

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

To: "Herrington, Lucy R" <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.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>, "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>, "Lamp, Reilly" <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Date: Thu, 6 Mar 2025 15:19:51 +0000

Importance: Normal

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

Great, Thank you Lucy!

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 10:18 AM

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>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Hi Lauren-

We have it confirmed for **Thursday, March 13th @ 9:30am** in our office at 1849 C Street, NW Washington DC 20240. There will be parking blocked off for you all on C Street and we will have someone from our team meet the Chairman and staff and escort them to the Secretary's office. If you all have any last-minute questions, please don't hesitate to call or text me at (202) 431-0623.

Thank you,

Scheduling and Advance

Office of the Secretary of Interior

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

Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 9:43 AM

To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Hi Lucy,

I will be the POC for the day of, my personal cell is (b)(6)

Per a conversation between James Nelson and my COS, Nikki Wallace, this morning, we are now moving forward with a meeting on **Thursday, March 13th from 9:30-10:30am** in the Secretary's office.

Please confirm this date and time change at your earliest convenience.

Best,

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 6:12 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>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Hi Lauren-

Thank you for confirming your meeting with Secretary Burgum for **Wednesday, March 26th @ 3:00pm**. The meeting will take place at the Department of Interior's main building located at 1849 C Street, NW Washington DC 20240. When you arrive someone from our team will meet you at the front and escort the Congressman and staff to our office. There will be parking blocked off for you all on C Street. (We will have cones). Staffing the Secretary will most likely be Murray Miller, James Nelson and possibly two other staffers. I will follow up on Monday My phone number is (202) 431-0623 if you all have any questions. Can you please provide a good POC for the day of?

Thank you,

Scheduling and Advance

Office of the Secretary of Interior

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

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:19 PM

To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Hi Lucy,

Chairman Simpson will be staffed by Nikki Wallace (COS), Reilly Lamp (LD), Kristin Clarkson and Sarah Peery (both from the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee).

Would you be able to share who will be staffing the Secretary? Is there any day-of information we should be aware of, including parking location, if there will be an escort, etc.?

Best,

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 2:46 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>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Hi Lauren-

Our apologies for having to reschedule this meeting he had a last-minute request by the White House to travel this coming Thursday. Our office wants to thank you for confirming the meeting with Secretary Burgum for **Wednesday, March 26th @ 3:00pm**. We look forward to hosting Chairman Simpson at our office. Can you confirm who will be joining the Chairman for the meeting?

Lucy Herrington

The office of Scheduling and Advance

Secretary Doug Burgum | U.S. Department of the Interior

(202) 431-0623 | scheduling_interior@ios.gov



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

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 11:55 AM

To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Hi Lucy,

Wednesday, March 26th at 3pm works for Chairman Simpson. Looking forward to having the Chairman and Secretary be able to connect!

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 5:46 PM

0000958

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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From: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>
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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From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:27:15 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

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

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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.

0000962

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: "Deiro, Sofia" <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>

To: "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Herrington, Lucy R" <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 15:12:40 +0000

Importance: Normal

Happy to! Phone call might be easier – let me know whenever a good time is to chat.

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

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:04 AM

To: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>; Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Hello Sofia,

Thank you for reaching out. I am overseeing OCLA for the time being. For better context, could you provide additional background and information on these issues for my staff and I to go over?

Thanks

From: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:50 AM

To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

First and foremost, he wants to introduce himself to the Secretary and offer an open line of communication with our office and yours and is excited to work closely on appropriations.

He will most likely mention an approved fee-to-trust application and gaming application for the Koi Nation. The Koi have a financial agreement with the Chickasaw Nation and we would ask that the Secretary not withdraw these approvals and keep with DOI protocols and processes – happy to provide any additional background and information.

The Chairman might also flag an M Opinion made at the end of January regarding the UKB and Cherokee Nation reservation – just to flag for your radar as I'm sure both tribes will reach out to you, if they haven't done so already.

Lastly he might ask for more information about the probationary employees and the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.

Best,
Sofia

From: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:45 AM

To: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>; Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Hi Sofia,

Our apologies, I have cc'd James Nelson who is overseeing Leg affairs. If you don't mind sending it over to James and I that would be great!

Best,

Thank you,
Lucy Herrington

From: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:34 AM

To: Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>; scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Happy to send over some info that the Congressman might bring up – should I send to you, Lucy, or someone else on Interior? I have been having trouble getting in contact with your leg affairs team.

Best,

Sofia Deiro | Legislative Director

Congressman Tom Cole (OK-4)

2207 RHOB | (202) 225-6165

From: Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:29 AM

To: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Lucy,

Thank you for getting back with me. I am looping in our LD, Sofia Deiro, on this email. She has been in contact with staff at Interior and she can better explain what Mr. Cole wants to discuss.

Thanks!

Sabrina Parker

Director of Operations

Congressman Tom Cole

2207 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

202-225-6165 (main)

202-225-3512 (fax)

From: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 8:21 PM

To: Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Hi Sabrina-

Thank you for reaching out. I would be happy to find a time for Secretary Burgum and Chairman Cole to speak. Is there a specific topic that the Chairman would like to speak about?

Thank you,

Lucy

From: Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 12:02 PM
To: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

From: Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 1:53 PM
To: Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

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

Good afternoon, Kristin!

I am writing to request a phone call for Chairman Cole with Secretary Burgum next week, and I wanted to see if the following date/time would work –

Wednesday, February 26th at 1:00 or 3:30pm

Please let me know at your earliest convenience either time would work. If not, I can send you additional options for the first week of March.

Thank you,

Sabrina Parker
Director of Operations
Congressman Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6165 (main)
202-225-3512 (fax)

From: "Sutton, Tracee" <Tracee.Sutton@mail.house.gov>

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

Cc: "james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "O'Connor, Niall W" <noconnor@usbr.gov>, Nate Watson <nwatson@usbr.gov>, "Bissonnette, Alicia" <Alicia.Bissonnette@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Secretary Burgum re: CO River Meeting

Date: Thu, 6 Mar 2025 20:55:14 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: Colorado_River_Burgum_AZ_mtg_request.pdf

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

Hi Lucy,

Please find attached a letter from the entire Arizona congressional delegation requesting a meeting with Secretary Burgum to discuss the Colorado River.

We appreciate your consideration.

Tracee

Tracee Sutton
Chief of Staff
Congressman Greg Stanton (AZ-04)
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-9888

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Burgum,

Congratulations on your confirmation. As members of the Arizona congressional delegation, we look forward to working with you on the range of issues under your department from supporting our tribal nations to protecting our water resources.

As you begin your tenure, we request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the Colorado River and a realistic path forward to reaching an agreement on a long-term operational plan for the system.

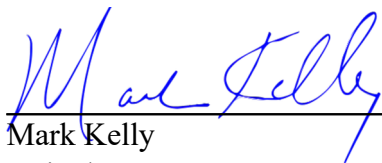
More than 40 million people in seven states and 30 Tribes across the West rely on the Colorado River for water, food, energy and more. Yet the historic quarter-century long drought, along with overuse, has stretched the system to its absolute breaking point. While we bought some time with the short-term conservation measures, we can't take our focus off a state-driven, basin-wide agreement that acknowledges the significant shared risks and is equitable between the Lower and Upper Basins.

Arizona has and will continue to do its part to protect the Colorado River, but we simply cannot do it alone. We look forward to meeting with you on this issue of great importance to Arizona and the West.

Sincerely,



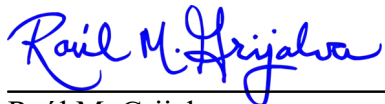
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



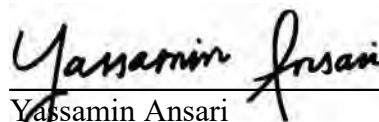
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



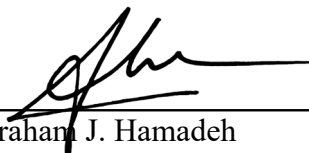
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Elijah Crane
Member of Congress



Abraham J. Hamadeh
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress

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

To: "Briana.Connolly@mail.house.gov" <Briana.Connolly@mail.house.gov>

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

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: Invite for Gov. Burgum to meet with House Republican Main Street Caucus

Date: Wed, 19 Feb 2025 00:23:18 -0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: Office_of_the_Secretary_-_Event_Information_Request_Form_(For_Discussion_01.27.25)_(002).docx

Inline-Images: image001.png

Hi Briana-

Thank you for contacting the Office of Scheduling and Advance at the Department of Interior. We have received your initial request for an event with Secretary Burgum. To provide a timely response, please complete the attached form at your earliest convenience to ensure your request is properly processed.

Thank you for your interest in the important mission and work of the U.S. Department of Interior and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Regards,
Office of Scheduling and Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior

From: Sally Shirek <Sally@tallgrasstrail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 2:07 PM

To: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Invite for Gov. Burgum to meet with House Republican Main Street Caucus

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

Sharing



With Gratitude,
Sally

Tallgrass Trail
Sally Shirek
Executive Assistant
Personal Office of Doug Burgum

From: Connolly, Briana <Briana.Connolly@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 1:04 PM
To: Sally Shirek <Sally@tallgrasstrail.com>
Cc: McKee, Shelby <Shelby.McKee@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite for Gov. Burgum to meet with House Republican Main Street Caucus

You don't often get email from briana.connolly@mail.house.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)
Hi Sally,

I wanted to check in and share an updated list of dates that are still available.

Monday, February 24th
Monday, March 10th
Monday, March 24th
Monday, March 31st
Monday, April 7th
Monday, April 28th

Please let me know if any of these would be convenient (all at 7:15pm).

Thank you!

Briana Connolly
Executive Director
Republican Main Street Caucus
Chairman Dusty Johnson
(585) 755-2036

From: Connolly, Briana
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 1:56 PM
To: Sally Shirek <Sally@tallgrasstrail.com>
Cc: McKee, Shelby <Shelby.McKee@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite for Gov. Burgum to meet with House Republican Main Street Caucus

Thank you, Sally!

Briana Connolly
Executive Director
Republican Main Street Caucus
Chairman Dusty Johnson
(585) 755-2036

From: Sally Shirek <Sally@tallgrasstrail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Connolly, Briana <Briana.Connolly@mail.house.gov>
Cc: McKee, Shelby <Shelby.McKee@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite for Gov. Burgum to meet with House Republican Main Street Caucus

Hello Briana,

Thank you for reaching out. Will get this sent along to the team for review.

Have a great week!

With Gratitude,
Sally

Tallgrass Trail
Sally Shirek
Executive Assistant
Personal Office of Doug Burgum

From: Connolly, Briana <Briana.Connolly@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 3:03 PM
To: Sally Shirek <Sally@tallgrasstrail.com>
Cc: McKee, Shelby <Shelby.McKee@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite for Gov. Burgum to meet with House Republican Main Street Caucus

Hi Sally,

I just wanted to check back in! We still have the original dates available, except for March 3.

Best wishes,
Briana

Briana Connolly
Executive Director
Republican Main Street Caucus
Chairman Dusty Johnson
(585) 755-2036

From: Connolly, Briana
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:01 PM
To: sally@tallgrasstrail.com
Cc: McKee, Shelby <Shelby.McKee@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Invite for Gov. Burgum to meet with House Republican Main Street Caucus

Hi Sally,

I hope you are doing well! I am the Executive Director for the Republican Main Street Caucus, a group of 70+ conservative Republicans in the House. Our Chairman, Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Vice Chair, Rep. Mike Flood (R-NE) would like to invite Governor Burgum to join our members at one of our weekly Caucus dinners. These meetings are member-only and off-the-record. Our members would like to discuss Trump-Vance Administration priorities at Interior.

We have the following upcoming meeting times available. Our dinners take place after fly-in votes at 7:15pm and run one hour long. The meetings take place at 411 New Jersey Ave SE, right by Capitol Hill.

- Monday, February 10th
- Monday, February 24th
- Monday, March 3rd
- Monday, March 10th

- Monday, March 24th
- Monday, March 31st

Please let me know if the Governor would be available to join us.

Thank you!

Briana Connolly
Executive Director
Republican Main Street Caucus
Chairman Dusty Johnson
(585) 755-2036

Event Information Request Form

To ensure that the appropriate individual within the Department of the Interior is participating at your event and because the Office of the Secretary is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards, we need the information requested below before we can agree to confirm a speaker or as an attendee at an external event.

Please respond to the questions below and send your response to scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov. Providing detailed responses and including all requested attachments in one single submission will assist with a timely turnaround.

If you have any questions you may contact Lucy Herrington at (202) 431-0623

Event Date: Please note if the date is flexible		
Event Title: Please note if the event is weekly, monthly, annual, etc.		
Event Time:	Event Total Time: Exact Speaking Time: Speech/Remarks Length:	
Event Location:	Virtual Platform: Link: <i>OR</i> Venue: Address: City & State:	
Contact information: Identify if organizing and day of contact(s) is the same or different	<u>Organizing Contact(s):</u> Name: Email: Phone:	<u>Day of Contact(s):</u> Name: Email: Phone:
Brief event description and purpose:	Description (please identify whether the event is a fundraising event): Purpose:	
Identify the desired role of the Secretary.	Roles (select one): Keynote Panelist Brief Remarks (opening/closing) Attendee <i>Only</i> <i>Other:</i>	

If you are requesting remarks, are there any specific issues you would like the Secretary to highlight/address in his remarks?	
If the Secretary is not able to attend, is a surrogate desired? If yes, anyone specific?	
HOST AND SPONSOR	
Who are the <u>event host(s)</u>? Please identify and provide background on the event host(s) as well as any other organization involved in the Event.	Host(s): • • Background:
Is the <u>event host</u> a registered lobbyist or lobbying organization, registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, partisan political candidates; and/or a representative of a partisan political party or group? If yes, please identify.	
Is the event <u>host</u> seeking or does it currently have any business interests with the Department such as permits, contracts, litigation, grants, etc.? If yes, please describe.	
Who are the <u>sponsors</u> of the event? Please identify and provide background information on the individual and/or entity.	Sponsors(s): • • Background:
AUDIENCE	
Approximately how many people are expected to attend the event?	
Please describe the target audience of the event: elected officials, local community leaders, academics, industry representatives, public sector representatives, etc.	
Will the attendees at the event include persons with a diversity of views or interests, or representatives from throughout an industry or profession, or the range of persons interested in a matter?	

If yes, please describe.	
Other Invited/Confirmed Participants: 1. Please list and identify other VIPs or speakers <u>confirmed/invited</u> and in what role. *If Applicable: please list and identify other Department personnel that have been <u>invited/confirmed</u> and in what role.	Confirmed: • [First, Last], [Title], [Event Role] • [First, Last], [Title], [Event Role] Invited: • [First, Last], [Title], [Desired Event Role] • [First, Last], [Title], [Desired Event Role]
Is the event open to the public? If not, please describe who is invited.	
REMARKS	
What is the set-up for the remarks and/or discussion? Will he be sharing the stage, moderated discussion, Q&A session, etc. *PLEASE ATTACH the event schedule outlining any speaking order and remark timetables. A draft version works well.	
What is the public registration/ticket fee to attend/participate in the event?	
COMMUNICATIONS	
Is the event open or closed to press?	
If open, are you expecting local, trade, state, or national news coverage?	
If this is an annual event, which news outlets typically cover the event?	
Will you be advertising or live streaming the event on any social media outlets? If yes, please explain.	
LOGISTICS/OTHER*	
Please supply any other pertinent background information for the event, including <i>draft agendas</i> , event website, promotional/ advertising materials, outreach plan, history of the event, prior attendance by DOI officials, etc.	

What does the invitation include: registration/conference event fee; meals or refreshments; receptions or other entertainment; informational materials; award; memento or token of appreciation; and/or travel (ground or air transportation, hotel, etc.).	
Does all or part of the invitation to the Secretary extend to other Department staff such as security, advance, and/or those staff essential to the Secretary's participation in the event? If yes, please identify.	
Does the invitation include a plus one? If yes, will others in attendance generally be accompanied by a spouse or other guest?	
What is the monetary value of the invitation offered to the Secretary (and her plus one and/or essential staff as appropriate)? Please identify how the monetary value was determined, including any travel costs, registration/ticket fee to attend/participate in the event, entertainment, meal costs, etc. (Please attach separate sheet if necessary.)	
Any additional notes or information?	

***IMPORTANT NOTE: The purpose of these questions is to elicit information relevant to the ethics analysis and is not a solicitation or request for anything of value by the Department or any of its employees.**

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

To: "Parker, Sabrina" <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>

Cc: "Deiro, Sofia" <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 14:23:50 -0000

Importance: Normal

Sofia, when you get a chance can you please let me know what the subject of the call might be?
Thank you!
Lucy

From: Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:29 AM
To: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Deiro, Sofia <Sofia.Deiro@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Lucy,

Thank you for getting back with me. I am looping in our LD, Sofia Deiro, on this email. She has been in contact with staff at Interior and she can better explain what Mr. Cole wants to discuss.

Thanks!
Sabrina Parker
Director of Operations
Congressman Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6165 (main)
202-225-3512 (fax)

From: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 8:21 PM
To: Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Hi Sabrina-
Thank you for reaching out. I would be happy to find a time for Secretary Burgum and Chairman Cole to speak. Is there a specific topic that the Chairman would like to speak about?
Thank you,

Lucy

From: Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 12:02 PM

To: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

From: Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 1:53 PM
To: Repass, Kristin E <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

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

Good afternoon, Kristin!

I am writing to request a phone call for Chairman Cole with Secretary Burgum next week, and I wanted to see if the following date/time would work –

Wednesday, February 26th at 1:00 or 3:30pm

Please let me know at your earliest convenience either time would work. If not, I can send you additional options for the first week of March.

Thank you,

Sabrina Parker
Director of Operations
Congressman Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6165 (main)
202-225-3512 (fax)

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

To: "Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov" <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

Date: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 01:21:10 -0000

Importance: Normal

Hi Sabrina-

Thank you for reaching out. I would be happy to find a time for Secretary Burgum and Chairman Cole to speak. Is there a specific topic that the Chairman would like to speak about?

Thank you,

Lucy

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

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 12:02 PM

To: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

From: Parker, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parker@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 1:53 PM

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Phone Call Request

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

Good afternoon, Kristin!

I am writing to request a phone call for Chairman Cole with Secretary Burgum next week, and I wanted to see if the following date/time would work –

Wednesday, February 26th at 1:00 or 3:30pm

Please let me know at your earliest convenience either time would work. If not, I can send you additional options for the first week of March.

Thank you,

Sabrina Parker
Director of Operations

Congressman Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6165 (main)
202-225-3512 (fax)

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

To: "Manzelli, Sean (Paul)" <Sean_Manzelli@paul.senate.gov>

Cc: "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Repass, Kristin E" <kristin_repass@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL]Re: [EXTERNAL]Sen. Paul meeting request

Date: Tue, 18 Feb 2025 15:11:38 -0000

Importance: Normal

Hi Sean,

Thank you for reaching out. We are reviewing the Secretary's schedule and will follow up shortly.
Thank you!

From: Manzelli, Sean (Paul) <Sean_Manzelli@paul.senate.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:59 PM

To: scheduling_interior <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL]Re: [EXTERNAL]Sen. Paul meeting request

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

Good afternoon,

I'm looking to set up a meeting between Doug Burgum and Senator Rand Paul. Can you assist?

Best regards,

Sean Manzelli

Scheduler | Sen. Rand Paul (KY)

Sean_manzelli@paul.senate.gov

From: "Alex Mistri (Volunteer Sherpa)" <AlexM.Volunteer@47transition.com>

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 4:26 PM

To: "Manzelli, Sean (Paul)" <Sean_Manzelli@paul.senate.gov>

Cc: "scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov" <scheduling_interior@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Re: [EXTERNAL]Sen. Paul meeting request

Hi Sean—Thanks for reaching out. I have returned to day job post-confirmation.

I'm connecting you with the Secretary's front office.

Alex

From: Manzelli, Sean (Paul) <Sean_Manzelli@paul.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:28 PM
To: Alex Mistri (Volunteer Sherpa) <AlexM.Volunteer@47transition.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: [EXTERNAL]Sen. Paul meeting request

Alex – wanted to see if you are still able to help me set up a meeting? Or point me in the right direction?

Thank you!

Sean

From: "Manzelli, Sean (Paul)" <Sean_Manzelli@paul.senate.gov>
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 1:23 PM
To: "Alex Mistri (Volunteer)" <AlexM.Volunteer@47transition.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Sen. Paul meeting request

Hey Alex – thanks for getting back to me. I will check and follow up shortly.

Sean

From: "Alex Mistri (Volunteer)" <AlexM.Volunteer@47transition.com>
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 1:23 PM
To: "Manzelli, Sean (Paul)" <Sean_Manzelli@paul.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Sen. Paul meeting request

Hi Sean—Thanks for the note. The Governor isn't going to be back on the Hill for the remainder of the week. Could we try to schedule a call tomorrow—or push into next week?

From: Manzelli, Sean (Paul) <Sean_Manzelli@paul.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:46 AM
To: Alex Mistri (Volunteer) <AlexM.Volunteer@47transition.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Sen. Paul meeting request

Hey Alex – Sen. Paul wants to meet with Doug Burgum before his vote. Is there any way we could make that happen this afternoon or tomorrow?

Sean

Sean Manzelli

Scheduler | Sen. Rand Paul (KY)
Sean_manzelli@paul.senate.gov

To: "Spady, Ashley" <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Cc: "Swift, Heather" <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Miller, Murray C" <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke
Date: Wed, 05 Mar 2025 23:48:08 -0000
Importance: Normal
Inline-Images: image001.png

Hi Ashley-
Would the Congressman like to come to Inter

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

From: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 3:11 PM
To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Lucy,

No problem. Yes, if Secretary Burgum has availability on Monday, March 24th that would be ideal. Let me know if there are any convenient times that day, otherwise we can look into later in the week.

Best,

Ashley Spady
Director of Scheduling
Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-01)
512 Cannon HOB
202.225.5628

From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 2:10 PM
To: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>, Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Hi Ashley-
Sorry for the delay, we were working through a few items on today's schedule. After the speech, the secretary will need to leave. Can we look at the week of March 24th? I believe you all should be in session.
Please let me know!

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

From: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 4:02 PM
To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Good afternoon Lucy,

I received your email from your colleague James, and forwarding my initial message to set up a meeting.

I am reaching out on behalf of Congressman Zinke to request a meeting between him and Secretary Burgum. Rep. Zinke would like to meet preferably after President Trump's address to Congress on March 4th, or any time next week that would be convenient for your boss. The purpose of this meeting would be for Congressman Zinke to discuss his Montana priorities with Secretary Burgum. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Best,

Ashley Spady
Director of Scheduling
Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-01)
512 Cannon HOB
202.225.5628

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 at 1:34 PM
To: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Hello Ashley,
Thank you for the outreach. We would be happy to set up a meeting. Our scheduler is Lucy Herrington and she would be the best person to reach out to. Her email:
Lucy.herrington@ios.doi.gov

Thanks,
James M Nelson

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From: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 12:02:17 PM
To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

This email
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caution
before
clicking on
links,
opening
attachments,
or
responding.

Good afternoon James,

I am reaching out on behalf of Congressman Zinke to request a meeting between him and Secretary Burgum. Rep. Zinke would like to meet preferably after President Trump's address to Congress on March 4th, or any time next week that would be convenient for your boss. The purpose of this meeting would be for Congressman Zinke to discuss his Montana priorities with Secretary Burgum. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best,

Ashley Spady
Director of Scheduling
Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-01)
512 Cannon HOB
202.225.5628



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

Cc: "nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov" <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>, "Miller, Murray C" <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond)" <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>, "Lamp, Reilly" <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Date: Wed, 05 Mar 2025 20:36:50 -0000

Importance: Normal

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

Hi Lauren-
Our office is

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

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

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:19 PM

To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Hi Lucy,

Chairman Simpson will be staffed by Nikki Wallace (COS), Reilly Lamp (LD), Kristin Clarkson and Sarah Peery (both from the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee).

Would you be able to share who will be staffing the Secretary? Is there any day-of information we should be aware of, including parking location, if there will be an escort, etc.?

Best,

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler

Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)

2084 Rayburn House Office Building

From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 2:46 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>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>

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

Hi Lauren-

Our apologies for having to reschedule this meeting he had a last-minute request by the White House to travel this coming Thursday. Our office wants to thank you for confirming the meeting with Secretary Burgum for **Wednesday, March 26th @ 3:00pm**. We look forward to hosting Chairman Simpson at our office. Can you confirm who will be joining the Chairman for the meeting?

Lucy Herrington

The office of Scheduling and Advance
Secretary Doug Burgum | U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 431-0623 | scheduling_interior@ios.gov



From: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 11:55 AM
To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov <nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov>; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Clarkson, Kristin (Richmond) <Kristin.Clarkson@mail.house.gov>; Lamp, Reilly <Reilly.Lamp@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Hi Lucy,

Wednesday, March 26th at 3pm works for Chairman Simpson. Looking forward to having the Chairman and Secretary be able to connect!

Lauren Radford

DC Scheduler
Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)
2084 Rayburn House Office Building

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

Great we have it blocked.

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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

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

Could the Congressman come to the secretary's office?

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From: Radford, Lauren <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>
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>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Meeting with Congressman Simpson

Thanks, James!

Lauren Radford
DC Scheduler
Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)
2084 Rayburn House Office Building

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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

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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

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

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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: "Swift, Heather" <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>
To: "Herrington, Lucy R" <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>, "Spady, Ashley" <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Cc: "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, "Miller, Murray C" <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke
Date: Fri, 7 Mar 2025 16:37:15 +0000
Importance: Normal
Inline-Images: image002.png; image004.png; image001.png

Hi Lucy, yes 4PM at DOI works for Congressman Zinke. I will accompany him.

Heather Swift
Chief of Staff
Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-01)
Cannon HOB 512
(202) 225-5628



From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 11:15 PM
To: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

I clicked send too quick! Could we move this to 4:00pm?

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

From: Herrington, Lucy R
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 11:12 PM
To: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Hi Ashley-
How does, **Monday March 24th @3:00pm** sound? Would the Congressman like to come to Interior? If so, we would be happy to host!
Thank you!

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

From: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 3:11 PM
To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Lucy,

No problem. Yes, if Secretary Burgum has availability on Monday, March 24th that would be ideal. Let me know if there are any convenient times that day, otherwise we can look into later in the week.

Best,

Ashley Spady
Director of Scheduling
Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-01)
512 Cannon HOB
202.225.5628

From: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 2:10 PM
To: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>, Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, Miller, Murray C <murray_miller@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Hi Ashley-

Sorry for the delay, we were working through a few items on today's schedule. After the speech, the secretary will need to leave. Can we look at the week of March 24th? I believe you all should be in session. Please let me know!

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

From: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 4:02 PM
To: Herrington, Lucy R <lucy_herrington@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Good afternoon Lucy,

I received your email from your colleague James, and forwarding my initial message to set up a meeting.

I am reaching out on behalf of Congressman Zinke to request a meeting between him and Secretary Burgum. Rep. Zinke would like to meet preferably after President Trump's address to Congress on March 4th, or any time next week that would be convenient for your boss. The purpose of this meeting would be for Congressman Zinke to discuss his Montana priorities with Secretary Burgum. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Best,

Ashley Spady
Director of Scheduling
Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-01)
512 Cannon HOB
202.225.5628

From: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 at 1:34 PM
To: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

Hello Ashley,

Thank you for the outreach. We would be happy to set up a meeting. Our scheduler is Lucy Herrington and she would be the best person to reach out to. Her email: Lucy.herrington@ios.doi.gov

Thanks,
James M Nelson

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From: Spady, Ashley <Ashley.Spady@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 12:02:17 PM
To: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Swift, Heather <Heather.Swift@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for a meeting with Sec. Burgum and Rep. Zinke

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links,
opening
attachments,
or
responding.

Good afternoon James,

I am reaching out on behalf of Congressman Zinke to request a meeting between him and Secretary Burgum. Rep. Zinke would like to meet preferably after President Trump's address to Congress on March 4th, or any time next week that would be convenient for your boss. The purpose of this meeting would be for Congressman Zinke to discuss his Montana priorities with Secretary Burgum. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best,

Ashley Spady
Director of Scheduling
Congressman Ryan Zinke (MT-01)
512 Cannon HOB
202.225.5628



To: "Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov" <Lauren.Radford1@mail.house.gov>

Cc: "nikki.wallace@mail.house.gov" <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

Date: Tue, 04 Mar 2025 22:38:30 -0000

Importance: Normal

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

Hi Lauren-

I hope your week is going well? My apologies but Secretary Burgum is needing to reschedule his meeting with Congressman Simpson as he has a last minute

Thank you,

Scheduling and Advance

Office of the Secretary of Interior

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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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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Hi James,

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Lauren Radford

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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

Thanks, James!

Lauren Radford
DC Scheduler
Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02)
2084 Rayburn House Office Building

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

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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

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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](#).



To: "Mark.Spannagel@Mail.House.Gov" <Mark.Spannagel@Mail.House.Gov>

Subject: Re rdf straight444443

Date: Tue, 11 Feb 2025 20:13:47 -0000

Importance: Normal

Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior

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From: "Lombardi, Kyle" <Kyle.Lombardi@mail.house.gov>

To: "Cameron, Scott J" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Shasta Storage/Inflow/Outflow Information

Date: Fri, 21 Feb 2025 17:01:34 +0000

Importance: Normal

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Thanks, Scott. Will be in touch if I have any questions.

Kyle Lombardi
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)
202-225-3076

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Lombardi, Kyle <Kyle.Lombardi@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: Shasta Storage/Inflow/Outflow Information

Hi Kyle,
Is this responsive to your inquiry about the current level of Shasta?

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Palumbo, David M <DPalumbo@usbr.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:35 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Shasta Storage/Inflow/Outflow Information

Hi Scott:

Below is some information related to Shasta Storage, Inflow, and Outflow considerations.

We absolutely can follow up with any additional information.

Thank you,

David

--

Shasta Operations Update 2/20/25 - DRAFT

1. Shasta Reservoir Capacity is 4.55 million acre-feet (MAF)
2. Shasta Reservoir storage is currently at 3.511 MAF (77% full and 115% of the 15-year average)
3. Shasta Reservoir is currently above the flood control limit (encroached) by 85 thousand acre-feet (Shasta was encroached by as much as 777 TAF on 2/7/25 with major storm activity), which included inflow rates reaching as high as 118,000 cfs
4. Shasta is designed to absorb these large inflow events to allow flows from other rivers into the Sacramento River to pass and avoid downstream flooding
5. Shasta releases are currently ramping down at the maximum allowable reduction rate and will be down to 10,000 cfs release by 2/25
6. Shasta releases are expected to be lower than the projected inflows into Shasta Reservoir in the coming days, and therefore, is expecting to start to gain in storage starting this weekend
7. Projected Shasta storage in the February dry forecast (i.e., 90% exceedance) is over 4 MAF (89% full) and it is likely that Shasta will fill this year
8. We are maximizing storage and not draining the reservoir
9. The February forecast show that reservoir storage levels, including Shasta, will not be a limiting factor in CVP allocations
10. Shasta flood control operations are characterized by the need to absorb large inflows while other rivers are running high to prevent flooding downstream in the Sacramento River. Shasta releases are then increased post-storm as a function of level of encroachment, forecasted inflows and downstream flooding considerations. Finally, releases are then decreased according to ramping rates as a function of current and forecasted inflows and level of encroachment.
11. Ramping rates are prescribed as part of the underlining CVP water right permit conditions (California State Water Resources Control Board Order 90-5) that allow Reclamation to develop and deliver federal water supplies. Ramping rates are also a part of our CVP federal ESA coverage.
12. An operational priority of Shasta Dam is to manage flood risk to downstream communities, like Redding, CA
13. Reclamation has expert technical staff that are working under the direction of the administration to be aggressive in their efforts to maximize storage, hydropower, and pumping. They are doing so.

To: "Kyle.Lombardi@mail.house.gov" <Kyle.Lombardi@mail.house.gov>

Date: Thu, 13 Feb 2025 21:54:01 -0000

Importance: Normal

Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior

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From: "Sciacca, Michael" <Michael.Sciacca@mail.house.gov>

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

Cc: "Bello, Maria" <Maria.Bello@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Remarks for the 2025 Senior Plenary Session - Congressman Moylan (GU-AL)

Date: Wed, 19 Feb 2025 19:04:29 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: FINAL_SpokenRemarks_CongressmanMoylan_2025-IGIA-Plenary-Session.pdf

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Hâfa Adai Mr. Cameron,

It was a pleasure meeting you today and we thank DOI for continuing to host these important meetings. Per your request during today's Senior Plenary Session, please find attached a copy of the presentation delivered by Congressman Moylan. Please let me know if anything else is needed on this request.

I am also looping in our Director of Operations, Maria Bello, who can assist in finding some time for the Congressman to meet with you again.

Very respectfully,
Michael

--

Michael Sciacca

Legislative Assistant

Office of Congressman James Moylan

228 Cannon House Office Building

W: (202) 226-7382 | C: (202) 341-7906



PRESENTATION BY CONGRESSMAN JAMES C. MOYLAN
INTERAGENCY GROUP ON INSULAR AREAS 2025 SENIOR PLENARY SESSION
February 19, 2025

Håfa Adai, Tirow, Talofa, and Good Morning to everyone! I would like to thank Secretary Burgum, Director Meyer, our Governors, Congressional Representatives, special guests, and the hard-working team from OIA for being here today on this cold morning. With weather like this, maybe we can host the next meeting in Guam?

I'd like to start by congratulating Secretary Burgum and Director Meyer. As I continue to represent our beautiful island of Guam, I look forward to working with you both to deliver for Americans in the territories. I would also like to thank President Trump for continuing these annual dialogues and for bringing us all together to discuss what matters most to our islands.

Guam faces many challenges. Aging infrastructure, threats to our ecosystems, and challenging economic policies have hurt the Territories. During this year's session, we have a unique opportunity to address these critical issues and build a bridge to a brighter future.

We are an island of patriots, answering the call whenever asked. Despite our limited resources, Guam has always opened our arms to those in need. Our sons and daughters, the most valuable resource we have, serve our nation at a higher rate than anywhere else in the nation. War refugees and our brothers and sisters across Micronesia know Guam as an island of opportunity.

But for too long, Guam's most vulnerable have been left behind. Disabled and elderly residents have been excluded from access to Supplemental Security Income. It is a tragedy that in 2025 any of our constituents should be denied such an important program.

We must fix this gap in coverage and restore the ideal that all Americans, regardless of where they live, deserve the same access to care.

No other place in the U.S. has the relationship we have with the Department of Defense. Through this collaboration, we've kept Guam safe and shielded our nation from bad actors in the Pacific. But the cornerstone to this partnership is that it's done right. The One Guam approach must continue to be the focal point of this relationship.

Likewise, we need to care for our veterans. VA services for Guam *must* mirror mainland-quality. We have a long way to go. Serious misconduct at the Vet Center and nonpayment to medical

providers emphasizes the need for change. These problems are a sad reflection of how veterans in the islands have been treated.

I urge the Administration to join me in efforts to improve veterans' services and restructure regional care to deliver for veterans in the Marianas and Freely Associated States.

We must also confront the rising costs of airfare that both our island residents and service members face. Absurd airfares, monopolistic practices, and outdated rules plague our community. No one should choose between loved ones and finances. As we coordinate with the Administration, I ask that they support cabotage exemptions with our Pacific Partners.

We also have the opportunity this Congress to improve quality of life for the People of Guam. For nearly 20 years, funding for public and ecological safety has remained stagnant. Without increases, resources are being stretched thin. We are being asked to do more with less.

Almost 80 years ago, the Brown Tree Snake was introduced to our island by military cargo. Killing 10 of our 13 native bird populations, they've destroyed our ecosystem. Today, we are no closer to eradicating Brown Tree Snakes than we were decades ago.

I thank the Interior and the OIA for its continued work to rehabilitate our precious native species and its commitment to fighting invasive species. If we hope to reintroduce our native birds to Guam, additional funding is required to eradicate these invasive species. By working together, we will be able to hear the songs of our native birds once again.

The growing stray animal population puts our people in harm's way. They stress our fragile ecosystems and deter tourists, a vital part of our economy. Supporting local efforts will reduce the stray population and improve our ecosystem and economy. It is unsustainable to continue as we are, and we need assistance now.

I also ask for your support to eradicate feral pigs, which negatively impact local farmers. These pigs directly threaten sustainability efforts by farmers and residents who want to grow food in their own backyards. As I begin conversations with the OIA, I hope to see the fruits of our labor soon.

We must work to achieve parity between Territory and State healthcare systems. Despite performing the same roles, normal State Medicaid funding and hospital designations are

restricted from our islands. My ask is simple: Americans should receive the same quality of healthcare regardless of where they live.

While we address these longstanding issues, we must also prepare for the future. Located in the middle of ‘Typhoon Alley’, our residents are at risk. The path to preventing this is clear: funding resilient infrastructure. Investing in our schools, roads, and energy grid, will save us money in the future by lowering recovery costs.

While constituents depend on this infrastructure, it is also vital for U.S. Indo-Pacific security strategy. Because Guam and the DOD have to share critical infrastructure, local and national security are undeniably linked. Investing in underground powerlines, hardened roads and bridges, and higher-capacity water treatment facilities will ensure Guam and our Armed Services are ready for whatever may come.

While I agree that we must eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse, it is important to remember that many on our island rely on Federal assistance programs. These discussions should not be a one-size-fits-all solution. Programs like WIC, SNAP, Medicare, Medicaid, and public housing support our underserved communities.

I would like to thank you all once again for the opportunity to voice some of the most pressing issues facing our island and looking for ways to collaborate to address them. Our people have answered the call to support our nation when they needed our land, hands, and hearts, and now we ask the federal government to reciprocate

I look forward to working with the Administration to improve the quality of life for all Americans, regardless of where they live. Thank you.

From: "Lombardi, Kyle" <Kyle.Lombardi@mail.house.gov>
To: "Cameron, Scott J" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Technical Assistance Request - Water Storage
Date: Thu, 13 Feb 2025 22:14:50 +0000
Importance: Normal

Thank you!

Kyle Lombardi
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)
202-225-3076

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:56 PM
To: Lombardi, Kyle <Kyle.Lombardi@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Technical Assistance Request - Water Storage

Fysa

Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior

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From: Maucieri, Mathew MM <MMAUCIERI@usbr.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:43 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>; Palumbo, David M <DPalumbo@usbr.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Technical Assistance Request - Water Storage

Hi Scott,
We're on it.
Thx
Mat

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From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:11:19 PM
To: Maucieri, Mathew MM <MMAUCIERI@usbr.gov>; Palumbo, David M <DPalumbo@usbr.gov>; Nelson, James M <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>; Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Technical Assistance Request - Water Storage

Matt and Dave,

Please provide this short turnaround drafting service. Feel free to respond directly to Kyle.
Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior

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From: Lombardi, Kyle <Kyle.Lombardi@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:02 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Technical Assistance Request - Water Storage

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Hi Scott,

I would like to request Technical Assistance (TA) from the DOI on legislative text (see below) I'm working on for my boss. This language has not been approved by Rep. LaMalfa, so this remains a staff level exercise, the language is subject to change, and I ask that you please keep it confidential.

In short, I would like to know does the DOI interpret the below language as enabling Reclamation to enlarge surface water storage projects, including raising Shasta Dam, and that for such actions a non-Federal cost share partner is not needed and no reimbursements to BOR under reclamation law would be required? If not, can DOI please provide edits to accomplish this objective?

If you can let me know as soon as possible, that would be great. I'm under a tight deadline.

Thanks,

Kyle

Kyle Lombardi
Deputy Chief of Staff
Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

++++

“In general, in addition to the amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior for fiscal year {____}, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$2,500,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding any other provision of reclamation law, without any other funds being required, for the construction or expansion of surface water storage facilities to which the United State holds title in the State of California located north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.”

From: "Cameron, Scott J" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Jorgenson, Sarah (Appropriations)" <Sarah_Jorgenson@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Articles
Date: Wed, 05 Feb 2025 14:45:28 -0000
Importance: Normal
Inline-Images: image002.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image014.jpg

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Jorgenson, Sarah (Appropriations) <Sarah_Jorgenson@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 1:07 AM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Articles

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

Hi Scott! It was nice to see you today. Sending you a CRS overview document and then two articles – one focused on the U.S. territory of CNMI and another on the Federated States of Micronesia. I can send more if it's helpful – just let me know.

Thank you,

Sarah

CRS Report:
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11208>

The subtle art of influence: China's strategic engagement in the CNMI
Admin
May 22, 2024



By Glen Hunter

Saipan-- China's growing presence in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands cannot be ignored. Using strategic capitalist methods, the Chinese Communist Party has been making calculated moves to establish a stronghold in various islands across the Pacific.

The CNMI is a prime example of this creeping influence, showing the long-term consequences when Chinese involvement goes unchecked. By offering economic incentives and forming partnerships with influential local figures, China aims to sway public opinion and influence key decision-making processes in these island communities.

China's approach is characterized by patience and a long-term vision. By investing in infrastructure, tourism, and real estate, the CCP has managed to gain a foothold in these regions. These investments often come with collaborations with local influencers who play pivotal roles in promoting Chinese projects within their communities.

Through these alliances, China seeks to gain credibility and support among residents, ultimately shaping their perceptions of China as a beneficial ally. By aligning with key local figures, China portrays itself as a benefactor, providing much-needed economic opportunities and development projects. Over time, this strategy aims to cultivate a sense of dependency and trust towards China among the local populace.

Influential community leaders, industry groups, media, business owners and politicians are instrumental in shaping public opinion favorably toward China. The CCP identifies and builds relationships with individuals holding significant positions within community groups on the islands. By supporting these individuals, China aims to co-opt entire groups into aligning with its agenda, portraying itself as a savior for the region.



China's influence extends beyond economics into the political arena. CCP-backed businesses strategically steer various industries toward reliance on Chinese resources and expertise. This gradual shift not only cements China's economic influence but also allows for subtle political manipulation. By dominating key sectors, China can suppress dissenting voices and reshape public opinion to align with its interests.

Over the past few decades, Chinese influence has permeated key industries such as garment manufacturing, real estate, hospitality and casino gaming in the CNMI. While these industries may have brought some economic prosperity, they also highlight the complex balance between benefiting from Chinese investment and maintaining geopolitical stability and the islands' integrity.

The CNMI's tourism sector had notably shifted toward reliance on Chinese visitors before the pandemic, with less focus on diversifying into other markets. This shift reflects the growing Chinese influence in shaping the tourism landscape of the CNMI.

Interestingly, groups and influencers in the CNMI have transitioned over the past decade to oppose military development due to concerns about environmental damage and cultural loss. However, these same influencers have readily embraced large-scale investments backed by the CCP, such as garment factories and casinos, without expressing similar concerns about potential societal, environmental, and cultural impacts on the islands.

This double standard highlights a paradoxical stance where resistance is shown against U.S. military presence due to perceived negative consequences while simultaneously endorsing extensive Chinese enterprise development without similar scrutiny. Such contrasting reactions underscore the complex interplay of geopolitical influences and economic interests that shape public sentiment and decision-making processes in the CNMI.

The recent pandemic and blatant public corruption of the last administration have allowed for a shift in CNMI's political landscape, pivoting away from China. This signifies a potential reevaluation of external alignments. This change reflects growing concerns over the long-term consequences of deep-rooted Chinese influence and underscores the importance of balancing economic benefits with political autonomy to ensure sovereignty and independence amidst foreign engagements.

We are witnessing the persistence of CCP-influenced individuals, businesses and groups today. Despite the negative impacts experienced over the past few years due to over-reliance on China, there are still calls for the current administration to allocate resources toward regaining access to the Chinese market.

Given the regional geopolitical dynamics, there is a strong possibility that access to Chinese tourism could once again cease in the near future. This is a tangible reality, not a remote possibility. Evaluating risk suggests that investing in redeveloping the China market for tourism could be a high-risk endeavor for sustainable tourism in the CNMI. It raises the question of why this concern is not more prominent among those advocating for a renewed focus on the China market for tourism.

Groups like the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, when dealing with low tourism numbers, have chosen to focus on China-centric initiatives like EVS-TAP and Annex VI provision rather than addressing critical factors affecting access to other markets, reducing regional airfare prices, or pushing for cabotage waivers. This focus suggests an alignment with broader CCP strategies that prioritize regulatory frameworks favorable to Chinese tourism over diversified approaches that might reduce dependency on any single market.

The CNMI must adopt a proactive approach to decision-making. While economic incentives from China can bring immediate benefits, it's crucial to assess long-term implications on political autonomy and regional stability. This reliance raises concerns about the sustainability and resilience of the CNMI's tourism industry amidst geopolitical shifts or economic fluctuations. Strategic planning and careful consideration of external partnerships are essential to safeguarding national interests.

Given this backdrop, federal intervention is crucial to counteract any push toward reestablishing overly dependent ties with China. Funding opportunities should be directed toward diversifying economic partnerships and bolstering industries that can thrive independently of Chinese investment. Policy adjustments are necessary to encourage local businesses to explore alternative markets and reduce reliance on a single foreign investment partner.

Additionally, resources must be allocated towards strengthening political autonomy and ensuring local governance is free from undue foreign influence. This includes supporting transparency initiatives and anti-corruption measures that can prevent foreign entities from co-opting local leaders.

Economic security is fundamental for establishing national security in this region. Without stable economic foundations free from over-reliance on any one nation, political autonomy and regional stability cannot be assured.

Ensuring CNMI's economic stability through diversified investments and robust policy frameworks is essential for safeguarding national sovereignty. China's engagement in the CNMI showcases a sophisticated blend of economic and political tactics aimed at establishing influence.

By leveraging economic incentives and collaborating with local influencers, China seeks to reshape public opinion and align local interests with its own. The case study of CNMI exemplifies the complexities involved in balancing economic prosperity with geopolitical stability.

As Pacific island nations continue to engage with external powers, maintaining a balance between economic benefits and political autonomy will be crucial to preserving sovereignty and independence.

The federal government's role in providing funding opportunities, policy adjustments, and resources is vital to counteract China's influence and ensure long-term stability for regions like ours here in the CNMI. Furthermore, the federal government must fully support our current Administration, that is publicly pivoting away from China, thereby reinforcing our commitment to diversified economic growth and national security.

<https://www.pacificislandtimes.com/post/the-subtle-art-of-influence-china-s-strategic-engagement-in-the-cnmi>

China builds roads, provisions its ships – in US ally Micronesia

Beijing calls attention to its Micronesia projects with ubiquitous China Aid signs but rejects scrutiny.

By Stephen Wright for BenarNews and Zhuang Jing for RFA Mandarin
2023.09.28

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia



A woman and girl play at a multisports venue constructed by China in 2018 and known as the Kolonia-China Friendship Center in Kolonia, the largest town on Pohnpei island in the Federated States of Micronesia, Aug. 25, 2023. (Credit: Stephen Wright/BenarNews)

George, who said he arrived on this lush island in Micronesia six months ago, lives with two other Chinese men and fierce guard dogs at an isolated site in the jungle that was used to make asphalt for a Chinese-funded road upgrade.

He wouldn't give his complete name when reporters from BenarNews and affiliate news organization Radio Free Asia visited the huddle of grimy prefab buildings.

He imitated gripping a steering wheel when he said his job was truck driver for the road project that was carried out by China Railway 14th Bureau Group – part of state-owned China Railway Construction Corp.

It's unlikely he's had much driving to do. The road paving work on the island of Pohnpei was completed in the second half of 2021, and plants were growing from the construction vehicles parked at the site. Another Chinese man, purportedly George's boss, said they were at the jungle camp for the two-year warranty period for the eight-kilometer (five-mile) road project. He answered questions about the project, on the condition he wasn't named.



A truck and backhoe are seen at a jungle site where employees of state-owned China Railway Construction Corp. apparently live after completing a road paving project in 2021 on Pohnpei island in the Federated States of Micronesia, Aug. 20, 2023. [Stephen Wright/BenarNews]

The road is one of the many Chinese projects on Pohnpei and other islands in Micronesia, a nation of some 100,000 people located between the Philippines and Hawaii that has decades-long ties with the United States.

From swivel chairs donated to the country's congress to a college gymnasium as well as state government buildings and pest control for coconut trees, China's development assistance has, over at least two decades, made its way into every corner of the country.

'We need to be very, very astute and careful'

Micronesia and its neighbors Palau and the Marshall Islands comprise hundreds of islands spread over a vast expanse of ocean in the western Pacific. They have among the world's largest exclusive economic zones and militarily strategic seas near East Asia, a region of potential flashpoints in China-U.S. competition.

All three delegate their defense to the United States and over the next two decades could receive more than US\$7 billion of financial and economic assistance from Washington under so-called compacts of free association, subject to Congressional approval. Tens of thousands of Micronesian citizens live in Guam, Hawaii and other parts of the United States, and many serve in its military.

Of the three nations, only Micronesia recognizes China. Palau and Marshall Islands have diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

"Anyone can assume China will be doing their best to achieve more influence in the Pacific region. There's no question about that," said David Panuelo, Micronesia's president from 2019 until earlier this year.



David Panuelo, former president of the Federated States of Micronesia, who was critical of China's attempts to gain influence in the North Pacific country, makes a point during an interview in Pohnpei, Aug. 22, 2023. [Stephen Wright/BenarNews]

Even China critics such as Panuelo say economic and technical assistance from the world's second-largest economy is welcome. But he also warns against allowing the relationship with the authoritarian Communist Party-ruled state to include security.

Before his term ended earlier this year, Panuelo drew international attention to what he said was [Beijing's aggressive campaign](#) to undermine his government and its alliance with the U.S. using tactics that included intimidation and bribes.

He advocated switching diplomatic recognition to Taiwan and rejected China's choice of ambassador, Wu Wei, citing his security background.

A common development vision encompassing security that China failed to persuade Pacific island nations to sign in 2022 was an indication of its ambitions in the Pacific, according to Panuelo.

"Pacific island nations, the way we deal with foreign nations, we need to be very, very astute and careful about what we accept about the future of our countries," he said.

One of the early acts of the administration of Wesley Simina, Panuelo's successor, was to accept Wu's appointment as ambassador.

Micronesia's foreign ministry declined interview requests from BenarNews and Radio Free Asia. An adviser to Simina did not respond to a request for an interview.

China's embassy did not respond to emailed questions about development projects in Micronesia.

A Pohnpei state senator, who did not want to be named, said he was unhappy with the lack of transparency of Chinese projects in the state and suspicious of some activities, but his questions had gone unanswered.

He said men from China Railway Construction Corp. had recently visited the state capital and asked to stay longer at their jungle camp while they wait for a new project in Micronesia's Yap state.

Off limits

No one in Pohnpei's main town, Kolonia, answered the door at a large building widely understood to be used by China's diplomats. The rented building is not China's embassy and had no official markings, but usually had several vehicles with diplomatic plates parked on its grounds.

China's longest running aid project in Pohnpei, a pilot farm started in 1998, also was off limits to reporters.

"Your request is noted and declined," said Xiongping Liu, a contact person for the farm, in response to a request to visit.

Some of the farm's produce has been used to supply food for Chinese research ships, according to the farm's own informational materials reviewed by BenarNews.

"The produce has been transferred to [Pohnpei state government] Agriculture Division for sale which has met part of the demand of the local market and also provided fresh vegetable supplies for Chinese scientific research ships," the materials said.

In the region and elsewhere, China's research fleet has caused concern for its unexplained visits to countries' exclusive economic zones.

Micronesia's neighbor Palau has reported five such incidents since 2018, the latest in August. In May, a Chinese research vessel [loitered](#) over Palau's fiber-optic cable, according to the island nation's government.

To better police its waters, Palau signed an agreement with Washington last month that will allow the U.S. Coast Guard to board ships without a Palauan officer present.

"It's very scary," said the same Pohnpei state senator who asked not to be named, about what he believes is the Chinese Embassy's influence with a minority of members of the state legislature.

Fears for democracy

He said he has fears for democracy in Micronesia but did not want to be named because criticism of China's aid projects could be used against him during campaigning for elections.

A large part of the Chinese aid work in Micronesia predates the Belt and Road Initiative – China's sprawling, decade-old plan to dot the globe with ports, roads, railways and other infrastructure that could further its trade, economic and security interests.

Pacific island nations were a late addition to the Belt and Road vision, analysts said, but the initiative is now the principal way in which Beijing organizes its relations with states in the region.

"What it does provide Pacific states is a way to finance infrastructure," said Henryk Szadziwski, a University of Hawaii researcher.

"There is a vast shortfall and a great need for upgrading infrastructure across the Pacific. It did fit that missing piece of the jigsaw for a lot of Pacific states."

China's state media, meanwhile, has sought to enlist Pacific islands media in its Belt and Road News Network, which was established to publish positive stories about Chinese infrastructure projects.

People's Daily's chief correspondent for Australia, Xiaowei Chen, has been involved in that effort in coordination with Chinese diplomats, information reviewed by BenarNews shows.

Chinese state companies also frequently secure infrastructure contracts in the region that are funded by lenders such as the Asian Development Bank and World Bank, said researcher Peter Connolly, potentially giving the impression these projects also are China's.



Vegetation covers a section of road that was paved in 2021 by a Chinese state company, in the Madolenihmw municipality on Pohnpei island in Federated States of Micronesia, Aug. 20, 2023. [Stephen Wright/BenarNews]

China's activity in Micronesia appears particularly extensive but it's not without its limitations, a pattern repeated throughout the Pacific.

For Papua New Guinea, the most populous Pacific island nation, there's only been slow progress after Chinese President Xi Jinping's 2018 promise to turbocharge road building with billions of dollars.

In Suva, a Chinese real-estate company's project to build Fiji's tallest building, WG Friendship Plaza, has had construction halted because of safety and legal controversies and remains unfinished after nearly a decade.

In Pohnpei, the road, which the project manager said employed about 50 local workers and should last 15 to 20 years, has already shrunk in places to narrower than a single lane by the encroaching jungle.

Pohnpei's state government building, completed by China in 2010 and easily the largest building in charmingly ramshackle Kolonia, has become known for its use of materials unsuited to the climate and a long broken-down elevator.

Next to China's Embassy on a mountain that's also home to the federal capital, Palikir, abandoned weather-beaten hulks of buildings are what remain of an unsuccessful tourism venture between Chinese interests and a local municipality.



A view of the Pohnpei state government building's deteriorating roof, which was constructed by China and completed in 2010, in Kolonia, the main settlement on Pohnpei island in the Federated States of Micronesia, Aug. 25, 2023. [Stephen Wright/BenarNews]

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has used the China-U.S. rivalry to secure more development for his country, which like other Pacific island nations grapples with lack of jobs, infrastructure and healthcare. China has bankrolled more than half the cost for the Solomon Islands capital Honiara to host the 24-nation Pacific Games in November by building the main stadium and other facilities. The event also has brought activity from other donor nations to build sports facilities and upgrade the international airport and roads.

"Solomon Islands has benefited so much from the People's Republic of China. It just started its partnership with Solomon Islands only three years now, but I can see a lot of developments are happening, especially in Honiara," said Margret Tusia, a resident of the capital.

"What I really want to see is development going down to our provincial governments as well, because I believe that is where real development should be," she said.



Li Ming (fifth from left), China's then-ambassador to the Solomon Islands, and Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare (sixth from right) gesture at the handover ceremony for the 2023 Pacific Games main stadium in Honiara, Solomon Islands, Aug. 18, 2023. [Gina Maka'a/BenarNews]

Micronesia and Palau's agreement earlier this year to increased financial assistance from the United States under their compact of free association doesn't mean China's influence campaign is failing, said John T. Hennessey-Niland, U.S. ambassador to Palau from 2020 to late 2022.

"I don't think it's a zero-sum game," he said. "There's room for cooperation. Obviously there's also competition, and unfortunately in places like the South China Sea and the Pacific, there's potential for confrontation."

Part of the U.S. response to rivalry with China has been to boost its number of embassies in the region and revamp its aid efforts. It has opened embassies in the Solomon Islands and Tonga this year and also plans a mission in Vanuatu.

"We are stepping up in the face of competition and real challenges from the PRC. But the U.S. has to be very careful about over-promising and under delivering," said Hennessey-Niland.

"There's only a couple of people actually in these new embassies, that, simply to be honest, is not enough."

From: "Cameron, Scott J" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

To: "Sciacca, Michael" <Michael.Sciacca@mail.house.gov>

Cc: "Bello, Maria" <Maria.Bello@mail.house.gov>, "Nelson, James M" <james_m_nelson@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Remarks for the 2025 Senior Plenary Session - Congressman Moylan (GU-AL)

Date: Wed, 19 Feb 2025 22:45:18 -0000

Importance: Normal

Inline-Images: ~WRD2100.jpg

Hello Michael,

Thank you for sharing Congressman Moylan's presentation. I just printed it out for a closer read. I genuinely enjoyed informally interacting with the Congressman after the formal session ended this morning.

Don't hesitate to let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Sciacca, Michael <Michael.Sciacca@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:04 PM

To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Bello, Maria <Maria.Bello@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Remarks for the 2025 Senior Plenary Session - Congressman Moylan (GU-AL)

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Håfa Adai Mr. Cameron,

It was a pleasure meeting you today and we thank DOI for continuing to host these important meetings. Per your request during today's Senior Plenary Session, please find attached a copy of the presentation delivered by Congressman Moylan. Please let me know if anything else is needed on this request.

I am also looping in our Director of Operations, Maria Bello, who can assist in finding some time for the Congressman to meet with you again.

Very respectfully,
Michael

--

Michael Sciacca

Legislative Assistant

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