

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman
Mark-Up Memorandum

October 10, 2017

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff (x52761)

Mark-Up: **H.Res. 555 (Rep. Raul Grijalva)**, Of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of the Interior to transmit, respectively, certain documents and other information to the House of Representatives relating to the executive order on the review of designations under the Antiquities Act.
October 11, 2017; 4:00PM; 1334HR

Summary

H. Res. 555 is a resolution of inquiry that requests the President and directs the Secretary of the Interior to transmit to the House of Representatives, not later than 14 days after the adoption of the resolution by the full House, copies of every document, map, survey, report, record, memorandum, call log, correspondence (electronic and otherwise), and other communication or any portion of any such communication, that refers or relates to the executive order on the review of designations under the Antiquities Act (Executive Order 13792, April 26, 2017), including: (1) documents and communications relating to the Secretary of the Interior's review of all Presidential designations or expansions of designations under the Antiquities Act made since January 1, 1996, as described in the executive order; (2) all documents and communications relating to the Secretary of the Interior's review of all Presidential designations where the Secretary determined that the designation or expansion was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders, as described in the executive order; (3) all documents and communications relating to the interim and final reports to the President, including any recommendations for Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions recommended by the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of the executive order; and (4) any meeting or communication that occurred between Secretary Ryan Zinke and President Trump, or their representatives, relating to the recommendations or reports required by the executive order.

Under clause 7 of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee must act on such a resolution within 14 legislative days of its introduction or a privileged motion to discharge the Committee will be in order in the House of Representatives. H. Res. 555 was introduced on October 4, 2017, by Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raul Grijalva.

Under the rules and precedents of the House, a resolution of inquiry is one method used by the House to obtain information from the executive branch. According to volume 7, chapter 24, section 8 of Deschler's Procedure, it is "a simple resolution making a direct request or demand of the President or the head of an executive department to furnish the House of Representatives with specific factual information in the possession of the executive branch." The rules of the House of Representatives contain no specific provision for enforcing resolutions of inquiry.¹

¹ Charles Johnson, John V. Sullivan, Thomas J. Wickham, Jr., House Practice: A Guide to the Rules, Precedents, and Procedures of the House (115th Congress, 1st Session), p. 850.