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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

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May 25, 2010

JAMES H. ZOIA
CHIEF OF STAFF

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

Dear Secretary Salazar:

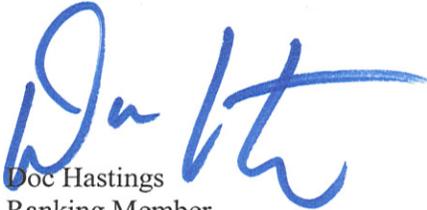
We are pleased that you are scheduled to testify before the Natural Resources Committee this Wednesday, May 26, 2010, and would like to request your help in resolving an important item of pending business.

Four months ago, fourteen of our colleagues joined us in requesting a copy of the Interior Department document, and related material, that discuss plans for potential new monument designations and other land use initiatives related, apparently, to the Treasured Landscapes project. As you know, we had already disclosed pages 15-21 of the document, yet pages 1-14 and pages 22 and above are being kept secret from Congress and hidden from the American public. Because the Department decided to stonewall the Congressional request for public disclosure and continue to operate in secret, we were compelled to file a Resolution of Inquiry to require disclosure of the Department's covert activities.

On May 5th, on the eve of the Committee's consideration of the Resolution of Inquiry, the Department turned over 383 pages of documents (many of them emails without the attachments) and stated that 2,016 pages were purposefully being withheld. Not one of the missing pages of the "Internal Memo" that prompted the request was disclosed.

We ask, therefore, that you bring with you to the May 26th hearing and deliver to us a complete, un-redacted copy of the "Internal Memo" regarding the potential new national monuments and other land use initiatives. While we continue to request that the full 2,016 pages of withheld documents be turned over to Congress, we believe it a very reasonable request for you to simply deliver to us the missing pages (1-14, 22 and above) of the "Internal Memo." The Obama Administration has repeatedly pledged to be open and transparent, and we hope you will uphold that by letting the American people see the complete document.

Sincerely,


Doc Hastings
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources


Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National
Parks, Forests and Public Lands