

From: "Spannagel, Mark" <Mark.Spannagel@mail.house.gov>

To: "Ashley_Johnson@ios.doi.gov" <Ashley_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Coughlin, Savannah" <Savannah.Coughlin@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow up on trying to set up a call

Date: Wed, 5 Feb 2025 17:38:08 +0000

Importance: Normal

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Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01), Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, would like to set up a call with Secretary Burgum. The call would be an introduction, brief connection on California Water, and a personal invitation from Congressman LaMalfa to join a Bicameral Western Caucus meeting to discuss the Secretaries priorities and how the over 100 members of Congress and multiple US Senators could support his efforts.

We have been trying to get a response from the request for a few weeks. Please let us know. Savannah Coughlin is Chairman LaMalfa's scheduler.

Mark Spannagel

Chief of Staff

Congressman Doug LaMalfa

California's First District

Mark.Spannagel@Mail.House.Gov

From: "Fogels, Avery (Sullivan)" <Avery_Fogels@sullivan.senate.gov>

To: "Ashley_johnson@ios.doi.gov" <Ashley_johnson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: James M Nelson <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Senator Dan Sullivan and Secretary Burgum

Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2025 14:20:14 +0000

Importance: Normal

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Good morning, just following up on this. Are we all set for the meeting this evening? Ashley I connected you with the Governor's EA, Janice.

From: Fogels, Avery (Sullivan) <Avery_Fogels@sullivan.senate.gov>

Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2025 2:54 PM

To: Ashley_johnson@ios.doi.gov

Cc: James M Nelson <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: Meeting with Senator Dan Sullivan and Secretary Burgum

The Senator would like Governor Dunleavy to call/zoom in to the meeting Monday. What is the best way to conference him in? Happy to discuss over the phone if you want to call- (b)(6). I can also connect you with the governors assistant if that is preferred.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 21, 2025, at 12:24 PM, Fogels, Avery (Sullivan) <Avery_Fogels@sullivan.senate.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Ashley,

Touching base on the meeting Monday 2/24 at 5:45p with Senator Sullivan and Secretary Burgum, at DOI. Your colleague, James Nelson asked I send car/driver details, see below. His driver Bailey is Cc'd, he will be the day of POC. For awareness, there is a vote at 5:30p. He might be slightly delayed depending on traffic, but hopefully not by much (if anything).

Let us know if you need anything else, thanks.

Vehicle info:

Make: (b)(6)

Model: (b)(6)

Year: (b)(6)

Color: (b)(6)

License plate #: (b)(6)

State Registration: (b)(6)

Driver Name: Bailey Ware

Cell: (b)(6)

Avery Fogels

Director of Scheduling

U.S. Senator Daniel S. Sullivan – Alaska

706 Hart Senate Building

(b)(6) Main

(b)(6) Direct

From: "scheduling_interior" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1DF9714E0D404983823BEC1EDE64DD85-SCHEDULING_>

To: "Paul Singarella" <paul@tbt.capital>, "Devlin, Katie (Daines)" <Katie_Devlin@daines.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Introduction

Date: Tue, 25 Feb 2025 03:26:48 -0000

Importance: Normal

Thank you,
Scheduling and Advance
Office of the Secretary of Interior

From: Paul Singarella <paul@tbt.capital>

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 4:02 PM

To: Devlin, Katie (Daines) <Katie_Devlin@daines.senate.gov>; scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Introduction

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Katie,
Thank you very much for the kind introduction.

Lucy,
Nice to meet you via email. As Katie indicates, we very much would appreciate the opportunity to brief Secretary Burgum and/or his team. Our project is directly relevant to President Trump's memo to the Secretaries of Interior and also Commerce calling for a report from them by April 20 on moving water from north to south in the western US. While our project would pipe the water to California, the amount of water involved is sufficient to effect a giant rebalancing of the water supplies of the US West, including the Colorado River states and the Pacific Southwest. It is the kind of generational project and backbone infrastructure that the US West needs to continue to prosper and provide for human flourishing.

\$10 million has been invested into the project over a period of years, and the engineering powerhouse AECOM has concluded that there are no fatal flaws and that the project is ready to proceed to permitting. So, unlike some of the “pipe dreams” out there, ours is a real project that is actionable now. The missing ingredient is the political will to tackle the problem and get moving. President Trump’s focus on western water and his comments on the Columbia River indicate that the political will has gathered.

I and my key team members are ready to meet in DC at the Secretary’s and his team’s earliest convenience, and provide a briefing. I truly think Interior, and also Commerce, will find the project useful and on point for the April report.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if I can provide any further information or if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Paul Singarella
Founder and Partner
ProCo LLC
(714) 797-5426

From: Devlin, Katie (Daines) <Katie_Devlin@daines.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 1:47 PM
To: scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Paul Singarella <paul@tbt.capital>
Subject: Introduction

Hello Lucy,

I wanted to make a connection between you and Paul Singarella as he is looking to meet with the Secretary or appropriate team members on a project that he is working on related to the President’s action on water for Southern California: [Putting People Over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California – The White House](#). Paul’s project explores moving water from the mouth of Oregon’s Columbia River using a ‘dam-less’ reservoir and brought south in underwater pipes along the coastline tethered to the sea floor to recharge the water aqueducts in California.

I met with him on this and he asked if I could help with an introduction for a meeting with the Department. I’ll let you two take it from here!

Thanks,
Katie

Katie Devlin
Policy Advisor
Office of Senator Steve Daines
320 Senate Hart Building
202-224-2651

From: "Cloch, Adam (Curtis)" <Adam_Cloch@curtis.senate.gov>

To: "Martin, Kathryn A" <kathryn_martin@ios.doi.gov>, "Maxfield, Dilan (Curtis)" <Dilan_Maxfield@curtis.senate.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Johnson, Ashley A" <ashley_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, "Petersen, Mollie (Curtis)" <Mollie_Petersen@curtis.senate.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Comms for Saturday's Signing Event

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 22:29:56 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png

And adding our scheduler.

Adam Cloch
Communications Director
curtis.senate.gov

From: "Martin, Kathryn A" <kathryn_martin@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 5:27 PM

To: "Cloch, Adam (Curtis)" <Adam_Cloch@curtis.senate.gov>, "Maxfield, Dilan (Curtis)" <Dilan_Maxfield@curtis.senate.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Johnson, Ashley A" <ashley_johnson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Comms for Saturday's Signing Event

Adding in Ashley on our team so she is tracking this request as well. Ashley is on our talented scheduling and advance team.

From: Cloch, Adam (Curtis) <Adam_Cloch@curtis.senate.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 5:06 PM

To: Martin, Kathryn A <kathryn_martin@ios.doi.gov>; Maxfield, Dilan (Curtis) <Dilan_Maxfield@curtis.senate.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Comms for Saturday's Signing Event

Thank you! James, would love to have a Curtis comms staffer in the room as well.

Adam Cloch
Communications Director
curtis.senate.gov

From: "Martin, Kathryn A" <kathryn_martin@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:33 PM

To: "Cloch, Adam (Curtis)" <Adam_Cloch@curtis.senate.gov>, "Maxfield, Dilan (Curtis)" <Dilan_Maxfield@curtis.senate.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Comms for Saturday's Signing Event

For sure! Will probably get pics back from our photog by midday. As for the release, the Acting Director for BLM is quoted in the release and not the Secretary so I don't think you all will want your boss in

there. You are more than welcome to use the release for your own purposes if helpful. Adding in James from leg affairs on you all having a comms staffer in the room. I am good with it but want him to be aware for coordinating your in and out of the building. Congrats on such a huge win at the beginning of the Senator's tenure!

From: Cloch, Adam (Curtis) <Adam_Cloch@curtis.senate.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 5:53 PM

To: Martin, Kathryn A <kathryn_martin@ios.doi.gov>; Maxfield, Dilan (Curtis) <Dilan_Maxfield@curtis.senate.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Comms for Saturday's Signing Event

Hi Katie,

Great to hear! Could you share the photo folder from the event?

We'd also love to have either me or Dilan in the room if possible.

Regarding the press release, we'd be happy to provide a quote. This is a major milestone for the state—the largest federal lands transfer in Utah's history—and an issue of great importance to the Senator.

We are working with Amy Joi O'Donoghue, who covers public lands at Deseret News, on a story for the record of decision. Hoping to have that fully baked for Friday and go to print on Monday.

Thanks,
Adam

Adam Cloch
Communications Director
curtis.senate.gov

From: "Martin, Kathryn A" <kathryn_martin@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 5:39 PM

To: "Maxfield, Dilan (Curtis)" <Dilan_Maxfield@curtis.senate.gov>

Cc: "Cloch, Adam (Curtis)" <Adam_Cloch@curtis.senate.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Comms for Saturday's Signing Event

Hi Dilan and Adam -

Apologies for the delay. As for DOI's comms plan, we will put out a press release from BLM and will post photos of this event on our social. Please let me know if you would like to connect further.

Katie

From: Maxfield, Dilan (Curtis) <Dilan_Maxfield@curtis.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 4:57 PM

To: Martin, Kathryn A <kathryn_martin@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Cloch, Adam (Curtis) <Adam_Cloch@curtis.senate.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comms for Saturday's Signing Event

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Hi Kathryn—

I'm reaching out from Senator Curtis' office and have copied our Communications Director, Adam. We're excited for Saturday's signing of the Emery County SITLA land exchange ROD at DOI and wanted to check in on the communications plan for the event.

Do you have any press engagements planned, or would you be open to collaborating on media outreach? We'd love to help prep a reporter or two in Utah to cover the signing and will also be coordinating with Governor Cox's team on this. Let us know if you have any plans in place or any details we should be aware of. Thanks!

Best,
Dilan

Dilan Maxfield

Deputy Communications Director | U.S. Senator John Curtis (R-UT)

Desk: (202) 225-1515

curtis.senate.gov



To: "Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations)" <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>, "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>, "Rita Culp" <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>, "Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M" <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>, "Brandon, Andrea L" <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Flanagan, Denise A" <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 09:48:55 -0000

Importance: Normal

Hi Daniel –

Thanks for your email. Can we schedule for Monday? Please let me know what time would work and what information you would like on these topics. I am currently available anytime on Monday 2/24 besides 8-9AM and can meet in-person or host a call.

Charlie Dankert
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.568.4745

From: Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:40 PM
To: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

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Thanks Daniel. I would like to join.

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:17 PM
To: 'Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov' <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: National Parks

Charlie – I would like a call with DOI and NPS tomorrow but no later than Monday to understand what is going on with the seasonal hires, RIFs, etc., and how the Department is addressing the issues. There is bicameral and bipartisan concern about what is happening (or not) and that is likely to grow as we are already reading in the media reports of impacts. If

we need to elevate, please let me know. I am cc'ing my fellow clerks for awareness and should they wish to join. Thank you. Daniel

Daniel A. Mencher

Majority Clerk - Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Senate Committee on Appropriations

To: "mark_crowley@moran.senate.gov" <mark_crowley@moran.senate.gov>

Cc: "Radford, Wynn L" <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>, "Lockwood, Robert E" <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

Date: Sat, 15 Feb 2025 01:17:17 -0000

Importance: Normal

Mark,

Please call me if you would like to discuss.

Thanks,

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for
Policy, Management, and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.568.4745

From: Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 8:13 PM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

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From: Crowley, Mark (Moran) <Mark_Crowley@moran.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 3:11:15 PM

To: Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>; Radford, Wynn L <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

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Hello, Wynn and Rob,

I received your contact information for the transition folks who set up Sen. Moran's meeting with Sec. Burgum before his confirmation. During their meeting, Sen. Moran raised the importance of solving some systemic issues with Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS, caused, in part, by red tape and federal staffing due to its status as a federal entity under BIE.

We have a bill to charter Haskell as an independent entity outside of the federal government. Sen. Moran raised this with Sec. Burgum and the Secretary seemed receptive of the idea.

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In the meantime, we heard today from the Chairman of the Prairie Band Tribe that Haskell has been part of the current probational termination effort. I understand from him that some BIE K-12 schools were exempt. According to the Chairman, most of the workers affected would be food service and maintenance workers at the University. This would be present a challenge for the University and the students who are already working and learning in a difficult environment.

Is the information from the Chairman accurate in that Haskell employees are set to be terminated? If so, can Interior exempt those employees?

Going forward, we would like to work with the Department on our legislation to reduce the federal government's footprint, but in the meantime, we want to make sure the students are fed and the campus is maintained.

Thank you!

Mark

--

Mark Crowley

Legislative Director

Office of U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

Desk: 202-228-6968

Cell: 815-216-8730

To: "Mercier, Bryan K" <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>, "Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds)" <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

Cc: "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

Date: Sat, 15 Feb 2025 00:11:19 -0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png

Thank you, Bryan.

Lucas – Please call me if you would like to discuss.

Charlie Dankert
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of AS-PMB
202.568.4745

From: Mercier, Bryan K <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 7:06 PM

To: Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds) <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

Cc: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

Hi Lucas,

I'm cc'ing our Departmental leadership to assist with your question.

I'm about to board a plane and will be unavailable for a few hours.

Have a good weekend.

Regards,
Bkm

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From: Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds) <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 6:10 PM

To: Mercier, Bryan K <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

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Hello sir,

My name is Lucas Heitkamp and I work for Senator Mike Rounds. A number of folks are asking us if tribal law enforcement and other essential tribal positions will be impacted by the OPM probationary directive. Just wondering if you had any resources to help explain what positions are impacted? Thank you so much!

Best,



Lucas Heitkamp
Legislative Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)
716 Hart Senate office Building
Washington, DC
Cell: 605-595-3075



From: "Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations)" <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Boles, Cassie L" <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>, "Fischietto, Mary S" <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>, "Hunt, Ryan (Appropriations)" <Ryan_Hunt@appro.senate.gov>, "Sedillo, Anthony (Appropriations)" <Anthony_Sedillo@appro.senate.gov>, "Sahgal, Rishi (Appropriations)" <Rishi_Sahgal@appro.senate.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum

Date: Tue, 4 Mar 2025 20:05:00 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: 2025.03.04_Letter_to_Secretary_Burgum_on_DOGE.pdf

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Hi Charlie,

Please see the attached letter to Secretary Burgum related to DOGE.

Thank you!

Melissa

Melissa Zimmerman
Minority Clerk
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Cell: (202) 421-7016

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 4, 2025

Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

I write to express concern regarding the continued work of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and its ongoing engagement with the Department of the Interior (DOI). Given recent inquiries and concerns surrounding DOGE's activities, I believe it is important to clarify the role, personnel, scope of work, previous actions, and future objectives of this initiative on the offices and programs within your purview.

DOGE was established with the intent of streamlining government operations, but has expanded to operationalize widespread reductions across programs, projects, and staff and access protected data sets and systems. While DOGE is primarily composed of software engineers, there remain several unanswered questions regarding its structure and leadership and where these individuals are working throughout the various government agencies.

As the Ranking Member on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee that has specific responsibility over your department for directing, allocating, and providing oversight of the federal resources provided to you to distribute through the appropriations process, I am alarmed by news reports that these activities are occurring without full transparency and or even forethought. Our Committee cannot do proper oversight or make informed decisions on how to fund government agencies and programs (both the amount of funding needed and what the money should be specifically spent on) without having full transparency into how outside entities control or otherwise influence operations at Interior.

In order to understand the extent of DOGE activities within agencies funded by our subcommittee, please:

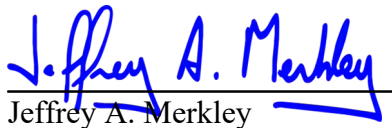
- Provide a full list of personnel involved in DOGE, including all special government employees placed within DOI, and their official titles, roles, and position descriptions.
- Describe the decision-making process within DOGE for DOI, how key initiatives are determined, and what part you and your departmental staff play in these actions.
- Provide a list of actions already taken that are attributed to the mission and scope of work of DOGE, what current actions are underway, and what future actions are planned.
- Describe, in detail, the oversight structure of DOGE's activities at DOI and who ensures compliance with federal laws and regulations, such as records retention, conflicts-of-interest, and appropriations.

In addition, we are requesting information related to the security of sensitive personal and business data held by the Department. The Department has a wide range of data that is necessary to carry to its various missions through the offices and bureaus. This includes proprietary business information from companies participating in resource development; royalty payment information for companies, tribes, individual tribal allottees, and others; including other financial data that tribes deem sensitive, a clear violation of data sovereignty principles, and other sensitive personal and business data for individuals and companies that work with the Department. Since we understand the DOGE staff have accessed this type of information at other federal agencies, please provide detailed information on the financial systems, payment systems, and other data collection systems DOGE staff have been provided access, when they were provided access, and whether that access has any restrictions on what can be done with this data.

I insist on cooperation with Congress in a manner that upholds separation-of-powers requirements, adheres to requirements in the law such as reorganizations and reprogrammings, and fosters a government that works more effectively for the American people. As there are continued changes regarding activities at the DOI, I welcome a transparent process, consistent with the law, to address them prior to implementation.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by replying to the email transmitting this letter and please provide a detailed written response by Tuesday, March 11, 2025. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey A. Merkley
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Department
of the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

To: "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>, "Peery, Sarah" <Sarah.Peery@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] LWCF/LRF

Date: Fri, 28 Feb 2025 19:19:37 -0000

Importance: Normal

+ Denise – Can you please schedule a call with Daniel?

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.568.4745

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 12:27 PM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Peery, Sarah <Sarah.Peery@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] LWCF/LRF

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Charlie – Can we please have a call today re: LWCF/LRF and how to proceed under a CR. We are trying to work with the Admin on this but we need DOI input. If you are not available, then please let us know to whom we can speak but I cannot stress enough the sense of urgency. Thank you. Daniel

Daniel A. Mencher

Majority Clerk - Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

From: "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

To: "Fischietto, Mary S" <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Boles, Cassie L" <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>, Kristin Clarkson <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>, "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>, "Flanagan, Denise A" <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>, "Krause, Amy L" <amy_krause@ios.doi.gov>, "Marand, Kelsey A" <kelsey_marand@ios.doi.gov>, "Brown, Ryan D" <Ryan_Brown@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Quick Turnaround - CR provision

Date: Wed, 5 Mar 2025 18:26:47 +0000

Importance: Normal

Circling back again. DOI has no thoughts on anything for LRF or LWCF? This is the last time I'm going to ask.

From: Fischietto, Mary S <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 4:30 PM

To: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: Boles, Cassie L <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>; Kristin Clarkson <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>; Krause, Amy L <amy_krause@ios.doi.gov>; Marand, Kelsey A <kelsey_marand@ios.doi.gov>; Brown, Ryan D <Ryan_Brown@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Quick Turnaround - CR provision

The Department wants to ensure there are no barriers to implementing Presidential and Secretarial directives during the CR and we are still developing our implementation plans. Implementation of these directives could require new starts in certain areas. For example, to carry out the SO addressing the National Energy Emergency DOI is working to identify authorities and may need to initiate new starts to accelerate the identification, permitting, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, distribution, exporting, and generation of domestic energy resources and critical minerals.

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 4:13 PM

To: Fischietto, Mary S <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Boles, Cassie L <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>; Kristin Clarkson <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>; Krause, Amy L <amy_krause@ios.doi.gov>; Marand, Kelsey A <kelsey_marand@ios.doi.gov>; Brown, Ryan D <Ryan_Brown@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Quick Turnaround - CR provision

Thanks. Can you provide a bit more explanation for why SO/PD are considered new starts? We have a very high bar for we need as much info as we can to potentially argue for inclusion.

On Mar 4, 2025, at 4:05 PM, Fischietto, Mary S <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Daniel - For construction, the relevant bureaus include project data sheets in their 2025 Congressional Justifications and a summary list of the 5-year plan. Some of these projects could be considered new starts if they were not included in prior justifications. Below is a list of Secretary's Orders, which are Presidential directives for DOI.

1. [3417 - Addressing the National Energy Emergency](#)
2. [3418 - Unleashing American Energy](#)

3. [3419 - Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis](#)
4. [3420 - Announcing President Trump's Revocation of Former Outer Continental Shelf Withdrawals](#)
5. [3421 - Achieving Prosperity through Deregulation](#)
6. [3422 - Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential](#)

Thank you,
Mary

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 3:45 PM

To: Boles, Cassie L <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Kristin Clarkson <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Fischietto, Mary S <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>; Krause, Amy L <amy_krause@ios.doi.gov>; Marand, Kelsey A <kelsey_marand@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Quick Turnaround - CR provision

Thanks Cassie. Appreciate the quick reply. Can you help me understand why this is needed for construction accounts if we don't call out any specific projects or incorporate anything by reference? Also, can you give us an example or two on the presidential directives? Thank you. DAM

On Mar 4, 2025, at 3:26 PM, Boles, Cassie L <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Kristin – we would need language to lift that prohibition for construction accounts and appropriations necessary to carry out Presidential directives. We worked with Solicitor to draft the following language for your consideration:

Sec. 104. (a) Subject to subsection (b), no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2024.

(b) This section shall not apply to appropriations or funds made available pursuant to section 101 for construction accounts within the Department of the Interior, or to amounts necessary to implement Presidential directives.

Thanks,
Cassie

From: Boles, Cassie L

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 11:35 AM

To: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Fischietto, Mary S <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>; Krause, Amy L <amy_krause@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <daniel_mencher@appro.senate.gov>; Marand, Kelsey A <kelsey_marand@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Quick Turnaround - CR provision

Hi Kristin – thanks for sending along. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

Thanks,
Cassie

From: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 11:30 AM

To: Boles, Cassie L <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>; Fischietto, Mary S <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>; Krause, Amy L <amy_krause@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <daniel_mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Quick Turnaround - CR provision

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Hi all,

We (House and Senate Republicans) are working on a tight turnaround for some general CR language related to new starts. If we include language prohibiting new starts (i.e., no project or activity for which approps were not available during FY24), are there any must have exemptions/new language DOI would need?

Can you please try to get an answer to us ASAP?

Thanks,

Kristin

Kristin R. Clarkson

Clerk – Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

House Appropriations Committee

(202) 225-3081

(202) 617-0754 (mobile)

<image001.png>

From: "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

To: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Howarth, Robert G" <Robert_G_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum from Senator Mur

Date: Fri, 28 Feb 2025 17:55:39 +0000

Importance: Normal

James – Thanks for the call and offer to brief my staff and me on Monday. We are available at either 1p or 4p on Monday. Happy to do it virtually but since you'll be on the House side, we can host you if you'd prefer in H-125. Let me know which time you prefer and we'll send out an invite. Senator Murkowski will be most grateful to have some numbers, even if for just NPS and BLM. I hope you are able to get some rest this weekend. Having had last year, I know how taxing it can be. See you Monday. Daniel

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 11:54 AM

To: 'Dankert, Charles M' <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Howarth, Robert G <Robert_G_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum from Senator Mur

James – Senator Murkowski was thrilled to learn about your comments at the Western Caucus breakfast that DOI probationary staff firing data will be made available on Monday. To that end, she is curious when a response and requested brief will be provided per her letter to Secretary Burgum. She is also curious to know when we will receive answers to our questions at the briefing on Monday. If you need me to resend, please do let me know. I hope you have a marvelous weekend.

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 6:47 AM

To: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Howarth, Robert G <Robert_G_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum from Senator Mur

Thanks, Daniel. Confirming receipt.

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

U.S. Department of the Interior

202.568.4745

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:37 AM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Howarth, Robert G <Robert_G_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum from Senator Mur

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good morning. Please see attached a letter from Senator Murkowski to Secretary Burgum. A copy has been sent via regular mail. Thank you.

Daniel A. Mencher
Majority Clerk, Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment
Senate Committee on Appropriations

From: "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

To: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>, "Peery, Sarah" <Sarah.Peery@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] LWCF/LRF

Date: Fri, 28 Feb 2025 17:26:49 +0000

Importance: Normal

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Charlie – Can we please have a call today re: LWCF/LRF and how to proceed under a CR. We are trying to work with the Admin on this but we need DOI input. If you are not available, then please let us know to whom we can speak but I cannot stress enough the sense of urgency. Thank you. Daniel

Daniel A. Mencher

Majority Clerk - Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

From: "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

To: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Flanagan, Denise A" <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: RIF Data

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 17:32:18 +0000

Importance: Normal

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Sorry hit send and then had another thought. I realize this is similar to the data Senator Murkowski asked for in her letter but if we could expedite this part of it, I'd be most grateful. Thanks.

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 12:31 PM

To: 'Dankert, Charles M' <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RIF Data

Charlie –

Would it be possible to get DOI data by state and by agency on the number of people RIFd? (I won't over ask but if we could also get by position type, that would be great.)

I realize this is an evolving situation and perhaps we could agree to get an initial run and then some sort of update on a regular cadence?

Thank you.

DAM

From: "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

To: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>, "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>, "Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations)" <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: "Culp, Rita" <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>, "Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M" <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>, "Brandon, Andrea L" <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Flanagan, Denise A" <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 14:27:15 +0000

Importance: Normal

Charlie – we are set for 11am on Monday in our House office (2007 Rayburn). Invite forthcoming.

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:09 AM

To: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>; Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Culp, Rita <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Thank you, Daniel. Please send invite to me for in-person meeting once time is confirmed and I will coordinate any additional DOI participation.

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:41 AM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Thanks Charlie. If 11a Monday works for you and my colleagues, let's go with then. My preference would be in person (again, assuming that works for my colleagues as well). I will send over some topics/Qs tomorrow, since it has just dawned on me that today is Thursday and not Friday. Thank you for making yourself available to discuss. Daniel

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 4:54 AM

To: Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>; Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Hi Daniel –

Thanks for your email. Can we schedule for Monday (2/24)? Please let me know what time is best and what information you would like on these topics. I am currently available anytime on Monday (2/24) besides 730-930AM and can meet in-person or host a call.

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.568.4745

From: Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:40 PM
To: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

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Thanks Daniel. I would like to join.

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:17 PM
To: 'Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov' <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: National Parks

Charlie – I would like a call with DOI and NPS tomorrow but no later than Monday to understand what is going on with the seasonal hires, RIFs, etc., and how the Department is addressing the issues. There is bicameral and bipartisan concern about what is happening (or not) and that is likely to grow as we are already reading in the media reports of impacts. If we need to elevate, please let me know. I am cc'ing my fellow clerks for awareness and should they wish to join. Thank you. Daniel

Daniel A. Mencher

Majority Clerk - Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Senate Committee on Appropriations

From: "Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds)" <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

To: "Mercier, Bryan K" <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>

Cc: "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

Date: Mon, 17 Feb 2025 16:59:40 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png

Thank you sir!

From: Mercier, Bryan K <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 7:06 PM

To: Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds) <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

Cc: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

Hi Lucas,

I'm cc'ing our Departmental leadership to assist with your question.

I'm about to board a plane and will be unavailable for a few hours.

Have a good weekend.

Regards,
Bkm

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From: Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds) <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 6:10 PM

To: Mercier, Bryan K <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

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Hello sir,

My name is Lucas Heitkamp and I work for Senator Mike Rounds. A number of folks are asking us if tribal law enforcement and other essential tribal positions will be impacted by the OPM probationary directive. Just wondering if you had any resources to help explain what positions are impacted? Thank you so much!

Best,



Lucas Heitkamp
Legislative Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)
716 Hart Senate office Building
Washington, DC
Cell: 605-595-3075



From: "Crowley, Mark (Moran)" <Mark_Crowley@moran.senate.gov>

To: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Radford, Wynn L" <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>, "Lockwood, Robert E" <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>, "Kelly, James (Moran)" <James_Kelly@moran.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

Date: Mon, 17 Feb 2025 16:08:21 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: 2_17_25_Moran_Letter_to_Burgum_Re_Haskell.pdf

Charie, Wynn, and Rob,

Charlie: thank you very much for the phone call on Friday.

I attached a letter to this email from Senator Moran to Secretary Burgum on the topic of workforce at Haskell University. We look forward to working with the Department to solve problems at the University.

Best,

Mark

--

Mark Crowley

Legislative Director

Office of U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

Desk: 202-228-6968

Cell: 815-216-8730

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 8:25 PM

To: Crowley, Mark (Moran) <Mark_Crowley@moran.senate.gov>

Cc: Radford, Wynn L <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>; Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

Mark,

Please call me if you would like to discuss.

Thanks,

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

U.S. Department of the Interior

202.568.4745

From: Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 8:13 PM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

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0000168

From: Crowley, Mark (Moran) <Mark_Crowley@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 3:11:15 PM
To: Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>; Radford, Wynn L <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hello, Wynn and Rob,

I received your contact information for the transition folks who set up Sen. Moran's meeting with Sec. Burgum before his confirmation. During their meeting, Sen. Moran raised the importance of solving some systemic issues with Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS, caused, in part, by red tape and federal staffing due to its status as a federal entity under BIE.

We have a bill to charter Haskell as an independent entity outside of the federal government. Sen. Moran raised this with Sec. Burgum and the Secretary seemed receptive of the idea.

In the meantime, we heard today from the Chairman of the Prairie Band Tribe that Haskell has been part of the current probational termination effort. I understand from him that some BIE K-12 schools were exempt. According to the Chairman, most of the workers affected would be food service and maintenance workers at the University. This would be present a challenge for the University and the students who are already working and learning in a difficult environment.

Is the information from the Chairman accurate in that Haskell employees are set to be terminated? If so, can Interior exempt those employees?

Going forward, we would like to work with the Department on our legislation to reduce the federal government's footprint, but in the meantime, we want to make sure the students are fed and the campus is maintained.

Thank you!

Mark

--

Mark Crowley
Legislative Director
Office of U.S. Senator Jerry Moran
Desk: 202-228-6968
Cell: 815-216-8730

United States Senate

February 17, 2025

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

Secretary Burgum:

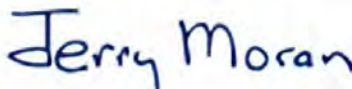
I am writing to request that you take action to mitigate harm to students attending Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell) following the recent actions to terminate positions throughout the Department of the Interior (Department). Reports indicate that “around 38 employees have been let go” including at least seven instructors.¹ As we discussed in my office a few weeks ago, Haskell faces significant challenges. To avoid further disruptions to the health, safety, and academic well-being of the students, I ask that you take steps to ensure Haskell has an adequate workforce, including rehiring terminated individuals as necessary, and exempting the institute from any further cuts to the workforce.

The ability to retain employees at Haskell is already a significant challenge. Due to the specialized nature of the work and the unique mission of the university, finding qualified individuals to fill positions is often difficult. Haskell is the sole four-year, Tribal Nations University in the country, where Native American students can receive a tuition-free higher education in an environment that understands and prioritizes their heritage. The faculty and staff at Haskell are integral to this mission, offering invaluable services in teaching, student support, and administration. The recent layoffs, which affect nearly every department on campus, will leave students without instructors in some classes and will cause a significant reduction in student services, including meal services.

I remain committed to working with you to pass and implement legislation which I have authored to charter Haskell as an independent university outside the control of the Bureau of Education. The bill will allow Haskell’s Board of Trustees to make academic and personnel decisions for the university without the red tape that comes with the federal hiring and firing process. However, until that bill becomes law, the Department must prioritize the well-being of the students and the institution.

The loss of these employees is not only a blow to the university's operation, but to the Native American students it serves. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jerry Moran
U.S. Senator

¹ <https://www2.ljworld.com/news/general-news/2025/feb/14/trumps-order-leads-to-layoffs-at-haskell/>

From: "Powers, Sydney" <Sydney.Powers@mail.house.gov>

To: "wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov" <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>, "charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Christianson, Andrew" <Andrew.Christianson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting Request: Rep. Dusty Johnson/National Garden of Heroes

Date: Tue, 25 Feb 2025 21:49:20 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: 2.25.25_D._Johnson_National_Garden_of_Heroes_Meeting_Request_Letter.pdf;
National_Garden_of_American_Heroes_-_40_acres.pdf

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon –

I am sending this letter from Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD) to Secretary Doug Burgum, respectfully requesting a meeting regarding the creation of the National Garden of American Heroes. He has identified 40 acres, east of Mount Rushmore National Monument in Keystone, South Dakota, and would like the opportunity to present his case for selection of this site for the statutory garden.

I've also included a map of the property for the proposed site.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing back from your team!

Sydney

Sydney Powers | Legislative Assistant
Rep. Dusty Johnson (SD-AL)

DUSTY JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

1714 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2801
(855) 225-2801

EMAIL VIA WEBSITE:
dustyjohnson.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear President Trump and Secretary Burgum:

South Dakota was honored to be the place where you, Mr. President, announced the executive order to establish the National Garden of American Heroes in a speech at Mount Rushmore prior to Independence Day fireworks in 2020. I was happy to see this idea revived in your recent Executive Order Celebrating America's 250th Birthday.

I have been approached by a patriotic landowner in my state willing to donate 40 acres of land to the federal government to serve as the site for the Garden of Heroes. This land is approximately one mile east of the Mount Rushmore National Monument, in Keystone, South Dakota.

Western South Dakota is home to many sculptural renderings of America's greatest leaders, like the presidents on Mount Rushmore and the City of Presidents in Rapid City, which displays statues of each of America's presidents. Mr. President, you'll be pleased to know a statue of you will be added this spring.

I agree that it is time to honor the citizens who embodied America's spirit. This particular parcel of land lies in the shadow of George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson, and would be a prime location for your vision.

I kindly request a meeting regarding the creation of the National Garden of American Heroes. I've included a map of the 40 acres from the landowner. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to the opportunity to present our case.

Sincerely,

DUSTY JOHNSON
Member of Congress

Enclosed: Rushmore Property Map

0000172



Rushmore Property

Location: Portions of Sect. 17 & 20
T2S R6E Pennington County, SD

Background: World Imagery
USA Topo

Legend

- DOT_Roads_SD
- RoadstoBeBuilt_2025
- Rivers
- Proposed Land
- Doane Robinson Tunnel
- Mount Rushmore National Monument



0 400 800
Feet

Last Revised: 2/20/2025
Drawn by: THutchens
Verified by: Rapid Map
Surveyed: None

Maxar, Microsoft



Rushmore Property

Location: Portions of Sect. 17 & 20
T2S R6E Pennington County, SD

Background: World Imagery
USA Topo

Legend

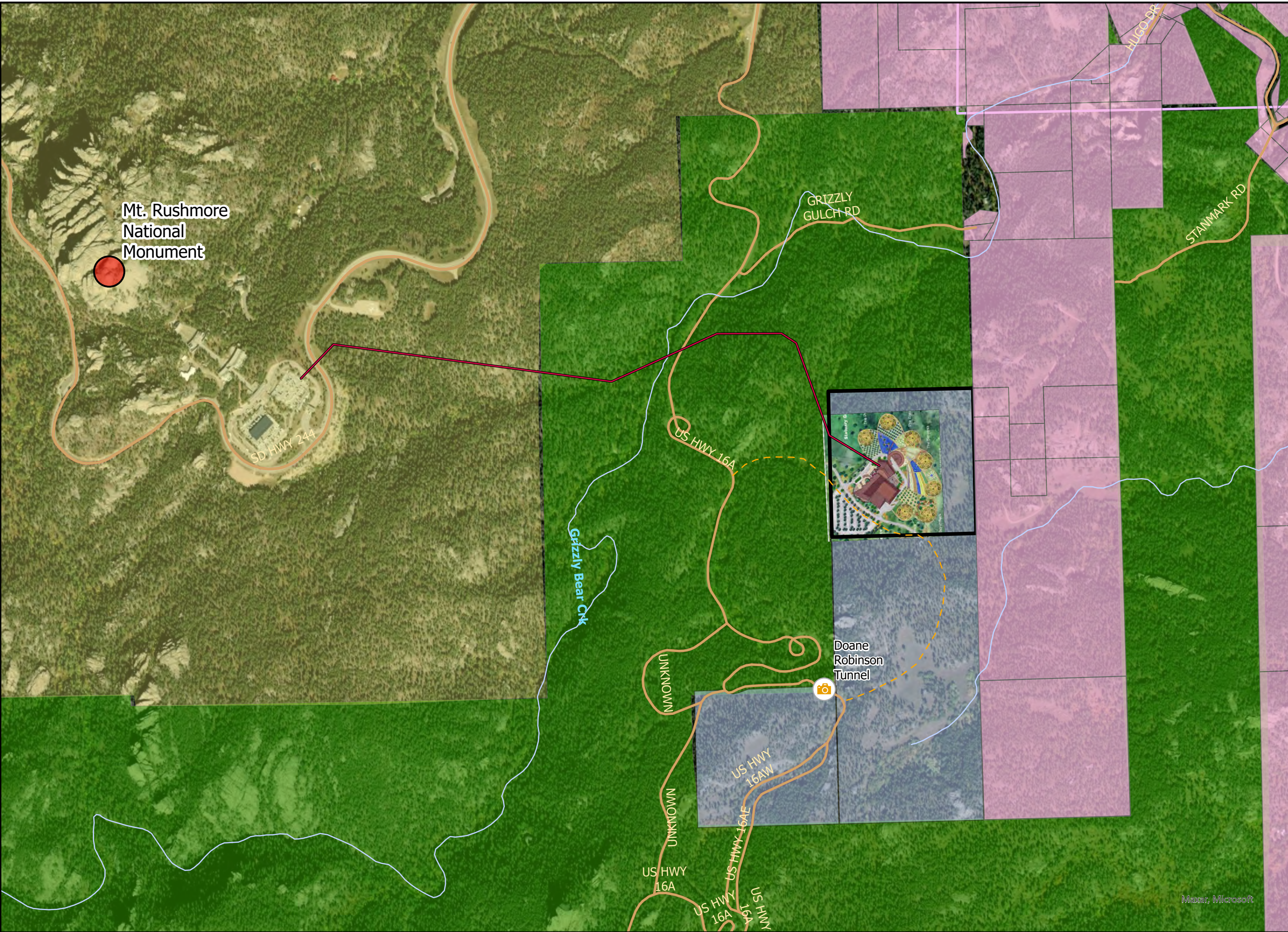
- DOT_Roads_SD
- RoadstoBeBuilt_2025
- Rivers
- 100 ft Contours
- 20 ft Contours
- Proposed Land
- Doane Robinson Tunnel
- Mount Rushmore National Monument



0 400 800
Feet

Last Revised: 2/20/2025
Drawn by: THutchens
Verified by: Rapid Map
Surveyed: None

Maxar, Microsoft



Rushmore Property

Location: Portions of Sect. 17 & 20
T2S R6E Pennington County, SD

Background: World Imagery
USA Topo

Legend

- DOT_Roads_SD
- ProposedAerialTram
- USFS
- RoadstoBeBuilt_2025
- Rivers
- Keystone City Limits
- Proposed Land
- Grazing Hay Land LLC
- Pennington County
Parcels
- Rushmore National
Park
- Doane Robinson Tunnel
- Mount Rushmore
National Monument



0 400 800
Feet

Last Revised: 2/20/2025
Drawn by: THutchens
Verified by: Rapid Map
Surveyed: None

From: "Foley, Sophie (Cornyn)" <Sophie_Foley@cornyn.senate.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Texas Dept. of Transportation USFWS employees

Date: Tue, 25 Feb 2025 19:21:29 +0000

Importance: Normal

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Charlie,

Hope you are doing well! We were notified by the Texas Department of Transportation that two of their Fish and Wildlife Service employees were dismissed on February 14. Both of these employees' salaries are paid for by the Texas Department of Transportation. Is there any information you could provide on the process for reinstating these employees?

Feel free to give me a call if that is easier. Thank you for any information you can share.

Sophie

(b)(6)

The employees' information is below:

(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Texas Transportation Branch

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office

(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Texas Transportation Branch

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office

From: "Lawhorn, Melanie (Crapo)" <Melanie_Lawhorn@crapo.senate.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Ose, Erika (Crapo)" <Erika_Ose@crapo.senate.gov>, "Attebery, Casey (Crapo)" <Casey_Attebery@crapo.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Questions for DOI re layoffs in Idaho

Date: Tue, 25 Feb 2025 17:17:55 +0000

Importance: Normal

Hi Charles – Forwarding an email request I sent to James just a little bit ago. Please let me know if you're able to assist.

Sincerely,
Melanie

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 12:03 PM

To: Lawhorn, Melanie (Crapo) <Melanie_Lawhorn@crapo.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Questions for DOI re layoffs in Idaho

I would reach out to Charles Dankert at DOI PMB.

From: Lawhorn, Melanie (Crapo) <Melanie_Lawhorn@crapo.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 11:56 AM

To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Ose, Erika (Crapo) <Erika_Ose@crapo.senate.gov>; casey_attebery@crapo.senate.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Questions for DOI re layoffs in Idaho

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi James –

As decisions are made and continue to evolve surrounding the Administration's goals for reducing the federal workforce, our office has some questions about certain programs within DOI's jurisdiction. I'm hoping you, or someone on your team, can help provide us more information or clarity on the below listed programs or specific situations. We understand layoffs are generally difficult regardless of the industry, but **we are hoping to reassure Idahoans the restructured, streamlined work of the federal government will more effectively meet the needs of Idaho.**

- We're hearing reports the entire on-the-ground recreation management team for the Salmon Challis River was laid off. We're also aware that a jet boat patrol employee was

let go and that it is a specialized position necessary for recreation safety on the river. Can you provide any clarity or guidance?

- National Park Service terminations – Three South Idaho parks share staffing already (Minidoka, Craters of the Moon, Hagerman Fossil Beds). Do you have any additional information you can share about terminations in this area and how the Department will go about streamlining in this area?
- While we do not expect comments on individual terminations, is there a formal process by which individuals can appeal their termination and that with which our office may assist on a case-by-case basis? We don't intend to advertise this, just looking for guidance for our casework team.

Senator Crapo supports President Trump's efforts to root out waste, fraud and abuse at the federal government. Please don't hesitate to let us know if our office can further assist in those efforts.

Sincerely,

Melanie B. Lawhorn

Communications Director
Office of U.S. Senator Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.
202-224-6142

From: "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] DOI RIFs

Date: Fri, 14 Feb 2025 17:48:33 +0000

Importance: High

Charles, good afternoon. I am the Senate majority staff director for the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. James Nelson referred me to you since he is not up to date on conversations about DOI RIF. Can you please give me a call at 202.815.7595? Thank you. Daniel

Daniel A. Mencher
Majority Clerk, Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment
Senate Committee on Appropriations

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 10:45 AM

To: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: Howarth, Robert G <Robert_G_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] DOI RIFs

I am not up to date on those conversations. You should reach out to Charles Dankert in PMB.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 10:42:26 AM

To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Howarth, Robert G <Robert_G_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] DOI RIFs

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

James – I am the Senate majority staff director for the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, which funds DOI and its agencies. I would like a call with DOI today to understand what is planned and what has already happened with respect to firings. Daniel

Daniel A. Mencher
Majority Clerk, Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment
Senate Committee on Appropriations

From: "Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations)" <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Miller, Murray C" <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>, "Flanagan, Denise A" <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>, "Fischietto, Mary S" <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>, "Boles, Cassie L" <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>, "Culp, Rita" <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>, Jocelyn Hunn <Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov>, "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>, "Thiele, Aaron (Appropriations)" <Aaron_Thiele@appro.senate.gov>, "Jorgenson, Sarah (Appropriations)" <Sarah_Jorgenson@appro.senate.gov>, Kristin Clarkson <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>, "Stevens, Courtney" <Courtney.Stevens@mail.house.gov>, "Peery, Sarah" <Sarah.Peery@mail.house.gov>, "maggie.earle@mail.house.gov" <maggie.earle@mail.house.gov>, "Hunt, Ryan (Appropriations)" <Ryan_Hunt@appro.senate.gov>, "Sahgal, Rishi (Appropriations)" <Rishi_Sahgal@appro.senate.gov>, "Sedillo, Anthony (Appropriations)" <Anthony_Sedillo@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] List of Buildings for Lease Cancellation and Disposal
Date: Fri, 7 Mar 2025 17:30:00 +0000
Importance: Normal

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Charlie,

We have seen that the administration plans to cancel certain leases and make other government-owned buildings available for disposal. Can you please provide us a list of each of these properties with the following information:

1. Building name or description
2. Primary building use (i.e., office, laboratories, maintenance, storage, parking, fire cache, emergency hub, visitor services)
3. Building address
4. Lease term (or at minimum lease end date)

Since there have been lists posted, I assume staff in the administration have this information at the ready given the decisions needed to be made on them. Please provide us the list or properties with the 4 pieces of information above by close of business on Monday March 10.

I also want to remind the Department that the Reprogramming Guidelines included in the Interior Bill (most recently P.L. 118-42) apply to closures, consolidations, and relocations of offices, facilities, and laboratories.

Melissa

Melissa Zimmerman
Minority Clerk

0000180

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Mobile (202) 421-7016

From: "Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations)" <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Culp, Rita" <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>, Jocelyn Hunn
<Jocelyn.Hunn@mail.house.gov>, "Sedillo, Anthony (Appropriations)"
<Anthony_Sedillo@appro.senate.gov>, "Fischietto, Mary S"
<mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>, "Boles, Cassie L" <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>, "Flanagan,
Denise A" <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum on Indian Affairs

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 19:00:05 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: 2025.02.20_Letter_to_Secretary_Burgum_on_Indian_Affairs_FINAL.pdf

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Charlie,

Please see attached from Ranking Members Pingree and Merkley.

Thank you!

Melissa

Melissa Zimmerman
Minority Clerk
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Cell: (202) 421-7016

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 20, 2025

Doug Burgum
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

We urge you to immediately reinstate any terminated Indian Affairs employees, lift the hiring freeze, officially rescind the deferred resignation and early retirement offers, and instead work to strengthen and grow the Indian Affairs staff to best meet the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives in accordance with our treaty and trust obligations. These damaging actions – implemented without tribal consultation – violate Congressional direction to implement programs and activities funded through appropriations.

We strongly oppose these efforts to diminish the critical staff needed to carry out the federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities, which are well documented and upheld through laws, treaties and agreements with Tribes and their citizens. Without the necessary staff to fulfill federal obligations, Indigenous communities will face the loss of vital services, meaning services for law enforcement, tribal courts, natural resource management, education, firefighters, and road maintenance. These are services that are critical for any community to function effectively.

Furthermore, more than 80 percent of Indian Affairs employees are American Indian or Alaska Natives serving their communities. Indiscriminately firing the Indian Affairs workforce unjustifiably hurts the livelihoods of Native American families, often living in remote areas of the country where unemployment is already exceptionally high.

According to information in the [press](#)¹, positions in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Indian Education are impacted by these actions, disproportionately impacting direct-service Tribes. It is well documented by the [Government Accountability Office](#)² that funding for programs across Indian country has been plagued by staff vacancies and skills gaps and that additional staff are needed to address current challenges. In fact, improving federal management of programs that serve Tribes and their members remains on the Government Accountability Office's [High-Risk List](#)³.

Any efforts to diminish already understaffed and underfunded programs further exacerbates already dire conditions in many Tribal communities who rely on services provided by Indian Affairs for their daily existence. When this is paired with the illegal freeze of federal funds that are owed to Tribes to reimburse them for services already performed and the inability of Tribes to draw down their funds, it jeopardizes the way of life and well-being of Native communities.

¹ <https://ictnews.org/news/life-or-death-consequences-layoffs-throw-indian-country-into-turmoil>

² <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-106825>

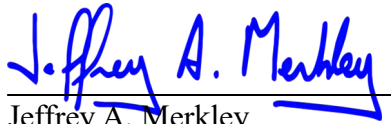
³ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-119sp>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

The actions of this Administration endanger the sovereign-to-sovereign relationship the federal government has with Tribal Nations.

The federal government must honor its trust responsibility to Tribal Nations. We urge you to revoke all personnel and funding actions that have been initiated and that have already been so detrimental. The well-being of millions of Native Americans and Alaska Natives are in jeopardy.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related
Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations



Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related
Agencies
United States House of
Representatives
Committee on Appropriations

From: "Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations)" <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Howarth, Robert G" <Robert_G_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum from Senator Mur

Date: Wed, 19 Feb 2025 15:36:33 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: Sen._Murkowski_Letter_to_Sec._Burgum.pdf

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good morning. Please see attached a letter from Senator Murkowski to Secretary Burgum. A copy has been sent via regular mail. Thank you.

Daniel A. Mencher
Majority Clerk, Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment
Senate Committee on Appropriations

SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE, CHAIR

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

Congratulations on your confirmation to be Secretary of the Interior. As Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment, I very much look forward to working with you on the many issues facing our nation and the State of Alaska.

I believe that one of the most critical tools that your department has in helping achieve the President's agenda are its people. I understand and appreciate that it is the new Administration's prerogative to implement its policies and plans, to include identifying wasteful spending, operational redundancies, and programmatic reviews. I also firmly believe that reform is needed, that efficiencies can be identified, and that all federal employees – whether politically appointed or career civil servants – should be accountable for their actions. However, any wholesale organizational changes to your department/agency should be done thoughtfully, pragmatically, and judiciously.

To that end, I remind you that Section 422 of the annual act providing appropriations to the department/agency requires a notification to Congress in advance of certain actions, including “proposed reorganizations, workforce restructure, reshaping, transfer or functions, or bureau-wide downsizing and include closures, consolidations, and relocations of offices, facilities, and laboratories.”

In order to determine whether the actions initiated prior to and since your confirmation may implicate these requirements, I request that the Department provide a briefing on what actions have been taken to date, and what, if any, further actions are contemplated. Again, congratulations on your confirmation. I look forward to working with you to help the Department succeed.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
Chairman

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior
and the Environment

From: "Albiani, Katy" <Katy.Albiani@mail.house.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Timely Request: Tracy Fish Collection Facility Personnel Exemption

Date: Fri, 28 Feb 2025 22:03:51 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.png

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Hi Charlie,

We're hearing that the staff at the Tracy Fish Collection Facility are being considered for layoffs. These seven specialists are vital to the ability to export water south of the delta. I can't reiterate enough how important it is to keep these people onboard and that a personnel exemption is issued to protect these positions. If this facility is not staffed, the Jones Pumping Plant cannot be operated. With President Trump's interest and direction given through the California Water Executive Order, maintaining full operation of Jones Pumping Plant is essential. Not granting the exemption for the Tracy Fish Collection Facility staff will put those directives in jeopardy.

As Rep. Fong represents a vast agricultural and energy hub south of the delta, this is a hugely important facility that requires adequate staffing. Please let me know if you have any questions and I'd be happy to discuss in broader detail as well. My cell is below. Appreciate all the work you're doing.

Thanks,



Katy Albiani | *Legislative Assistant*
Congressman Vince Fong (CA-20)
Cannon 243
(o) 202.225.2915 | (c) 202.961.7407

From: "Higgins, Ashley (Lankford)" <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>
To: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry
Date: Tue, 4 Mar 2025 16:28:29 +0000
Importance: Normal

Thank you Charles! Adding your number – was in a meeting with the boss.

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:57 AM
To: Higgins, Ashley (Lankford) <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

Called you. Looking into it and will report back. Thanks for your email.

From: Higgins, Ashley (Lankford) <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:35 AM
To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

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Hi Charles,

Happy Tuesday! I received your email from James and wanted to reach out on an issue folks in Oklahoma have brought to our attention. Have you all had an opportunity to review funding (now frozen) from DOI, specifically regarding disaster related funding. Oklahoma suffered through a wildfire and a few tornados last year and received disaster aid from NPS (and FEMA) but recently got word that those funds have been impacted by the funding freeze. Any insight you have into the path forward for the disaster aid funding would be greatly appreciated! Happy to chat over the phone if it's helpful.

-Ashley
Cell: 202-997-7332

Ashley Higgins
Energy Policy Advisor
Senator James Lankford (R-OK)
731 Hart Senate Office Building
202-224-5754

From: "Swift, Heather" <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>

To: "charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>, "Bockmier, John" <John.Bockmier@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter from Zinke

Date: Tue, 11 Feb 2025 20:58:45 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: Zinke_StMarys_021125.pdf

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Charles, see below and attached a letter to you from the Congressman with background regarding the St. Mary's (administered via the [Milk River Project](#)).

Here's a local news story with [video footage](#) of the blowout.

Heather Swift

Chief of Staff

Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-01)

Cannon HOB 512

(b)(6)

February 11, 2024

Charles Dankert
Office of Policy, Management and Budget
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Dankert,

Congratulations on your appointment and I thank you for your service to our nation at what I consider to be the best department in government – tied with the Department of the Navy, of course. I'd greatly appreciate your attention to the following urgent matter.

Topline

In June of 2024, the St. Mary's River Siphon experienced a catastrophic failure putting at risk the health and livelihoods of nearly 20,000 municipal water users, hundreds of family farms and ranches, and four native tribes (Blackfeet Nation, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy, and Fort Peck Tribes).

Funding for emergency repairs to the St. Mary's Canal and Siphon in northwest Montana was appropriated by Congress in the December 2024 disaster supplemental has been inadvertently caught up in the freeze of Biden green agenda spending.

I ask that Secretary Doug Burgum and the Bureau of Reclamation immediately review the project to resume funding.

Background

Like much of the irrigation infrastructure in North Dakota, the St. Mary's Canal and Siphon is a critical water infrastructure system that is over one hundred years old. After suffering several failures over the last fifty years, the siphon finally experienced a catastrophic failure when one of the 100-inch diameter pipes that carry water from one side of the mountain to the other blew-out. Following the blow-out, delivering water to municipal and agriculture users became extremely difficult. Ranchers were trucking water hundreds of miles a week to keep cattle alive over the summer, and due to repairs at reservoirs down-river, storage capacity for the upcoming spring runoff is minimal. Farmers, ranchers and municipalities have an emergency plan to get through this year, but any delays put the projected disaster timeline out 2- or even 3-years. Family farms and ranches will shutter and the reliable delivery of clean water will not be possible.

Thanks to emergency appropriations by myself and Senator Daines, along with state monies, construction to replace the siphons is currently underway. Despite temperatures dipping to 50 degrees below zero as I write this letter, work continues today because the crews understand the dire need for this infrastructure.

The current review of federal disbursements has inadvertently caused a pause on the disbursement of funds for this critical infrastructure project.

The St. Mary's system is part of the Milk River Project (MRP), which is under a cost-share agreement with the water users, the state, and the federal government. This core infrastructure project long pre-dates the Biden Administration, the Inflation Reduction Act and the Green New Scam. The MRP has received substantial federal funding since 1905 via annual appropriations. While it is true that the Biden Administration distributed funding for the irrigation system in Spring of 2024 prior to the blowout, and Senator Tester tried to take credit that it was a result of his infrastructure bill in the heat of the election season, the fact is the system has been funded by the federal government for over a century.

Since the June 2024 blowout, all funding for this project has come from \$46 million in federal appropriations that was secured in the 2024 end of year disaster supplemental. See page 22 of the bill:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

*For an additional amount for "Water and Related Resources", \$74,464,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$27,930,000 shall be for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters that occurring in or prior to calendar year 2024: **Provided, That \$46,534,000 shall be available for deposit into the Aging Infrastructure Account established by section 9603(d)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 510b(d)(1)), and shall be made available for reserved or transferred works that have suffered a critical failure, in accordance with section 40901(2)(A) of division D of Public Law 117- 58: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.***

In addition to the impact on Montana specifically, the Milk River Valley is both a main tributary and headwaters of the Missouri River which dumps into the Mississippi River, making it one of our nation's busiest inland waterways for commerce. Additionally, the river facilitates electricity generation at six hydroelectric dams that deliver electricity to ratepayers in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Steady and reliable water supply from upstream ensures usable river flows in the lower basin. Keeping this construction project moving forward is vital to our economic, energy and national security.

I completely agree with President Trump and Secretary Burgum on the need to freeze, review, and pull back the wasteful spending from the previous administration's green scam agenda. In fact, I have a lot of ideas for rocks for you to look under. However I believe that this funding has been mistakenly identified as being related to the Biden Administration's nefarious heist of Americans' tax dollars.

My request is for the Secretary to immediately review this critical infrastructure project and that the Bureau of Reclamation immediately resume the funding schedule. Should Secretary Burgum require more information I am available at his earliest possible convenience.

Please reach out to my Chief of Staff, Heather Swift, if you have any questions. She can be reached at (b)(6) or Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov.

For additional reading, below is a link to an article from the Montana Free Press describing the St. Mary's River Siphon failure:

<https://montanafreepress.org/2024/06/17/catastrophic-failure-of-st-mary-siphon-leads-to-localized-flooding-in-babb/>

Thank you very much for your immediate response to this extremely serious and difficult challenge. I wish you success in your new role and hope you enjoy your time serving at the Department of the Interior as much as I did. Keep the faith.

For God and Country,

RYAN ZINKE
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2601

February 11, 2024

Charles Dankert
Office of Policy, Management and Budget
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Dankert,

Congratulations on your appointment and I thank you for your service to our nation at what I consider to be the best department in government – tied with the Department of the Navy, of course. I'd greatly appreciate your attention to the following urgent matter.

Topline

In June of 2024, the St. Mary's River Siphon experienced a catastrophic failure putting at risk the health and livelihoods of nearly 20,000 municipal water users, hundreds of family farms and ranches, and four native tribes (Blackfeet Nation, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy, and Fort Peck Tribes).

Funding for emergency repairs to the St. Mary's Canal and Siphon in northwest Montana was appropriated by Congress in the December 2024 disaster supplemental has been inadvertently caught up in the freeze of Biden green agenda spending.

I ask that Secretary Doug Burgum and the Bureau of Reclamation immediately review the project to resume funding.

Background

Like much of the irrigation infrastructure in North Dakota, the St. Mary's Canal and Siphon is a critical water infrastructure system that is over one hundred years old. After suffering several failures over the last fifty years, the siphon finally experienced a catastrophic failure when one of the 100-inch diameter pipes that carry water from one side of the mountain to the other blew-out. Following the blow-out, delivering water to municipal and agriculture users became extremely difficult. Ranchers were trucking water hundreds of miles a week to keep cattle alive over the summer, and due to repairs at reservoirs down-river, storage capacity for the upcoming spring runoff is minimal. Farmers, ranchers and municipalities have an emergency plan to get through this year, but any delays put the projected disaster timeline out 2- or even 3-years. Family farms and ranches will shutter and the reliable delivery of clean water will not be possible.

Thanks to emergency appropriations by myself and Senator Daines, along with state monies, construction to replace the siphons is currently underway. Despite temperatures dipping to 50 degrees below zero as I write this letter, work continues today because the crews understand the dire need for this infrastructure.

The current review of federal disbursements has inadvertently caused a pause on the disbursement of funds for this critical infrastructure project.

The St. Mary's system is part of the Milk River Project (MRP), which is under a cost-share agreement with the water users, the state, and the federal government. This core infrastructure project long pre-dates the Biden Administration, the Inflation Reduction Act and the Green New Scam. The MRP has received substantial federal funding since 1905 via annual appropriations. While it is true that the Biden Administration distributed funding for the irrigation system in Spring of 2024 prior to the blowout, and Senator Tester tried to take credit that it was a result of his infrastructure bill in the heat of the election season, the fact is the system has been funded by the federal government for over a century.

Since the June 2024 blowout, all funding for this project has come from \$46 million in federal appropriations that was secured in the 2024 end of year disaster supplemental. See page 22 of the bill:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

For an additional amount for "Water and Related Resources", \$74,464,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$27,930,000 shall be for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters that occurring in or prior to calendar year 2024: Provided, That \$46,534,000 shall be available for deposit into the Aging Infrastructure Account established by section 9603(d)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 510b(d)(1)), and shall be made available for reserved or transferred works that have suffered a critical failure, in accordance with section 40901(2)(A) of division D of Public Law 117- 58: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

In addition to the impact on Montana specifically, the Milk River Valley is both a main tributary and headwaters of the Missouri River which dumps into the Mississippi River, making it one of our nation's busiest inland waterways for commerce. Additionally, the river facilitates electricity generation at six hydroelectric dams that deliver electricity to ratepayers in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Steady and reliable water supply from upstream ensures usable river flows in the lower basin. Keeping this construction project moving forward is vital to our economic, energy and national security.

I completely agree with President Trump and Secretary Burgum on the need to freeze, review, and pull back the wasteful spending from the previous administration's green scam agenda. In fact, I have a lot of ideas for rocks for you to look under. However I believe that this funding has been mistakenly identified as being related to the Biden Administration's nefarious heist of Americans' tax dollars.

My request is for the Secretary to immediately review this critical infrastructure project and that the Bureau of Reclamation immediately resume the funding schedule. Should Secretary Burgum require more information I am available at his earliest possible convenience.

Please reach out to my Chief of Staff, Heather Swift, if you have any questions. She can be reached at (315) 409-9783 or Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov.

For additional reading, below is a link to an article from the Montana Free Press describing the St. Mary's River Siphon failure:

<https://montanafreepress.org/2024/06/17/catastrophic-failure-of-st-mary-siphon-leads-to-localized-flooding-in-babb/>

Thank you very much for your immediate response to this extremely serious and difficult challenge. I wish you success in your new role and hope you enjoy your time serving at the Department of the Interior as much as I did. Keep the faith.

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in red ink, reading "Ryan Zinke". The signature is stylized, with a large "R" and "Z".

RYAN ZINKE
Member of Congress

From: "Hartl, Kellie" <Kellie.Hartl@mail.house.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: URGENT ACTION REQUEST: Tracy Fish Collection Facility Personell RIF Exemption

Date: Fri, 28 Feb 2025 22:28:16 +0000

Importance: Normal

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Charles,

Apologies for the possible triple tap on this email. Our water folks reached out to a lot of Members with concerns about some potential staff terminations related to the Tracy Fish Collection Facility. Please see below!

Kellie Hartl
Legislative Director
Congressman David G. Valadao (CA-22)

-----Original Message-----

From: J. Scott Petersen <scott.petersen@sldmwa.org>

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 4:06 PM

To: Hartl, Kellie <Kellie.Hartl@mail.house.gov>; Renteria, Andrew <Andrew.Renteria@mail.house.gov>

Subject: URGENT ACTION REQUEST: Tracy Fish Collection Facility Personell RIF Exemption

Kellie,

I understand from some discussions that the seven personnel at the Tracy Fish Collection Facility, which as you know is in front of the Jones Pumping Plant and is critical to maintaining the operation of the Jones Pumping Plant and SOD exports, are currently targeted for RIF. There is an existing exemption request on the desk of Charlie Dankert, who is acting in the Assistant Secretary, Policy Management Budget role, and that decision to grant or object to the exemption is imminent (potentially as early as today).

It is very important to our operation and to the ability to export that these personnel be exempted. Without those staff, impacts to pumping operations could be impacted imminently.

I'm requesting that you reach out to Charlie and highlight the critical role that these positions play in (1) allowing exports to occur by complying with ESA regulations, (2) assist in meeting the goals of the California water Executive Order issued by POTUS, and that not granting the exemption could put those directives in jeopardy and that the Congressman would like to see the exemption granted.

Charlie's contact information is Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov and his phone number is

(b)(6)

Best, Scott

Sent from my iPad

From: "Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds)" <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

To: Charles M Dankert <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Bryan K Mercier <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>, James M Nelson <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

Date: Sat, 15 Feb 2025 13:23:47 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 14, 2025, at 8:15 PM, Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Bryan.

Lucas – Please call me if you would like to discuss.

Charlie Dankert
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of AS-PMB
202.568.4745

From: Mercier, Bryan K <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 7:06 PM

To: Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds) <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

Cc: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

Hi Lucas,

I'm cc'ing our Departmental leadership to assist with your question.

I'm about to board a plane and will be unavailable for a few hours.

Have a good weekend.

Regards,
Bkm

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Heitkamp, Lucas (Rounds) <Lucas_Heitkamp@rounds.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 6:10 PM

To: Mercier, Bryan K <Bryan.Mercier@bia.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Probationary employees

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hello sir,

My name is Lucas Heitkamp and I work for Senator Mike Rounds. A number of folks are asking us if tribal law enforcement and other essential tribal positions will be impacted by the OPM probationary directive. Just wondering if you had any resources to help explain what positions are impacted? Thank you so much!

Best,

<image001.jpg>

Lucas Heitkamp

Legislative Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)
716 Hart Senate office Building
Washington, DC
Cell: 605-595-3075
[<image002.png>](#)
[<image003.png>](#)
[<image004.png>](#)
[<image005.png>](#)
[<image006.png>](#)



From: "Clarkin, Matthew" <Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov>

To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund

Date: Thu, 6 Mar 2025 14:27:57 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: ~WRD0004.jpg

Chris,

Hoping this finds you well! At the direction of James Nelson from your team, I'm reaching out to see if you might have time to touch base on the matter below at some point this week or next.

Appreciate any time you have - thank you!

Matthew M. Clarkin
Senior Legislative Assistant

Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick | Pennsylvania's 1st
(202) 225-4276 | 271 Cannon Building
Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov

 image001.png

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Date: March 6, 2025 at 9:24:42 AM EST

To: "Clarkin, Matthew" <Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund

Would refer you to Charles Dankert at PMB. Email below.
Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov

From: Clarkin, Matthew <Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:15 AM

To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

James,

Just following up here! Would you or the appropriate member of your team have the opportunity to connect on this matter?

Thank you!

Matthew M. Clarkin
Senior Legislative Assistant

Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick | Pennsylvania's 1st
(202) 225-4276 | 271 Cannon Building
Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov



On Mar 3, 2025, at 6:31 PM, Clarkin, Matthew <Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov> wrote:

James,

Hoping this email finds you well at the start of the historic second Trump Administration! I'm reaching out to see if you might be able to assist our office with a concern that was brought to the Congressman's attention. It's my understanding that the disbursement of amounts authorized by Congress for the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund – including for three projects in the Congressman's district (below) – have been paused.

1. PA Fish & Boat Commission (9/2022) for "Removal of the Spring Garden Dam on Neshaminy Creek in Bucks County, Pennsylvania"
2. Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc. (1/2023) for "Living Shoreline Design and Permitting Along an Urban Delaware Riverfront"
3. PA Fish & Boat Commission (9/2023) for "Improving Public Access and Recreation in the Pennsylvania Portion of the Delaware River"

Rep. Fitzpatrick is the Co-Chair of the Delaware River Watershed Caucus and works actively to ensure that the collaborative conservation partnership that exists between the Federal Government and our communities remains strong. If you'd have any time to call and touch base about this pause this week, I'd greatly appreciate it! My cell is 202-870-3166.

Best,

Matthew M. Clarkin
Senior Legislative Assistant

Brian Fitzpatrick | Pennsylvania's 1st
(202) 225-4276 | 271 Cannon HOB
Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov
<image001.png>

From: "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

To: Daniel Mencher <daniel_mencher@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: Charles M Dankert <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>, Melissa Zimmerman <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>, "Culp, Rita" <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>, Oluwarotimi M Abimbola <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>, Andrea L Brandon <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>, James M Nelson <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, Denise A Flanagan <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Jorgenson <Sarah_Jorgenson@appro.senate.gov>, "Peery, Sarah" <Sarah.Peery@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Date: Sat, 22 Feb 2025 14:46:38 +0000

Importance: Normal

Adding Sarah from my team for awareness.

On Feb 22, 2025, at 9:41 AM, Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <daniel_mencher@appro.senate.gov> wrote:

Charlie – Some of the Qs I have related to seasonal hires and the recent firings are below. Apologies for not sending this yesterday as I said I would. My colleagues may have additional Qs. I realize that this is an evolving situation and will require ongoing conversations. As such, these asks are for data as of right now. We understand things will change over the coming weeks and months. But I am hopeful that given the potential severity of this problem we do not get a lot of “it’s too soon to tell” or “we are working it” or “we’ll get back to you.” Our members are keenly aware that there is a fierce urgency of now to address this before it is too late to really avoid the damage that could be done both in the short- and long-term. While they are hopeful the worst case scenario does not come to fruition they are also looking to DOI for assurances that everything is being done to avoid – or at least mitigate – what could be quite the calamity. We look forward to Monday’s conversation. Thank you. Daniel

- *How many employees were fired (by park and position)? Of the Alaska parks employees, how many were ANILCA hires?
- *What additional firings are planned?
- *How many NPS employees took the deferred retirement (by park and position)?
- *Please confirm that all seasonal positions have been approved by OPM.
- *What are the current projections for seasonal hiring? How does that compare to prior seasonal hires at this point in the year? Put another way, how far behind schedule are you?
- *Will the RIFs impact NPS’ ability to on-board seasonal hires?
- *What is the plan for getting seasonal hires whose offers were rescinded back through the process? Do people have to reapply? If “some” then which positions? Are all jobs posted on [USAJobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov)?
- *What is the plan if NPS does is not able to bring back all the people whose offers were rescinded?
- *How will NPS prioritize what seasonal hires it does have by park, i.e. how will it pick winners and losers?
- *Please provide a list of what services will / will not be provided by park?
- *Will NPS have to contract for services that would otherwise be performed by seasonal hires if it cannot hire people? If so, please provide an analysis of what the cost of seasonal employees is compared to what the contract costs would be?
- *What is the timeline for making decisions about decreasing operational capacities?
- *Do any of the RIFs impact NPS’ ability to implement the disaster supplemental funding? If so, to what extent?
- *We have heard reports that fired employees are having trouble accessing their employment files? How is DOI and NPS working to ensure that employees have access to this information?
- *What appeal options do fired employees have?

Daniel A. Mencher

0000201

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:09 AM
To: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>; Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Thank you, Daniel. Please send invite to me for in-person meeting once time is confirmed and I will coordinate any additional DOI participation.

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:41 AM
To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Thanks Charlie. If 11a Monday works for you and my colleagues, let's go with then. My preference would be in person (again, assuming that works for my colleagues as well). I will send over some topics/Qs tomorrow, since it I has just dawned on me that today is Thursday and not Friday. Thank you for making yourself available to discuss. Daniel

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 4:54 AM
To: Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>; Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Flanagan, Denise A <Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

Hi Daniel –

Thanks for your email. Can we schedule for Monday (2/24)? Please let me know what time is best and what information you would like on these topics. I am currently available anytime on Monday (2/24) besides 730-930AM and can meet in-person or host a call.

Charlie Dankert
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.568.4745

From: Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:40 PM
To: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: National Parks

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Thanks Daniel. I would like to join.

From: Mencher, Daniel (Appropriations) <Daniel_Mencher@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:17 PM
To: 'Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov' <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: 'Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)' <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Rita Culp <Rita.Culp@mail.house.gov>; Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: National Parks

Charlie – I would like a call with DOI and NPS tomorrow but no later than Monday to understand what is going on with the seasonal hires, RIFs, etc., and how the Department is addressing the issues. There is bicameral and bipartisan concern about what is happening (or not) and that is likely to grow as we are already reading in the media reports of impacts. If we need to elevate, please let me know. I am cc'ing my fellow clerks for awareness and should they wish to join. Thank you. Daniel

Daniel A. Mencher
Majority Clerk - Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Senate Committee on Appropriations

From: "Higgins, Ashley (Lankford)" <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>

To: "Whitehead, Cara" <cara_whitehead@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>, "Brandon, Andrea L" <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

Date: Fri, 7 Mar 2025 21:58:48 +0000

Importance: Normal

Wonderful! Thank you so much for tracking this down Cara!

From: Whitehead, Cara <cara_whitehead@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 9:45 AM

To: Higgins, Ashley (Lankford) <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>

Cc: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

Good morning, Ashley,

I have good news to report to you this morning. The NPS Historic Preservation Fund grant manager is meeting with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office today and will explain the NOFO process.

The legislation, [PL 118-158](#), enacted on 12/21/25, does not specify any particular entities, cities, counties, or states. Instead, it makes disaster funds under the Historic Preservation Fund "available for areas that have received a major disaster declaration pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)." Sulphur, Oklahoma, may be within one of these eligible areas and will need to apply for funding once the NOFO is issued. The Public Law text is provided below for reference.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For an additional amount for "Historic Preservation Fund", \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024, including costs to States, Tribes, and territories necessary to complete compliance activities required by section 306108 of title 54, United States Code, and costs needed to administer the program: Provided, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be used for historic and cultural resource preservation work that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines as published in the Federal Register (Vol. 48, No. 190, September 29, 1983), to include Reconstruction of National Register listed or eligible sites: **Provided further, That grants using funds appropriated under this heading in this Act shall only be available for areas that have received a major disaster declaration pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.):** Provided further, That such grants shall not be subject to a non-Federal matching requirement: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency

Deficit Control Act of 1985.
Have a wonderful weekend!

Best regards,

Cara Whitehead

Director
Office of Grants Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
(b)(6)

From: Higgins, Ashley (Lankford) <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 6:19 PM
To: Whitehead, Cara <cara_whitehead@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

Thank you!

From: Whitehead, Cara <cara_whitehead@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 6:07 PM
To: Higgins, Ashley (Lankford) <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>
Cc: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

Good afternoon, Ashley,

Thank you for the additional information. I will double check with NPS and get back to you.

Have a good evening!

Best regards,

Cara Whitehead

Director
Office of Grants Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
(b)(6)

From: Higgins, Ashley (Lankford) <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 5:38 PM
To: Whitehead, Cara <cara_whitehead@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

Thank you Cara & Charlie!

Our state Historic Preservation Office is telling us that some disaster funding was caught up in the 90-day pause for new funding. I guess there was disaster funds earmarked for Sulphur, Oklahoma through the Historic Preservation Fund that was approved in the CR. I'm not sure if the state office is confusing the funds with this future NOFO for disaster declarations?

From: Whitehead, Cara <cara_whitehead@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 1:32 PM

To: Higgins, Ashley (Lankford) <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>

Cc: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>; Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>; Abimbola, Oluwarotimi M <oluwarotimi_abimbola@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

Good afternoon, Ashley,

Thank you for your inquiry about the disaster funding. Charlie Dankert asked me to respond to you on his behalf regarding your inquiry about the National Park Service (NPS) aid related to a wildfire and tornadoes in Oklahoma. I consulted with the NPS Comptroller's office to obtain the status of the funding below.

The funding for Oklahoma is not currently part of the grant funding freeze. No specific amount of grant funding was appropriated for Oklahoma in the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158), rather funding was appropriated "for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in and prior to calendar year 2024, including costs to States, Tribes, and territories necessary to complete compliance activities required by section 306108 of title 54, United States Code, and costs needed to administer the program". NPS intends to issue a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to make funds available for projects in areas with major disaster declarations. The NOFO will be submitted for the DOI Senior Leadership review process once the program has finalized the review in the next few weeks.

Senator Lankford's constituent will be able to find the NOFO, once published, on Grants.gov. The NPS program is Assistance Listing 15.957 - Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund. For additional information about the program, they can contact the grant program officer, Megan Brown, Chief State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants, NPS (b)(6), or megan_brown@nps.gov.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me. Have a great day!

Best regards,

Cara Whitehead

Director

Office of Grants Management

U.S. Department of the Interior

(b)(6)

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:56 AM

To: Brandon, Andrea L <andrea_brandon@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

Hi Andrea – Can your team please look into this and report back on the status of any impacted funds?

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of AS-PMB

(b)(6)

From: Higgins, Ashley (Lankford) <Ashley_Higgins@lankford.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:35 AM
To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NPS Disaster Funding Inquiry

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Charles,

Happy Tuesday! I received your email from James and wanted to reach out on an issue folks in Oklahoma have brought to our attention. Have you all had an opportunity to review funding (now frozen) from DOI, specifically regarding disaster related funding. Oklahoma suffered through a wildfire and a few tornados last year and received disaster aid from NPS (and FEMA) but recently got word that those funds have been impacted by the funding freeze. Any insight you have into the path forward for the disaster aid funding would be greatly appreciated! Happy to chat over the phone if it's helpful.

-Ashley

Cell: (b)(6)

Ashley Higgins
Energy Policy Advisor
Senator James Lankford (R-OK)
731 Hart Senate Office Building
(b)(6)

From: "Hendricks, Samantha (Risch)" <Samantha_Hendricks@Risch.senate.gov>

To: "Miller, Murray C" <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>, "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Gustafson, Daniel G" <daniel_gustafson@ios.doi.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Idaho Stock Water

Date: Fri, 7 Mar 2025 20:05:26 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png

Hi Murray,

How's 10:30? Really appreciate your flexibility!

Sam

From: Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 12:50 PM

To: Hendricks, Samantha (Risch) <Samantha_Hendricks@Risch.senate.gov>; Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Gustafson, Daniel G <daniel_gustafson@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Idaho Stock Water

Hey Samantha –

Sure thing; I have availability between 9-12 on Tuesday if anything in that window works for you. Just let me know!

Best,
Murray

From: Hendricks, Samantha (Risch) <Samantha_Hendricks@Risch.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 12:01 PM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>; Gustafson, Daniel G <daniel_gustafson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Idaho Stock Water

Thank you!

Murray, I'm happy to adjust my schedule to yours as needed.

Sam

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 11:59 AM

To: Hendricks, Samantha (Risch) <Samantha_Hendricks@Risch.senate.gov>

Cc: Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>; Gustafson, Daniel G <daniel_gustafson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Idaho Stock Water

Thanks for your email, Samantha.

I am adding our new Deputy Director for OCL, Murray Miller, here to assist with your request.

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

U.S. Department of the Interior

202.568.4745

From: Hendricks, Samantha (Risch) <Samantha_Hendricks@Risch.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 11:57 AM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Idaho Stock Water

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Hi Charlie!

Jamie Neill from the Idaho Governor's office suggested I reach out to you regarding the status of the Idaho stock water case. Would you have some time Monday or Tuesday for a quick call on this issue?

Thank you!

Sam

Sam Hendricks

Senior Legislative Assistant

U.S. Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho)

202-224-2752 | risch.senate.gov

[Sign up for Senator Risch's newsletter.](#)



From: "Crowley, Mark (Moran)" <Mark_Crowley@moran.senate.gov>

To: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Radford, Wynn L" <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>, "Lockwood, Robert E" <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

Date: Thu, 27 Feb 2025 21:48:29 +0000

Importance: Normal

Charlie – just tried giving you a ring to see whether there's any update on what we discussed on the 14th. Thanks!

Mark

--

Mark Crowley

Legislative Director

Office of U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

Desk: 202-228-6968

Cell: 815-216-8730

From: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 8:25 PM

To: Crowley, Mark (Moran) <Mark_Crowley@moran.senate.gov>

Cc: Radford, Wynn L <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>; Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

Mark,

Please call me if you would like to discuss.

Thanks,

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

U.S. Department of the Interior

202.568.4745

From: Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 8:13 PM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

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From: Crowley, Mark (Moran) <Mark_Crowley@moran.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 3:11:15 PM

To: Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>; Radford, Wynn L <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hello, Wynn and Rob,

I received your contact information for the transition folks who set up Sen. Moran's meeting with Sec. Burgum before his confirmation. During their meeting, Sen. Moran raised the importance of solving some systemic issues with Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS, caused, in part, by red tape and federal staffing due to its status as a federal entity under BIE.

We have a bill to charter Haskell as an independent entity outside of the federal government. Sen. Moran raised this with Sec. Burgum and the Secretary seemed receptive of the idea.

In the meantime, we heard today from the Chairman of the Prairie Band Tribe that Haskell has been part of the current probational termination effort. I understand from him that some BIE K-12 schools were exempt. According to the Chairman, most of the workers affected would be food service and maintenance workers at the University. This would be present a challenge for the University and the students who are already working and learning in a difficult environment.

Is the information from the Chairman accurate in that Haskell employees are set to be terminated? If so, can Interior exempt those employees?

Going forward, we would like to work with the Department on our legislation to reduce the federal government's footprint, but in the meantime, we want to make sure the students are fed and the campus is maintained.

Thank you!

Mark

--

Mark Crowley

Legislative Director

Office of U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

Desk: 202-228-6968

Cell: 815-216-8730

From: "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

To: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>, "mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov" <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>, "Denise Flanagan" <denise_flanagan@ios.doi.gov>, "Boles, Cassie L" <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>, "Krause, Amy L" <amy_krause@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Anomalies

Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2025 21:25:48 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.png

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi all,

Are you able to share anomalies you may need for a full-year CR?

Thanks,

Kristin

Kristin R. Clarkson

Clerk – Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

House Appropriations Committee

(202) 225-3081

(202) 617-0754 (mobile)



APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIRMAN TOM COLE

From: "Marshall, Samantha (Crapo)" <Samantha_Marshall@crapo.senate.gov>
To: "Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov" <Charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Lawhorn, Melanie (Crapo)" <Melanie_Lawhorn@crapo.senate.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] National Interagency Fire Center - Materials Handler Reinstatement Request
Date: Wed, 26 Feb 2025 18:04:38 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: (b)(6) PRIV.pdf; (b)(6) TERMINATION LETTER.pdf;
Final_Epap.pdf; (b)(6) Wrongful_Termination_Statement.pdf

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Mr. Dankert:

Greetings from Senator Crapo's Office. We hope this e-mail finds this well. Our office was recently referred to you by Mr. James Nelson. We had contacted him regarding an employee that believes (b)(6) may have been erroneously released from (b)(6) (b)(6) Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy. Specifically, (b)(6) has been working as a (b)(6) (b)(6) Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy. at the Idaho-based facility. It sounds as though (b)(6) may be part of the review/reconsideration process for an exemption or reinstatement based on (b)(6) critical role with firefighting efforts at the facility.

(b)(6) has provided a copy of (b)(6) termination letter, a performance evaluation along with a statement about this potentially being in error (these positions had been listed as exemptions elsewhere in the agency based on the critical role they play in wildland firefighting).

Is there anyone we could forward this request to get an update on this matter, and possibly others as they arise? We would sincerely appreciate your guidance and assistance.

Senator Crapo supports President Trump's efforts to root out waste, fraud and abuse at the federal government. Please don't hesitate to let us know if our office can further assist in those efforts.

Warm Regards,

Sam

Samantha Marshall

Constituent Services Manager
U.S. Senator Mike Crapo
202 Falls Ave., Suite 2

Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 734-2515
(208) 733-0414 (fax)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Employee Performance Appraisal Plan

Part 1. Employee Input *I have reviewed this plan and have been involved in its development.*

Employee Name (Last, First, Middle):	(b)(6)	Appraisal Pd. 11/11/2024 - 9/30/2025
Title	(b)(6)	Series/Plan/Grade (b)(6) WG - 06
Organization:	(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.	Plan Number: DI-3100
Plan Purpose: Separation		
Rating Official's Signature: Electronically signed by CONN, DEREK A (Rating Official)		Date: 2/18/2025
Originally signed by DEREK A CONN on 2/18/2025		
Employee's Signature: Unable to sign/see Part 10: CONN, DEREK A		Date: 2/18/2025
Originally bypassed by DEREK A CONN on 2/18/2025. Reason: Other		
Reason Employee Signature Bypassed: Other		
Part 1 Optional Text:		

[Understanding Performance Management \(doi.gov\)](#)

Part 2. Progress Review

Rating Official's Signature: Electronically signed by CONN, DEREK A (Rating Official)	Date: 2/18/2025
Employee's Signature: Unable to sign/see Part 10: CONN, DEREK A	Date: 2/18/2025
Reason Employee Signature Bypassed: Unable to sign	

Part 3. Rating

Summary Rating Levels: ☐ Unacceptable ☐ Fully Successful ☒ Exceeds Expectations ☐ Outstanding

Unacceptable: One or more Critical Elements rated "Unacceptable"

Fully Successful: 3.0 – 3.59 AND No Critical Element rated "Unacceptable"

Exceeds Expectations: 3.6 – 4.59 AND No Critical Element rated "Unacceptable"

Outstanding: 4.6 – 5.00 AND No Critical Element rated lower than "Exceeds Expectations"

Part 4. Derivation Formula and Calculation of Annual Summary Rating

Performance Element/Performance Element Group	Rating Level	Rating Value	Summary Level Ranges
Critical Element 1 *	Exceeds Expectations	4	
Critical Element 2 *	Exceeds Expectations	4	4.6 - 5 = Outstanding
Critical Element 3 *	Exceeds Expectations	4	3.6 - 4.59 = Exceeds Expectations
Critical Element 4 *	Exceeds Expectations	4	3 - 3.59 = Fully Successful
			0 - 2.99 = Unacceptable
Mean Rating Individual Element Rating Total / Number of elements): 16/4	4		Note: A Level 1 Rating on any Critical Element yields a Level 1 Summary Rating
* Denotes Critical Element			
^ Denotes Overridden Rating			
x Denotes PE not included in Rating Calculations			

Part 5. Rating Signatures

Rating Official's Signature:  Electronically signed by CONN, DEREK A (Rating Official) Date:  2/18/2025

Employee's Signature:  Date: 

Part 6. Instructions

[Benchmark Employee Performance Standards \(doi.gov\)](#)

[Instructions for completing the Employee Performance Appraisal Plan.pdf \(doi.gov\)](#)

Part 7. Performance Elements

Critical Element 1

☒ Critical

Strategic Alignment: STRATEGIC GOAL 4: Serve and Honor the Public Trust

Packing / Customized Packing

Follows determined packing configurations, assembles items according to kit component packing lists and inspects for accuracy. Packs kits using protective packing material to withstand impact and avoid breakage and spillage. Uses and maintains various types of warehousing equipment for packaging such as heat sealers, shrink wrappers, automated banding tables, and stapling machines.

Fully Successful:

In addition to the [Benchmark Employee Performance Standards \(doi.gov\)](https://www.doi.gov/benchmark-employee-performance-standards) , the following are attributes of an Fully Successful Employee:

Packages and labels hazardous materials following all agency procedures and requirements 100% of the time.

When packaging materials, ensure labels are created in accordance with NFES and unit of measure within ICBS and three labels per carton 100% of the time.

Utilize PPE when building cartons 100% of the time.

Ensure you are utilizing the GBK box book located in S: when packaging all cache items 100% of the time.

When building kits ensure packing list is being followed 100% of the time. Zero instances occur when cartons are unavailable due to lack of shortages.

Exceeds Expectations:

Suggests and helps implement changes to existing kit packing lists for improvement by working with supervisor and ICBS system analyst

Introduces and innovative way to maximize storage locations and increase stocking levels.

Active member / participant in national committee.

Outstanding:

- Coordinates, suggests, and implements with Carton Committee on carton configuration to include Quantity Unit Pack (QUP) for the improvement and efficiency of the National Interagency Support Caches (NISC) community.

Rating Official Element Narrative:

(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Critical Element 1
Rating Levels:

(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Critical Element 2

☑ Critical

Strategic Alignment: STRATEGIC GOAL 4: Serve and Honor the Public Trust

Refurb / Rehabilitation

Researches and refers to manufacturer specifications, stock catalogs, manuals, research, and technology data, and cache memos to prevent damage and preserve lifespan of items. Performs visual and operating checks to determine proper coding and routing of equipment and tools to be tested, repaired, and/or calibrated. Identifies when it may be cost effective to replace rather than repair fire supplies / equipment. Maintains issue records to reflect items charged or credited to fire incidents.

Fully Successful:

In addition to the [Benchmark Employee Performance Standards \(doi.gov\)](https://www.doi.gov/benchmark) , the following are attributes of an Fully Successful Employee:

- Utilizes and refers to National Refurbishment Guide 100% of the time.-
- When items are returned from an incident ensure items are organized and sorted by fire and prioritized by need to include proper labeling 100% of the time.
- Ensure NFES items processed for refurbishment are accurate and appropriately documented, ensuring incidents are receiving appropriate credit with no more than three discrepancies.
- Process (RFI) Ready For Issue returns from an incident immediately ensuring GBK has proper inventory to meet customer needs.
- No more than one instance occurs where GBK cannot fill a fire incident order due to items not being refurbished on time.

Exceeds Expectations:

- Active member / participant in the Refurbishment committee.
- Suggests and implements a new refurb process or specification within GBK.
- Ensure NFES items are processed for refurbishment are accurate and appropriate credit with no more than two discrepancies.
- Zero instances occur where equipment is sent back due to lack of refurbishment standards.

Outstanding:

- Worked with Refurbishment Committee to implement a new refurbishment process into the National Refurbishment Guide.
- Processes returns with zero discrepancies during elevated fire activity.
- Continuously strives for process improvement and consistently increases work area efficiency and effectiveness.

Rating Official Element Narrative:

(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Critical Element 2
Rating Levels:

(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Critical Element 3

☑ Critical

Strategic Alignment: STRATEGIC GOAL 4: Serve and Honor the Public Trust

Materials Handling / Examining / Identifying / Shelf Life / Hazmat

Coordinates incoming fire supplies and outgoing refurbished product for placement to docking and storage locations. Receives and stores incoming stock, both new and returned unused items from emergency incidents. Verifies bills of lading, identifies item and accounting codes, labels material, and reports discrepancies. Works with a high degree of independence in determining sequences of loading and unloading trucks and other material conveyances and implementing the movement of materials from dock to bin or from storage to shipping.

Fully Successful:

In addition to the [Benchmark Employee Performance Standards \(doi.gov\)](https://www.doi.gov/benchmark), the following are attributes of an Fully Successful Employee:

- Determining condition of returned supplies and equipment to properly identify in (ICBS-R) 100% of the time.
- If a discrepancy is created and identified by the employee, it must be brought to the attention of the supervisor and work lead within 24 hours.
- Ensure FIFO principles are followed 100% of the time.
- Ensure zero expired items are put back into inventory as Ready For Issue (RFI)
- Process all items within virtual locations (REFURB-RFI, STAGE-1) with no more than 3 discrepancies.
- When pulling items for kit builds, Cache to Cache and fire incident orders, ensure shelf life is being checked prior to issuing 100% of the time.
- Ensures waybills are filled out correctly, shipper information, hazmat classification and quantities matching received items 100% of the time.

Exceeds Expectations:

- Assist with planning storage space layout and established material locations in accordance with agency regulations.
- Processes all items within virtual locations (REFURB-RFI, STAGE-1) with no more than 2 discrepancies.

Outstanding:

- Continuously strives for process improvement for GBK.
- Processes all items within virtual locations (REFURB-RFI, STAGE-1) with zero discrepancies.

Rating Official Element Narrative:

(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Critical Element 3
Rating Levels:

(b)(6): Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Critical Element 4

☑ Critical

Strategic Alignment: STRATEGIC GOAL 4: Serve and Honor the Public Trust

Financial / Inventory Training / Customer Service

Employee responds to supervisor assignments, management priorities and departmental mandates regarding time sensitive work, required training and DOI protocols. The workload varies in scope, duration, and urgency.

Fully Successful:

In addition to the [Benchmark Employee Performance Standards \(doi.gov\)](https://www.doi.gov/benchmark) , the following are attributes of an Fully Successful Employee:

- Keeps the supervisor and work lead briefed on significant / controversial issues and on results of meetings / discussions. Briefings include a discussion of the issue, management options, and recommended approaches / solutions appropriate to the issue.
- Participates as a team effort. Contributes to achieving work unit goals, objectives, and deadlines by demonstrating collaboration and flexibility. Seeks opportunities to exchange knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a cross-training work environment.
- In addition, employee completes data requests, credit card statements, on-line training, and work assignments. These are generally completed within established deadlines. Employee responds to phone calls and emails within 96 hours. Filing and record keeping is generally complete and organized. The public, coworkers, supervisors, and managers are highly pleased with employee customer service, professionalism, timelines, thoroughness, and work products.

Exceeds Expectations:

- Models and fosters a high standard of performance for the workforce. Creates a supportive view of managements policies. Performs duties in a manner that demonstrates fairness, cooperation, and respect to all employees, office visitors, and to the public. Supports the development of a diverse workforce with a goal to achieve a model workplace.
- In addition, employee completes data requests, credit card statements, on-line training, and work assignments within or ahead of established deadlines. Employee responds to phone calls and emails within 48 hours. Filing and record keeping is complete and organized. The public, coworkers, supervisors, and managers are highly pleased with employee customer service, professionalism, timelines, thoroughness, and work products.

Outstanding:

- Provides technical / professional advice in areas of expertise with regards to business practice efficiency and customer service. Participates in a work environment that strives for continuous improvement.
- In addition, employee completes data requests, credit card statements, on-line training, and work assignments within or ahead of established deadlines. Employee responds to phone calls and emails within 24 hours. Filing and record keeping is complete and organized. The public, coworkers, supervisors, and managers are highly pleased with employee customer service, professionalism, timelines, thoroughness, and work products.

IDAHO SENATOR
MIKE CRAPO

THIRD PARTY AUTHORIZATION FORM

Note: This is an optional page and is only required if you would like to give our office permission to speak with a third party concerning your case.

Legal Name **(b)(6)** Date: 02/24/2025

I authorize Senator Crapo's staff to share information about my case with the following individual(s).
For example, you may wish to list a relative, friend, attorney or others.

Have you contacted another congressional office? If yes, which office(s)?

Do you give our office permission to discuss this issue with other Congressional Offices? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature **(b)(6)**

knowledge, skills, and abilities do not meet the Department's current needs, and it is necessary and appropriate to terminate, during the probationary period, your appointment to the position of [REDACTED] within the Bureau of Land Management. As written above, my decision becomes effective immediately on the date of this Memorandum.

Probationary Appointee Rights and Procedures

If you believe that you meet the definition of "employee" under 5 U.S.C. § 7511(a)(1), and accordingly, that the Department has erroneously determined that your appointment remains subject to a probationary period, please notify your first-level supervisor immediately.

As a career-conditional competitive service appointee with less than one year of current continuous service, you have no statutory right to file an appeal with the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB). However, pursuant to Federal regulations, you may appeal this decision to the MSPB only if you raise a non-frivolous allegation that partisan political reasons or marital status motivated this termination decision. An appeal to the MSPB must be filed no later than 30 days after the date of, and your corresponding receipt of, this Memorandum. If you do not submit an MSPB appeal within the time set forth by statute, regulation, or order of an MSPB Administrative Judge, the MSPB may dismiss your appeal as untimely filed, unless you show good reason for the delay. The assigned MSPB Administrative Judge may provide you the opportunity to show why your appeal should not be dismissed as untimely. If you choose to file an appeal, your appeal must be filed with the MSPB, must give reasons for contesting this termination decision, must include a copy of this decision being appealed, and if available, include a copy of the SF-50 or similar notice of personnel action.

To appeal this action, you must send your appeal to the MSPB Headquarters, Washington, DC. Your appeal may be filed with the MSPB by mail addressed to 1615 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20419, by personal delivery to that office during normal business hours, by facsimile, or by commercial overnight delivery. The facsimile number is [REDACTED] (b)(6). Alternatively, you may submit an appeal online through the MSPB e-appeal system at <https://e-appeal.mspb.gov/>. More information about MSPB contacts and locations can be found on MSPB's website at <https://www.mspb.gov/about/contact.htm>.

A copy of the MSPB's regulations concerning appeals is available at <http://www.mspb.gov>. If you would like a paper copy of the MSPB's regulations concerning appeals, you may contact Lopez, Jayson, ER/LR Specialist, at (208) 385-5565, jlopez@blm.gov.

If you decide to file an appeal with the MSPB, you should notify the Board that the Department's contact for the purpose of your appeal is:

Division of Employment and Labor Law (DEL)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W., Mailstop 6440
Washington, D.C. 20240
sol-inbox-del@sol.doi.gov

If you believe that this action constitutes a prohibited personnel practice under 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b), including but not limited to, claims that the Department took one or more covered personnel actions against you in retaliation for making protected whistleblowing disclosures or engaging in protected activity, you may seek corrective action before the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, which you may contact electronically at www.osc.gov, or by mail at U.S. Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street NW, Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036-4505. If your complaint concerns retaliation under 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8) or (b)(9), and OSC dismisses your claim, you may have the right to file an Individual Right-of-Action (IRA) appeal with the MSPB within sixty-five (65) days of OSC's determination. However, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 7121(g)(2), if you elect to file a complaint with OSC prior to filing a complaint with the MSPB, you will be deemed to have elected to pursue corrective action under Subchapters II and III of 5 U.S.C. Chapter 12, and may be required to exhaust administrative procedures before OSC prior to filing an IRA appeal with the MSPB. For further information regarding your right to seek corrective action, please refer to 5 U.S.C. § 1221 and 5 C.F.R. §§ 1209.2 & 1209.5.

If you believe that discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age (40 and over), disability, genetic information, or protected activity, in violation of federal antidiscrimination laws, motivated this decision in whole or in part, you may contact an EEO counselor within forty-five (45) days of receiving this Memorandum to discuss your claim(s) and file a complaint. The contact information for an EEO counselor is:

Shinn, Robert
EEO Manager
Equal Employment Opportunity
(208) 387-5179
rshinn@blm.gov

You can also find contact information for the applicable servicing EEO office on the Department's website at <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eoo/EEO-COUNSELORS>.

Please note that in accordance with 29 C.F.R. §1614.302 you may not initially file both a mixed case EEO complaint and an MSPB appeal that involves allegations of discrimination on the same matter. Whichever action is filed first shall be considered your election to proceed in that forum.

Acknowledgment of Receipt

Please acknowledge receipt of this written notice by signing and dating below. Your signature does not mean that you agree or disagree with the contents of this Memorandum, and by acknowledging receipt, you will not forfeit any of the rights described above. However, your failure to sign will not void the contents of this Memorandum.

(B)(6) Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy

DATE

From: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

To: "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Cc: "nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov" <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>, "Radford, Lauren" <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Miller, Murray C" <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Date: Wed, 05 Mar 2025 18:07:28 -0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg

Thanks for your email, Kristin. We are prioritizing scheduling this meeting with Chairman Simpson and look forward to them meeting and discussing their shared funding and policy priorities for the Department.

Charlie Dankert

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.568.4745

From: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 12:14 PM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov; Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Hi Charlie,

Chairman Simpson has been really looking forward to meeting with Sec. Burgum to discuss the Department's budget and the importance of a developing a strong relationship between the Appropriations Committee and DOI.

Chairman Simpson wants to be an advocate for the agency and the tens of billions of dollars in discretionary funding it receives annually. Having a relationship between the Secretary and the Chairman is critical to the Department and Committee's success.

We first reached out to schedule this meeting **on January 28th**. While I understand the Secretary has had a busy schedule, we are disheartened we must push this meeting once again and DOI has not made this meeting a priority among other Congressional meetings the Secretary has taken.

Thank you,

Kristin

Kristin R. Clarkson

Clerk – Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

House Appropriations Committee

(202) 225-3081

(202) 617-0754 (mobile)



From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 5:46 PM
To: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Hi Lauren-

I hope your week is going well. My apologies but Secretary Burgum is needing to reschedule his meeting with Congressman Simpson. Next week the Secretary will be traveling, and I know the house is out of session the following week. Could we look to schedule this for **Wednesday, March 26th @ 3:00pm**? We are happy to host at interior. Please let me know!

Lucy Herrington
Scheduling and Advance
Office of the Secretary of Interior
WC: (202) 431-0623

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

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From: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 5:46 PM
To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Great. Thank you!

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From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 5:45:27 PM
To: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

2pm in the sec's office

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Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:28:41 PM
To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Great! What time are you thinking would work best?

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Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Great we have it blocked.

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From: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:24:03 PM
To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Hi James,

Yes, the Chairman would be happy to go to Sec. Burgum's office!

Lauren Radford

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From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:19:48 PM
To: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Could the Congressman come to the secretary's office?

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To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>;

Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Thanks, James!

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:43 AM

To: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

I just asked our schedule team. I'm waiting for a response.

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From: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:00:45 PM

To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Hi James,

Unfortunately, Chairman Simpson is in committee all day on the 25, 26th, and partially on the 27th. What does Thursday, March 6th look like for Sec. Burgum?

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:41 PM

To: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Can you guys do 2/25 late morning or early afternoon?

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From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 2:01:59 PM

To: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Thank you! I will get back to you asap

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From: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 1:34:55 PM

To: nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi James,

I've heard you've been in contact with both Nikki and Lexi regarding our offices' attempt to schedule a meeting with Sec. Burgum.

The US House will be in recess next week so the Chairman will be back in Idaho. Please send over some dates that Secretary Burgum would be available either at the end of February or at the beginning of March.

Your urgency is appreciated!

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 3:01 PM

To: kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov; Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>

Cc: james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

James –

It was great talking to you just now and Lexi told me to tell you hi!

Kristin-

Hi! I'm Congressman Simpson's COS and wanted to reach out to you. My boss would really like to meet Sec. Burgum in person, if that is possible. We understand coming to the Hill is difficult and if we can find a time next

week that Chairman Simpson can come to meet we'd really appreciate it. We know Sec. Burgum is great friends with our Governor and Gov. Little speaks very highly of Sec Burgum and is anxious for the two to connect.

I've copied Lauren Radford on this email, she is Congressman Simpson's scheduler and can help you find a time if this is possible.

Again, thank you James for taking my call and I really look forward to working with you.

Take care,
Nikki

Nikki Wallace
Chief of Staff
Congressman Mike Simpson
208.863.0674

To receive weekly e-newsletters from Congressman Simpson click [here](#).



From: "Dankert, Charles M" <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

To: "Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations)" <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>

Cc: "Boles, Cassie L" <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>, "Fischietto, Mary S" <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>, "Hunt, Ryan (Appropriations)" <Ryan_Hunt@appro.senate.gov>, "Sedillo, Anthony (Appropriations)" <Anthony_Sedillo@appro.senate.gov>, "Sahgal, Rishi (Appropriations)" <Rishi_Sahgal@appro.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum

Date: Tue, 04 Mar 2025 20:07:35 -0000

Importance: Normal

Confirming receipt.

From: Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 3:05 PM

To: Dankert, Charles M <charles_dankert@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Boles, Cassie L <cassie_boles@ios.doi.gov>; Fischietto, Mary S <mary_fischietto@ios.doi.gov>; Hunt, Ryan (Appropriations) <Ryan_Hunt@appro.senate.gov>; Sedillo, Anthony (Appropriations) <Anthony_Sedillo@appro.senate.gov>; Sahgal, Rishi (Appropriations) <Rishi_Sahgal@appro.senate.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum

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Hi Charlie,

Please see the attached letter to Secretary Burgum related to DOGE.

Thank you!

Melissa

Melissa Zimmerman

Minority Clerk

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies

Committee on Appropriations

United States Senate

Cell: (202) 421-7016

From: "Radford, Lauren" <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>

To: "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Wallace, Nikki" <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>, "Repass, Kristin E" <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Hamel, Lexi" <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>, "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Date: Wed, 5 Mar 2025 15:20:09 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Hi James,

Just following up to confirm this meeting and request additional details.

Best,

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Radford, Lauren

Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 1:12 PM

To: 'Nelson, James M' <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Hi James,

Confirming this meeting on Thursday, March 6th at 2pm in the Secretary's office.

Please send over any instructions for the day of, including the room number, if there will be an escort, etc.

Thank you!

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 5:45 PM

To: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

2pm in the sec's office

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To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
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Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

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Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:24:03 PM
To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
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Hi James,

Yes, the Chairman would be happy to go to Sec. Burgum's office!

Lauren Radford

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Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:19:48 PM
To: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

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Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:45:10 AM

To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>;
Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
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Thanks, James!

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

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To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>;
Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
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DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

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Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Can you guys do 2/25 late morning or early afternoon?

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Cc: Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
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Thank you! I will get back to you asap

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To: nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Hamel, Lexi <Lexi.Hamel@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

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Hi James,

I've heard you've been in contact with both Nikki and Lexi regarding our offices' attempt to schedule a meeting with Sec. Burgum.

The US House will be in recess next week so the Chairman will be back in Idaho. Please send over some dates that Secretary Burgum would be available either at the end of February or at the beginning of March.

Your urgency is appreciated!

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Wallace, Nikki <Nikki.Wallace@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 3:01 PM
To: kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov; Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>
Cc: james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

James –
It was great talking to you just now and Lexi told me to tell you hi!

Kristin-

Hi! I'm Congressman Simpson's COS and wanted to reach out to you. My boss would really like to meet Sec. Burgum in person, if that is possible. We understand coming to the Hill is difficult and if we can find a time next week that Chairman Simpson can come to meet we'd really appreciate it. We know Sec. Burgum is great friends with our Governor and Gov. Little speaks very highly of Sec Burgum and is anxious for the two to connect.

I've copied Lauren Radford on this email, she is Congressman Simpson's scheduler and can help you find a time if this is possible.

Again, thank you James for taking my call and I really look forward to working with you.

Take care,
Nikki

Nikki Wallace
Chief of Staff
Congressman Mike Simpson
208.863.0674

To receive weekly e-newsletters from Congressman Simpson click [here](#).



From: "Radford, Lauren" <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>

To: "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>, "Repass, Kristin E" <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Lamp, Reilly" <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Secretary Burgum Contact

Date: Tue, 4 Feb 2025 17:50:42 +0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: image001.png

Hi Kristin,

I have included a few dates and times below that Chairman Simpson is currently available.

- Tuesday, February 11th at 3pm
- Wednesday, February 12th at 4pm
- Thursday, February 13th at 9:30am

If none of these times work, we can start looking at the week of February 24th.

Thank you,

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:15 AM

To: Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Secretary Burgum Contact

Thanks, James. Moving you to bcc.

Hi Kristin –

Interior Appropriations Chairman Mike Simpson is hoping to set up a meeting with Sec. Burgum. I have cc'd his scheduler Lauren who will help coordinate.

Thanks!

Kristin

Kristin R. Clarkson

Clerk – Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

House Appropriations Committee

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(mobile)



APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIRMAN TOM COLE

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Secretary Burgum Contact

Let me put you in touch with our scheduler Kristin Repass. Her email is: kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov
She can handle all scheduling for the Secretary.

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From: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:37:35 AM
To: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Secretary Burgum Contact

Thank you for connecting us, Kristin!

James – our scheduler, Sabrina Parker, will be reaching out for availabilities for the Secretary for a meeting with Chairman Cole.

Thank you!

Best,

Sofia Deiro | Legislative Director
Congressman Tom Cole (OK-4)
2207 RHOB | (b)(6)

From: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:34 AM
To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Secretary Burgum Contact

Hi James,

In addition to setting up a meeting with Chairman Simpson (Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman) and Secretary Burgum, I wanted to connect you with Sofia in Chairman Tom Cole's office. Chairman Cole – who runs the full Appropriations Committee – is interested in setting up a meeting with the Secretary too.

Thanks!

Kristin

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:30 PM
To: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Secretary Burgum Contact

Hello Kristin –

We will be compiling a list of contacts that have reached out to Gov. Burgum and we will file those calls upon swearing in. My team wants to get through that first before we formally schedule anything. I will keep you in the loop when we have the bandwidth to do that.

From: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:22 PM

To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Secretary Burgum Contact

Hi James - just circling back to see if you had any updates?

On Jan 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM, Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Yes I'm sure that will be more than fine. With a lack of appointees in the office we are going through a different process than normal. I will talk to my team to help facilitate this. I can call you to give you an update.

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From: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:48:28 PM

To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Secretary Burgum Contact

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Hi James,

Thanks for reaching out! I just tried to give you a call – (b)(6).

Chairman Simpson was hoping that once the Secretary is confirmed, he can reach out to congratulate him and introduce himself (and I assume explain how they will likely be working together). If it is easier to set up a more formal call, that works too, but I think Chairman Simpson wanted to be sure he could reach out when the time comes.

Thanks!

Kristin

Kristin R. Clarkson

Clerk – Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

House Appropriations Committee

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (mobile)

<image001.png>

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:45 PM
To: Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Secretary Burgum Contact

Hello Kristin,

My name is James Nelson. I am the acting director of legislative affairs for DOI. I would be happy to help connect Rep. Simpson. Does he want to congratulate him or is this more of a formal contact?

My cell number is (b)(6)

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