

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

June 5, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your response to our letter of June 2 included a recitation of high-minded ideals regarding racial justice and constitutional rights, every one of which the Trump Administration seeks to destroy on a daily basis.

That you attempted to “respond” to our letter without actually responding to our request for a briefing is irresponsible; that you sought to explain the police violence on June 1 without mentioning that the goal was to allow a frightened president to pose for a photo-op with a borrowed Bible is pathetic. Efforts to spin a narrative plainly contradicted by video evidence is folly.

Let’s move on.

You end your letter saying: “I invite you to join me in visiting with our injured officers so you can see and hear, firsthand, their accounts.”

We accept. Please identify a date and time when we can speak with any U.S. Park Police officer injured on June 1, as well as the leadership of the force. You may select any remote audio and/or video platform, or the Committee will be happy to host the discussion. We will also invite victims of USPP violence during this incident to participate.

We agree that such a discussion will be a critical step in moving forward from this terrible event.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources



Debra Haaland
Chair
House Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests, and Public Lands