

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

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

March 8, 2017

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Congratulations on becoming the 52<sup>nd</sup> Secretary of the Interior. We will miss your presence on the Natural Resources Committee dais, but look forward to working with you in your new capacity.

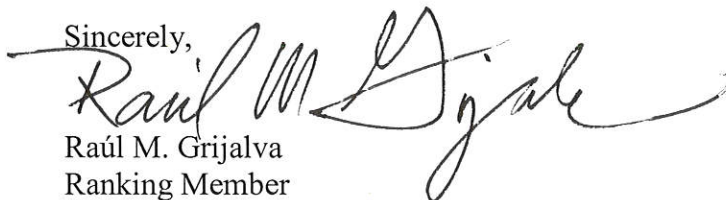
During your confirmation hearing, in response to a question from Senator Martin Heinrich of New Mexico regarding the Antiquities Act, you responded that “it will be interesting to see whether the President has the authority to nullify a monument.” When Senator Heinrich followed up and asked what your counsel would be on the question of whether the President should attempt to rescind a national monument, you responded by saying: “Legally, it is untested.”

Now that you have been sworn in as Secretary, your role in counseling President Trump regarding the future of the special places under the jurisdiction of your Department is no longer theoretical; advising the President on the future of Bears Ears and other National Monuments is now your solemn responsibility.

Do you believe that the President has the legal authority to overturn an existing national monument designation?

Thank you for taking the time to provide clarity on this important issue. I appreciate and look forward to your swift response to this straightforward question.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources