

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 11, 2019

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

I write today in response to a recent news report indicating your intentions to hold hearings concerning the modifications made to the boundaries of Grand Staircase Escalante (GSENM) and Bears Ears national monuments.¹ To conserve limited taxpayer resources and valuable legislative time on this matter, I recommend reviewing the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Office of Inspector General's (OIG) "Report of Investigation – Alleged Preferential Treatment in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Boundary Decision."²

During its months-long investigation, the OIG interviewed senior DOI staff and leadership, including then-Secretary Zinke. The OIG concluded that DOI staff, "developed and followed a consistent process to review the GSENM and other . . . national monuments whose boundaries were under consideration for modifications."³ Moreover, the OIG found no evidence that then-Secretary Zinke or any DOI officials gave "preferential treatment" to specific stakeholders when developing the revised monument boundaries.⁴ Given the thoroughness of the OIG's investigation, I respectfully ask you to review available materials before expending Committee resources and time on this matter.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Ranking Republican
Committee on Natural Resources

¹ Anthony Adragna, *Grijalva Wants Zinke Testimony on National Monuments Decision*, POLITICO PRO, Jan. 9, 2019, <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2019/01/grijalva-wants-zinke-testimony-on-national-monument-decision-2469093>.

² OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, U.S. DEP'T. OF THE INTERIOR, CASE NO. OI-PI-18-0608-I, ALLEGED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN GRAND STAIRCASE NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY DECISION (Nov. 2018).

³ *Id.* at 2.

⁴ *Id.* at 1.