

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

July 23, 2019

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

On July 18, 2019, your staff briefed House Natural Resources Committee staff on the Department of the Interior's (Department) plans to relocate the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Grand Junction, Colorado. During that discussion, your team stated that BLM had not consulted with Tribal Nations regarding the BLM plan to move almost 300 people to various offices across the West.

This is unacceptable. The BLM is responsible for managing over 200 million acres of surface land and 700 million acres of onshore subsurface land. These include lands and natural resources important to and impacting Native American Tribes.

In addition, we continue to receive reports that the Department, and the bureaus and offices under its jurisdiction, has failed to provide meaningful consultation on changes being made at the local, regional, and national levels that impact Tribal Nations, including reorganization, restructuring, and personnel changes. These failures violate the Government-to-Government relationship between Federally recognized Tribal Nations and the Department required by law.

Given these failures, the Department should halt reorganization of the Bureau of Land Management and all other agencies, including programmatic changes and the restructuring and/or closure of offices within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, until the Department conducts meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and provides a report to this Committee on those activities, comments received from the Tribes, and how the Department intends to respond to those comments.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Chair
Committee on Natural Resources