



**NATURAL
RESOURCES**
COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS
RANKING MEMBER
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

2017 Committee Activities

OVERSIGHT

Holding the Trump administration accountable

Letters to the Trump Administration:

- 1/24/17 **To President Trump:** Remove notorious climate change denier Ken Haapala from transition team at Department of Commerce, which includes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA).
- 2/1/17 **To NOAA Acting Administrator:** Describe impact of President Trump's hiring freeze at NOAA.
- 2/2/17 **To President Trump:** Reverse the decision to issue the final easement under Lake Oahe for the Dakota Access Pipeline.
- 2/23/17 **To Acting Secretary of the Interior:** Explain why a Department of the Interior (DOI) blog wrongly claimed that repealing the Stream Protection Rule would save 7,000 jobs.
- 2/23/17 **To Acting Secretary of the Interior:** Consider supporting the Bureau of Land Management's 2015 decision to require federal review of the Cadiz water project.
- 2/28/17 **To Acting Secretary of the Interior:** Explain a new rule that allows companies to sell coal at reduced prices to their own subsidiaries, reducing the amount of royalties owed to the American people.
- 3/7/17 **To Army Corps of Engineers and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:** Provide information about the risks of approving two new nuclear reactors along South Florida's coastline (i.e., "Hurricane Alley").
- 3/8/17 **To Environmental Protection Agency Administrator:** Reinstate information request to oil and gas industry on methane emissions from production activities.
- 3/8/317 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide information about whether the President has legal authority to overturn existing monument designations.
- 3/16/17 **To U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA:** Provide more information about seafood labor practices.

- 3/29/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Reverse a gag order on the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.
- 4/12/17 **To Acting Director of the Bureau of Land Management:** Provide rationale for prioritizing the "backlog" of Applications for Permit to Drill.
- 4/20/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide documents and reports related to Secretarial Order on "American Energy Independence."
- 4/25/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Respond to questions about the settlement agreement with water contractors in the San Luis Unit of California's Central Valley Project.
- 5/2/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide information about the Secretary's deregulation "task force."
- 5/2/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide information about the authority of Deputy Secretary to review all major decisions and grants of more than \$100,000.
- 5/4/17 **To President Trump:** Join the Ranking Member for a tour of Civil War sites protected by the National Park Service.
- 5/4/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Explain how DOI can "delay" implementation of rule on the value of federal natural resources that already went into effect.
- 5/18/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Oppose removing Endangered Species Act protections for grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
- 5/25/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Halt development of a report to the President on his authority to revoke or shrink national monuments.
- 5/25/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide information about censorship of a U.S. Geological Survey press release referencing climate change.
- 6/6/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Reschedule cancelled meeting of the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee.
- 6/13/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide information about DOI's "review" of national monuments, including submitted public comments submitted and the Secretary's travel itinerary.
- 6/23/17 **To Secretary of Commerce:** Provide information about the decision to allow drastic overfishing of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico (Chairman Rob Bishop was asked to co-sign the letter, but he did not respond to the request).
- 6/29/17 **To President Trump:** Nominate a permanent Inspector General for DOI.
- 7/6/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Explain how "energy dominance" will be implemented given the mandate in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to manage public lands on the basis of "multiple use and sustained yield."
- 7/25/17 **To Secretary of Commerce:** Maintain strong protections for the national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments under review as part of Executive Order 13795, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy."
- 8/25/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Reinstate a National Academy of Sciences study on the health impacts of mountaintop removal mining.
- 9/6/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide information about the lack of public interest or environmental groups in the appointment of the Royalty Policy Committee.

- 9/18/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide information about the Secretarial Order to “streamline” National Environmental Policy Act implementation and review processes.
- 9/18/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Provide a copy of DOI’s reorganization plan.
- 9/21/17 **To Secretary of Commerce and Attorney General:** Impose stiff penalties for Carlos Rafael (the “Codfather”) for his illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities.
- 10/17/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Explain \$400,000 in missing funds for a National Academy of Sciences study on the health impacts of mountaintop removal mining.
- 10/26/17 **To Secretary of Commerce and Attorney General:** Follow-up to 9/21/17 letter requesting stiff penalties for Carlos Rafael.
- 11/3/17 **To Secretary of Agriculture:** Provide information about the recommendation to revise a 20-year moratorium on new mining claims on federal land in the Grand Canyon Watershed.
- 11/21/17 **To Army Corps of Engineers:** Conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement for the construction and operation of the Bayou Bridge Pipeline project.
- 12/21/17 **To Secretary of the Interior:** Reject the proposal to increase entrance fees for national parks.

Requests to the Office of Inspector General:

- 8/3/17 **DOI:** Investigate the Secretary of the Interior’s threats against Senator Lisa Murkowski and the state of Alaska over Murkowski’s vote against Trumpcare.
- 9/21/17 **Department of Commerce:** Investigate continued operation of Northeast Fisheries Sector IX and lack of oversight by NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service and the New England Fishery Management Council in light of Carlos Rafael’s offenses related to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
- 10/12/17 **DOI:** Investigate the Secretary of the Interior’s use of taxpayer funds for travel.
- 10/20/17 **Department of Homeland Security:** Investigate the \$300 million no-bid contract between Puerto Rico Electric Power Association and Whitefish Energy Holdings, LLC.

Requests to the Government Accountability Office:

- 2/17/17 Assess hacking vulnerabilities of the Bureau of Land Management’s online mineral leasing systems, as well as other financial and operational aspects of the system.
- 3/30/17 Review DOI’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue compliance program.
- 4/25/17 REPORT RELEASED: *Oil and Gas Development: Improved collection and use of data could enhance BLM’s ability to assess and mitigate environmental impacts*
- 6/30/17 Describe threats and attacks against federal land management officials and federal property.
- 7/27/17 Investigate the Secretary of the Interior’s threats against Senator Lisa Murkowski and the state of Alaska over Murkowski’s vote against Trumpcare.

- 10/19/17 Investigate loss of taxpayer revenue due to a change in the way DOI leases oil and gas parcels in the Gulf of Mexico.
- 10/24/17 Provide a legal opinion as to whether the Bureau of Reclamation's participation in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan constituted a legal violation.

Request to the Congressional Budget Office:

- 12/7/17 Re-evaluate revenue estimates for leasing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling companies.

Selected Hearing Requests:

- 1/9/17 **Oversight hearing** on the Stream Protection Rule and Methane Waste Prevention Rule
- 1/13/17 **Legislative hearing** on H.R. 360 (Grijalva) to establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (also requested 11/3/17)
- 1/27/17 **Oversight hearing** on the Trump administration's efforts to suppress information about climate change
- 2/13/17 **Legislative hearing** on H.R. 502 (Grijalva) to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- 6/22/17 **Oversight hearing** on sexual harassment at the Department of the Interior
- 9/13/17 **Oversight hearing** on the Bureau of Reclamation's participation in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- 9/28/17 **Oversight hearing** on the Trump administration's hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- 10/24/17 **Oversight hearing** on the no-bid contract between Puerto Rico Electric Power Association and Whitefish Energy Holdings, LLC

PRESS

Keeping the public informed

Reports:

- 8/22/17 *Fossil Apostles: Fossil Fuels, the GOP, and the Fate of our National Monuments*
- 12/7/17 *Missing the Mark: 2017 Update*

Op-Eds:

- 1/25/17 *The Keystone pipeline will create just 35 permanent jobs. Don't believe the lies.*

- 1/31/17 *Stand up, environmentalists — there's more to fight for now than ever*
- 2/1/17 *Making America sick again: What a repeal of the Affordable Care Act could mean*
- 2/14/17 *When the power of protest works: Organized dissent helped kill Rep. Chaffetz's public-lands transfer bill*
- 2/22/17 *Climate change tied to nation's infrastructure needs*
- 2/22/17 *Donald Trump's border wall could cut through your backyard*
- 2/26/17 *Bishop wants Trump to do his Bears Ears dirty work*
- 3/15/17 *The Endangered Species Act doesn't need "reform"*
- 5/7/17 *Why I sued to stop Trump's bogus border wall plan*
- 5/16/17 *More U.S. action required on New England fishery*
- 5/27/17 *Step up now to preserve U.S. public lands*
- 7/5/17 *Dear Secretary Zinke: Being a good neighbor is NOT "un-American"*
- 7/21/17 *Congressman: My colleagues' national monument claims are disingenuous*
- 11/16/17 *A Democratic approach to energy: Promote the interests of citizens, not industry*
- 11/27/17 *Stop seeing the Grand Canyon as potential strip mine*
- 12/15/17 *Administration eyes tax cuts for the wealthy as it seeks to hike Park Service fees*
- 12/19/17 *Stop trying to militarize Interior, Ryan Zinke*

Events, Press Conferences, and Forums:

- 1/25/17-
1/27/17 **Field Event:** Ranking Member Grijalva's tour of national monuments and meetings with key lawmakers and conservation, sportsmen, and business leaders in New Mexico
- 2/1/17 **Forum:** "The Health, Environmental, and Economic Risks of the Republican Campaign to Repeal the Bureau of Land Management's Methane Waste Rule"
- 5/2/17 **Forum:** "Natural Resources Committee Dems and Congressional Hispanic Caucus Forum on Puerto Rico's Fiscal and Humanitarian Crisis"
- 5/2/17 **Press Conference:** Republican attacks on America's national monuments
- 6/3/17 **Field Event:** Ranking Member Grijalva traveled to Southwest Virginia to tour mountaintop removal coal mining sites
- 6/8/17 **Forum:** "A Monumental Mistake: The Implications of President Trump's Executive Order on National Monuments"
- 7/13/17 **Forum:** "The New Sea Around Us: Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change on our Oceans and Coasts"
- 7/19/17 **Press Conference:** Defending the Endangered Species Act
- 9/12/17 **Press Conference:** Opposition to the GOP's SHARE Act
- 10/2/17 **Press Conference:** Introduction of the Tribal Heritage and Grizzly Bear Protection Act