

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

November 16, 2018

The Honorable Joe Balash
Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Balash:

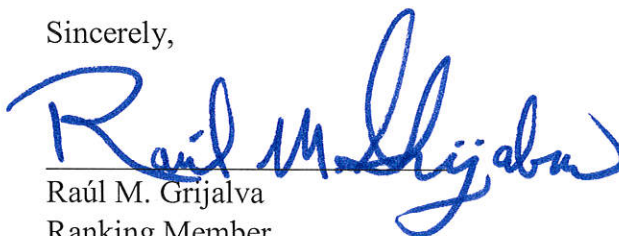
In October 2017, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Director Scott Angelle gave the keynote address to LAGCOE, an organization of energy companies, during which he provided the audience his cell number and explained, "I'd rather you call me. Everything you text me is a public record so be careful...Everything that you send to me in email is a public record...This is a business opportunity to engage with me on what you believe we ought to be about."¹

It is inappropriate for federal regulators to encourage the entities they regulate to avoid public records laws. There is currently no way for the public to know who Director Angelle has talked to, how often, for how long, or whether those discussions were relevant to BSEE decisions. Director Angelle has made a mockery of transparency and public trust in federal decision-making, and his actions create the appearance of a preemptive cover-up. As the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster showed us, the issues in his jurisdiction are a matter of life and death. The American people have a right to know whether Mr. Angelle is placing industry interests ahead of their quality of life.

To assist the House Natural Resources Committee in carrying out its oversight responsibilities, please provide to the Committee all calls to and from Director Angelle's cell phone number, (571) 585-3730, from May 23, 2017, through November 12, 2018. Please provide this information no later than December 1, 2018.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Steve Feldgus, Senior Energy Policy Advisor for the House Natural Resources Committee Democratic Staff, at (202) 225-6065.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee

¹ "LAGCOE 2017 Keynote Presentation by Scott Angelle, BSEE", October 24, 2017, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ga5-zZXYpo>, beginning at 31:10. Accessed November 13, 2018.