

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

November 16, 2017

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

One year ago, the American people elected you to our highest office with a mandate to disrupt business as usual and to relieve our economy from unnecessarily burdensome, job-killing regulations. We are writing to offer our support to your efforts to reorganize the federal government in a way that ensures effective, efficient, and responsive service to the American people. As members of Congress, we have seen firsthand how rigid, top-down directives issued by Washington bureaucrats have resulted in ever-expanding missions for federal agencies. Often, these directives undermine federal and state partnerships in the responsible management of our natural resources.

As a result of mission drift, federal agencies have lost touch with the concerns of Americans most impacted by administrative and regulatory burdens. A prime example is the federal government's continued acquisition of vast tracts of land in the western United States despite not being able to effectively manage the more than 600 million acres of land it already owns. Meanwhile, the federal government faces a growing multibillion dollar maintenance backlog at our National Parks.

We believe that your administration is well positioned to end the unnecessary government expansion by implementing a transformation of key federal agencies. The Office of Management and Budget's FY 2019 Budget Guidance memorandum gives a solid foundation to much-needed reform by directing the heads of executive departments and agencies to identify activities where restructuring can lead to improvements in the quality of service provided to the American people by their government. The memorandum also tasks agency heads to align organizational structures with core missions and strategic plans, and to eliminate unnecessary redundancy. We are eager to review the administration's government reorganization plans for the Department of the Interior (DOI).

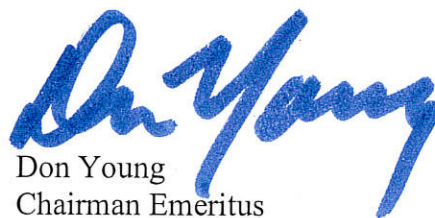
Any thoughtful DOI reorganization should give serious consideration to relocating select agencies away from Washington, D.C. and closer to the American people they were created to serve. Simply put, federal employees should know and live around the people, lands, and economies they regulate. Relocation, coupled with devolving decision-making authority to local federal officials, will go a long way towards restoring balance to the partnership between the states and federal government.

We respectfully urge you to consider these and other recommendations to help fundamentally transform and modernize how the federal government executes its core responsibilities. We look forward to reviewing your administration's final plan for DOI's reorganization and to working together to implement its details.

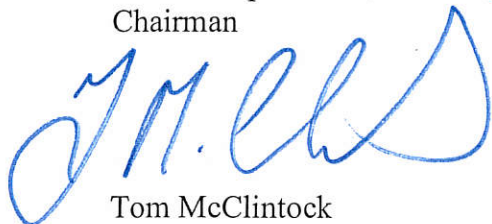
Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Chairman




Don Young
Chairman Emeritus



Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Federal Lands



Doug Lamborn
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Water, Power and Oceans



Paul Gosar, D.D.S.
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Energy and Mineral Resources



Doug LaMalfa
Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian,
Insular and Alaska Native Affairs



Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget