by the DOI are developed with the meaningful engagement of state and local authorities. While the DOI under Secretary Salazar worked collaboratively with the states on some issues – renewable energy projects and a select few species conservation plans for example – many in the West and other areas deeply affected by DOI policies believe the federal government has not been responsive to their needs. We desire to work with you over the next four years to repair that relationship, and usher in policies which simultaneously protect our environment, preserve our way of life, and help grow our local and national economy.

We believe that any Secretary of the Interior should have considerable public lands experience, either in government or the private sector, and that she possesses proven experience at the state level. Those with state level government experience are better prepared to understand the impact of federal policy on the ground, and are better suited to bridging gaps between states and the DOI. The consequences of mistrust between the people and the federal government are dire for both sides. It is in all our interests to keep this from happening, and to build a steady, working relationship. We are interested to hear about Mrs. Jewell's public lands and state level lands management experience.

We understand that Mrs. Jewell is a strong advocate for outdoor recreation, a position we from the West also hold. We appreciate and admire the success of REI. However, we remember with alarm that the announcement of the DOI's ill-advised "Wild Lands" order was announced outside REI's flagship store in Denver. An immediate gesture Mrs. Jewell could offer to create good will and trust within the West and among CWC members is a commitment to a categorical and formal revocation of the "Wild Lands" order. It is an unnecessary lightning rod. While funding for it has been congressionally halted, and the DOI insists it is not implementing the policy, the Wild Lands order remains listed as an active Secretarial Order. We ask that Mrs. Jewell agree to a formal revocation of Secretarial Order 3310, and also ask that that she commit to prevent any similar Orders from being enacted without Congressional approval.

Successful management of our public lands requires a commitment to multiple use of those lands. The future Secretary must help to remove unnecessary regulatory barriers to timber production, fossil fuel

and locatable mineral development on federal lands. The American West is rich with natural resources that Americans need to power their homes, fuel their cars, and feed their families. American industry needs access to develop and produce materials to build our homes and businesses, and provide everyday household items like our cars, phones, tablets and televisions. Yet production of these resources on federal lands lags well behind similar projects on private land. Beginning to clear away bureaucratic hurdles for renewable energy projects as your Administration has done is an encouraging sign, and we see no reason why the same commitment should not exist for the development of long languishing projects to develop oil and gas, coal, uranium, as well as critical minerals and timber.

In the longer term, we would also like to see a concerted effort to address concerns with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). At great expense to the DOI, the ESA is driven almost exclusively by lawsuits and settlements and not as a collaborative effort for conservation and species recovery. But as we saw with the dunes sagebrush lizard in New Mexico and Texas, when the federal government teamed up with state governments and private stakeholders, the species survived alongside our jobs. In addition, it often takes years to navigate the bureaucratic red tape of the NEPA process, costing small businesses time and money that would otherwise go to creating good-paying middle class jobs. A commitment to reduce the incentives for litigation on these two laws would be very meaningful for us and for the DOI. Litigation often serves to shift decision making into the private confines of a courtroom and away from the public and relevant agencies.

Each of us has other, specific needs in our states and districts that we hope Mrs. Jewell will address in the coming days, including water storage, wildfire protection, and monument designations, among others. We also all have concerns with various regulations that impact coal and hard-rock mining, oil and gas development, forestry, grazing, off-road vehicle use and other economic activities. No matter our partisan affiliations, we all share the goal of protecting the environment, creating more jobs, and increasing take home pay for American families. The West has the tools and the leadership to lead America from economic doldrums to prosperity. With a meaningful partnership, we could accomplish much for the good of the country. We look forward to working with your Administration throughout the next four years to achieve our shared goals. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



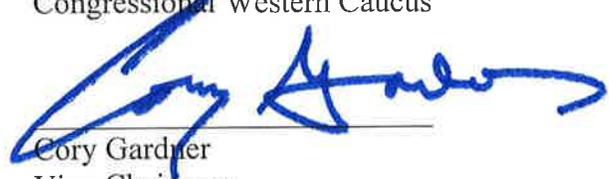
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Co-Chairman  
Congressional Western Caucus



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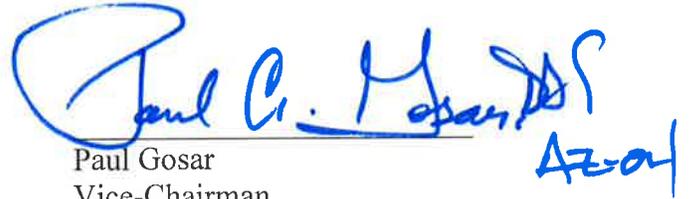
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