

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

April 29, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Two weeks ago, you received an invitation to appear before the House Natural Resources Committee on May 15. Please provide the courtesy of a response by Wednesday, May 1.

While the invitation sent to you April 15 was the first public request, the Committee has been seeking your testimony for some time. This would be your first appearance before the Committee this Congress.

On January 16, you were asked to testify on February 27; you declined. On March 1, you were asked to testify on March 27; you declined. On April 2, you were asked to testify on May 8 or May 15, and you have not responded.

You have led the Interior Department during this entire period and appearing before Congress is among your fundamental responsibilities.

On Friday, April 12, your staff, for the first time, indicated that you would prefer a private, off-the-record meeting. I am aware that during your time at the Department and as a lobbyist, you have made extensive use of private, even secret, meetings. In contrast, a public, on-the-record, hearing better serves the interests of the Committee and the public, and I once again urge you to appear.

Once you have accepted the invitation to testify, I would be more than happy to arrange a private meeting as well.



Raúl M. Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources