

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

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Ehikian
Acting Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Acting Administrator Ehikian,

We write to express our strong opposition to the planned facility closures at the Department of Interior (DOI), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) across the country. The cancellation of leases for hundreds of facilities threatens the well-being of communities across the nation by eliminating jobs, destabilizing local economies, and gutting essential services.

These agencies are indispensable in their physical locations, delivering vital services from public safety to economic development to the protection of invaluable natural and cultural resources. The proposed closures will undermine our nation's ability to respond to public safety needs and continue lifesaving environmental monitoring. For example, 34 United States Geological Survey (USGS) offices slated for closure play a critical role in monitoring natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and floods. Two of NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) offices, which provide real-time data and predictive models for emergency responders to use during disasters, are also on the chopping block. These facilities are instrumental in providing critical early warning signs that save lives and protect communities.

As part of the 164 DOI facilities slated for closure, the National Park Service (NPS) is threatened with losing 33 visitor centers, field offices, historic buildings, maintenance facilities, and museum spaces, all of which are crucial for managing and protecting our national parks and monuments and serving visitors.¹ These facilities house vital staff, including public safety personnel, scientists, archaeologists, superintendents, and others who carry out the core operations and mission of the national parks. An NPS office located centrally between Canyonlands and Arches National Parks, which supports the USGS Southwest Biological Center, manages wildfire response, handles emergencies on the Green and Colorado Rivers, and provides overall park support, is set to close, jeopardizing each of these services. Emergency

¹ "Trump, musk plan to shutter interior offices nationwide, devastating local economies and abandoning tribes: The House Committee on Natural Resources." Natural Resources Committee. February 28, 2025. <https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/media/press-releases/trump-musk-plan-to-shutter-interior-offices-nationwide-devastating-local-economies-and-abandoning-tribes>

search and rescue, and law enforcement facilities will also be shut down. USFS offices and personnel that play a critical role in firefighting capacity, prevention, and response are on the list for closure, potentially leading to catastrophic consequences.

Beyond the immediate impact on public safety, the economic ramifications of these closures cannot be overstated. In communities across America, federal offices are the backbone of local economies, providing stable jobs and supporting small businesses. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will be particularly hard hit, with 25 offices representing 27% of all BIA locations set to close. This action will cut off essential services for Tribal communities like public safety, economic development, education, and housing assistance—services that Tribal Nations rely on for their well-being and self-determination. At risk would be some of the \$3 billion in visitor spending at national parks threatened by lease cancellations.

These devastating impacts appear to be the beginning, rather than the end of facility closures. Reporting now indicates “... GSA is planning on five more rounds of mass lease terminations between now and Sept. 30. By the end of the fiscal year, GSA leaders expect to terminate another 660 leases.” Federally owned properties are also in the crosshairs. “The agency Tuesday listed more than 440 ‘non-core’ assets it will consider offloading from its portfolio of federally owned buildings. However, on Wednesday it withdrew the entire list of properties, but stated a new list is ‘coming soon.’”²

The purging of DOI, NOAA, and USFS offices across the nation is a direct attack on the dedicated public servants who work tirelessly to protect our nation’s economy and natural resources, as well the people, industries, and communities that rely on the services these agencies provide. We demand that these closures be halted immediately and that a comprehensive review of the decision-making process that led to this reckless action be conducted.

Sincerely,

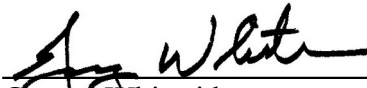


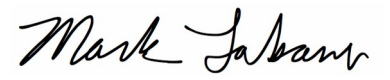
Jared Huffman
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Ranking Member, House
Natural Resources Committee



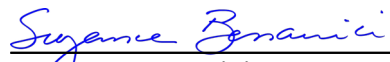
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress


² Jory Heckman. “GSA tries to walk back hundreds of lease terminations for ‘public-facing’ office space.” Federal News Network. March 6, 2025. <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/facilities-construction/2025/03/gsa-tries-to-walk-back-hundreds-of-lease-terminations-for-public-facing-office-space/?readmore=1>



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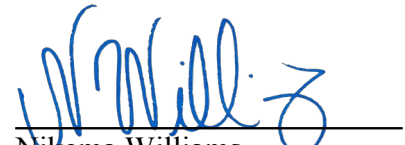

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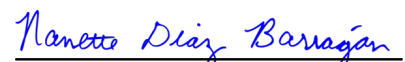

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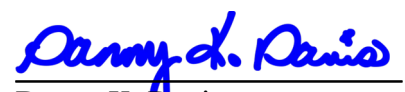

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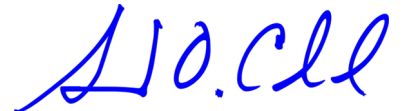

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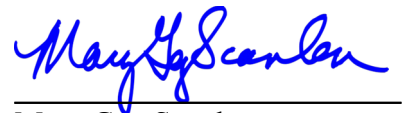

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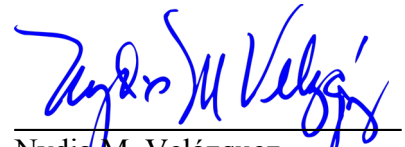

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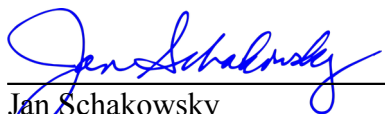

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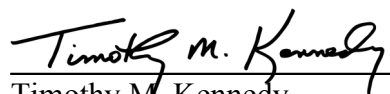

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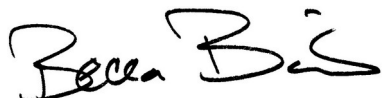

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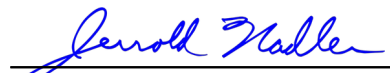

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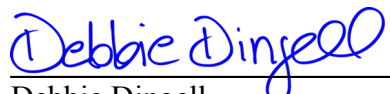

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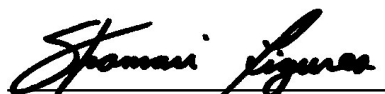

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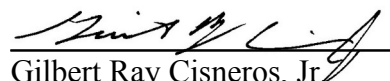

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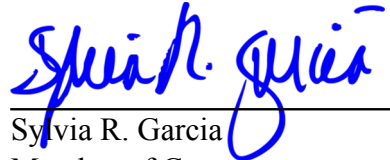
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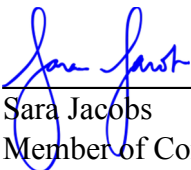
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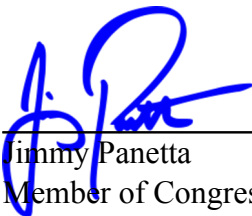
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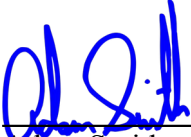
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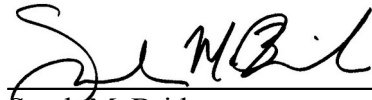
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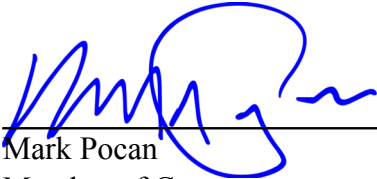
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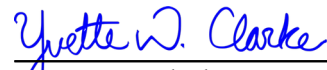
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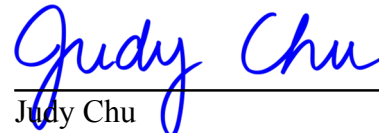
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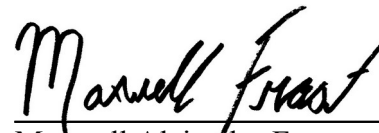
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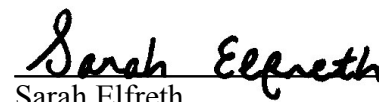
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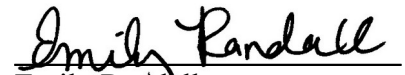
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cc:
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The Honorable Secretary Brooke Rollins
The Honorable Secretary Doug Burgum