# Congress of the United States
## Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We were distressed to learn from an internal "NOT FOR RELEASE" document that deliberations regarding potential National Monument designation sites and "high priority land-rationalization efforts" were taking place within the Department of Interior without public knowledge or participation.

We do, however, take a degree of comfort in your subsequent statement that you hope for a more open process in which locally affected people and their Representatives are engaged in a "public dialogue" rather than being recipients of surprise announcements. While not an explicit assurance that the unilateral actions outlined in the document will not be carried out, we do hope the statement does mean that an open, transparent process involving the public will occur prior to any action by the Department or the President.

Left unanswered at this point are many questions about the status of potential National Monument designations, what groups and individuals are or were involved in this endeavor, and the extent to which the process will continue to be carried out behind closed doors. Therefore, we request the following information no later than March 26, 2010.

1. All pages of the "Internal Draft" document of which we obtained only pages 15 to 21.

2. With regard to the "brainstorming" sessions you publicly mentioned, we would like a copy of any documents distributed at or in preparation for the meetings, a list of all participants or invitees, any notes taken at the meeting (s), and any memoranda, work product or follow up documents from the meeting(s). All records, electronic or otherwise, of meetings or discussions with private groups, individuals or other persons or entities that are not employees of the Department of the Interior where potential National Monument designations were discussed. We request all notes, agendas, memoranda or documents from those meetings.

3. All documents related to the Secretary's initiative to compile a list of potential National Monument designations since July 1, 2009, including, but not limited to, maps.

4. Any communication with any person or entity outside of the Department of the Interior related to the Secretary's initiative since July 1, 2009.

We thank you for your prompt response to our previous letter and look forward to an equally prompt and fully informative reply to this letter.

Sincerely,

Doc Hastings
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests and Public Lands

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