United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2019-00777

August 30, 2019

Via Email: hart.wood@americanoversight.org; sara.creighton@americanoversight.org

Hart Wood
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, B255
Washington, DC 20005

Re: American Oversight v. U.S. Department of the Interior, 1:19-cv-01857

Dear Mr. Wood:

On April 23, 2019, Mr. Austin Evers of American Oversight filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking the following:

> All communications (including email messages, email attachments, calendar invitations or entries, and any handwritten or typed notes from meetings) between the custodians listed below and the following individuals and entities, regarding the mining leases of Twin Metals in Minnesota:
>
> a. Representative Tom Emmer, and anyone acting on his behalf or serving on his staff, including but not limited to Christopher Maneval (Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov), David Fitzsimmons (David.fitzsimmons@mail.house.gov), Alyssa Anderson (alyssa.anderson@mail.house.gov), Landon Zinda (landon.zinda@mail.house.gov), and Catherine Lenz (Catherine.lenz@mail.house.gov).
> b. Representative Paul Gosar, and anyone acting on his behalf or serving on his staff, including but not limited to Thomas Van Flein (tom.vanflein@mail.house.gov), Leslie Foti (leslie.foti@mail.house.gov), Rory Burke (rory.burke@mail.house.gov), and Jeff Small (jeff.small@mail.house.gov).
>
> We request that DOI's search include the records of the following custodians:
> i. Ryan Zinke, former Secretary, and anyone who served as Mr. Zinke's Chief of Staff, including Scott Hommel, or Scheduler, including Samantha Hebert and her predecessor;
> ii. David Bernhardt, Secretary, and anyone who has served as Secretary

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Bernhardt's Chief of Staff including Todd Willens, or Scheduler, including Samantha Hebert and Gareth Rees;
iii. Joseph Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, and anyone who has served as Mr. Balash's Deputy or Chief of Staff;
iv. Anyone who has served as Chief or Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, including Katharine MacGregor and Downey Magallanes;
v. Anyone serving as Acting Solicitor or Principal Deputy Solicitor (including Daniel Jorjani), and any Chiefs of Staff and Counselors in the Office of the Solicitor;
vi. Anyone serving as White House Liaison, including Lori Mashburn;
vii. Todd Wynn, Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs;
viii. Cole Rojewski, Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs;
ix. Matthew Quinn, Attorney-Advisor for BLM; and
x. All political appointees* in the Immediate Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, including former appointees who have since departed DOI, such as advisor Blake Deeley.

We request that BLM's search include the records of the following custodians:
i. The Immediate Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, including anyone serving in an acting capacity as Director or Deputy Director of Policy and Programs or Operations;
ii. The Assistant Director of Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management; and
iii. The Senior Advisor for the Bureau of Land Management, Kathleen Benedetto.

*"Political appointee" should be understood as any person who is a Presidential Appointee with Senate Confirmation (PAS), a Presidential Appointee (PA), a Non-career SES, any Schedule C employees, or any persons hired under Temporary Non-career SES Appointments, Limited Term SES Appointments, or Temporary Transitional Schedule C Appointments.

In addition to the records requested above, American Oversight also requests records describing the processing of this request, including records sufficient to identify search terms used, locations and custodians searched, and any tracking sheets used to track the processing of this request. If your agency uses FOIA questionnaires or certifications completed by individual custodians or components to determine whether they possess responsive materials or to describe how they conducted searches, we also request any such records prepared in connection with the processing of this request.

Mr. Wood's request was received in the Office of the Secretary FOIA office on April 24, 2019 and acknowledged on April 24, 2017.

We are writing today to provide partial response to Mr. Evers' request. We have enclosed 1 file consisting of 34 pages. Of those 34 pages, all are being released in full.

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Mr. Hart Wood

If you have any questions about our response to your request, you may contact Gabriel Lohr by phone at 202-219-1790, by fax at 202-208-6475, by email at Gabriel.Lohr@sol.doi.gov, or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C St, N.W., Division of General Law, Office of the Solicitor, Washington, D.C. 2024

Sincerely,

For Clarice Julka
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Officer

Electronic Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Rep. Emmer & Rep. Nolan Meeting

Created by: caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov

Time
3:30pm - 4pm (Eastern Time - New York)

Date
Wed Apr 26, 2017

Where
Office of the Secretary

Guests
- Amanda Kaster
- cdr06@ios.doi.gov
- Micah Chambers
- Katharine MacGregor
- Kathleen Benedetto
- Christine Bauserman
  BM to Kate, Kathy 4/19/17

Description
Attendees:
Rep Emmer
Landon Zinda, Legislative Counsel
Rep. Nolan
Will Mitchell, staff

Topic:
Twin Metals Lease

Lead Staff:
Micah Chambers

Lead Briefing:
Kathy Benedetto
Kate Macgregor

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Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Call with Sec. Zinke

Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 1:53 PM
To: caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov

Can we get cones put out for them?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brown, Taryn" <Taryn.Brown@mail.house.gov>
Date: April 24, 2017 at 12:34:22 PM EDT
To: "'Chambers, Micah'" <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Call with Sec. Zinke

Hi Micah,

Do you have any specific instructions for entering the building? Will you be able to put up cones for parking out front? In previous visits we were able to have those. Any other instructions would be helpful!

Thank you,

Taryn

From: Chambers, Micah [mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Brown, Taryn <Taryn.Brown@mail.house.gov>
Cc: SIO, Scheduling <scheduling_sio@ios.doi.gov>; Braun, Kate <Kate.Braun@mail.house.gov>; Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>; Scheduling SIO <scheduling@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with Sec. Zinke

Thanks Taryn and Kate. Please note, it's a max of one staffer with the member so we can accommodate everyone. Looking forward to sitting down.

On Thu, Apr 13, 2017 at 12:10 PM, Brown, Taryn <Taryn.Brown@mail.house.gov> wrote:

> That works for Congressman Nolan and Will Mitchell will be joining him.
>
> Taryn

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From: caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov [mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov] **On Behalf Of** SIO, Scheduling
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Braun, Kate <Kate.Braun@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Chambers, Micah <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>; Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>; Scheduling SIO <scheduling@ios.doi.gov>; Brown, Taryn <Taryn.Brown@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Re: Call with Sec. Zinke

Hi Kate,

We could do 3:30-4:00 that on the 26th in the Secretary's office!

Please confirm any staffers who would join Rep. Emmer and Rep. Nolan.

Best,

Caroline

On Tue, Apr 11, 2017 at 5:03 PM, Braun, Kate <Kate.Braun@mail.house.gov> wrote:

> Hi Micah,
>
> Rep. Nolans office (copied on this email) and I found that April 26th 3pm-4pm may work best for a meeting. Does that work for the Secretary?
>
> Kate Braun
>
> Director of Operations and Scheduler
>
> Congressman Tom Emmer (MN-06)
>
> 315 Cannon –*New Location*
>
> Office: 763-241-6848
>
> Cell: 202-309-4901
>
> *Please note that all meetings with the Congressman are subject to change with little or no notice.*
>
> **From:** Chambers, Micah [mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 10:18 AM
> **To:** Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>
> **Cc:** Braun, Kate <Kate.Braun@mail.house.gov>; Scheduling SIO <scheduling@ios.doi.gov>

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Subject: Re: Call with Sec. Zinke

I have Caroline on the email now. She's been swamped getting ready for the Secretary's upcoming travel. I think we were looking at that first week back from recess, but I don't believe there's a date set. What would be helpful is if you and Nolan's office can propose a couple possible times for that week to help narrow it down for Caroline.

On Tue, Apr 11, 2017 at 11:05 AM, Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov> wrote:

> Hey Micah –
>
> Just wanted to circle back and see if you guys had a date in mind that works best for the Secretary?
>
> Thanks!
>
> Chris
>
> **From:** Chambers, Micah [mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]
> **Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2017 12:29 PM
>
> **To:** Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Call with Sec. Zinke
>
> Yes. Let them know we received their request to meet, but had already been working on the issue with your boss. But we're are fine with combining the meeting requests into one. Send me your scheduler's contact info as well and I'll get our two scheduling worlds working on this.
>
> Micah
>
> On Thu, Mar 30, 2017 at 12:26 PM, Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hey Micah –
> >
> > Just wanted to follow up on our call yesterday. Are you OK if I notify Rep Nolan's office that the Secretary is amenable to them joining my boss during his meeting, once we set a date?
> >
> > Thanks again for all of your help.
> >
> > Chris

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From: Chambers, Micah [mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with Sec. Zinke

Chris. Can you give me a call about this? Work cell is 202.706.9093

On Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 8:27 AM, Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov> wrote:

> Micah –
>
> Hope you had a smooth transition over to Interior and congrats again for making the jump. I wanted to see if we can schedule a time next week for my boss to speak with Secretary Zinke about an issue they had been discussing prior to his confirmation. I think you guys have been in touch with a few of the stakeholders interested in the Twin Metals lease issue as well as the application for withdrawal of over 200,000+ acres of land in MN.
>
> Both of these items are important to my boss and it'd be great to get him on the line with the Secretary to discuss options on how we might be able to address some of these issues moving forward.
>
> I know you guys are slammed so thank you for whatever you might be able to accommodate. Let me know what works for you guys.
>
> -Chris
>
> Chris Maneval
>
> Legislative Director
>
> Representative Tom Emmer (MN-06)
>
> 315 Cannon House Office Building
>
> Washington, D.C. 20515
>
> (202) 225-2331

--

Micah Chambers

Special Assistant / Acting Director

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs

Office of the Secretary of the Interior

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Micah Chambers

Special Assistant / Acting Director

Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs

Office of the Secretary of the Interior

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Micah Chambers

Special Assistant / Acting Director

Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs

Office of the Secretary of the Interior

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Micah Chambers

Special Assistant / Acting Director

Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs

Office of the Secretary of the Interior

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Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Call with Sec. Zinke

1 message

Chambers, Micah <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Mar 30, 2017 at 12:48 PM
To: Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>

This is Emmer's scheduler. Start the process with her to set up the Twin Metals meeting and please have either Amanda or I in the meeting and definitely benedetto.
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Maneval, Christopher** <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>
Date: Thu, Mar 30, 2017 at 12:34 PM
Subject: Re: Call with Sec. Zinke
To: "Chambers, Micah" <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>

Sounds good - her email is Kate.Braun@mail.house.gov

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 30, 2017, at 12:30 PM, Chambers, Micah <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Yes. Let them know we received their request to meet, but had already been working on the issue with your boss. But we're are fine with combining the meeting requests into one. Send me your scheduler's contact info as well and I'll get our two scheduling worlds working on this.
>
> Micah
>
> On Thu, Mar 30, 2017 at 12:26 PM, Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov> wrote:
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> > Hey Micah –
> >
> > Just wanted to follow up on our call yesterday. Are you OK if I notify Rep Nolan's office that the Secretary is amenable to them joining my boss during his meeting, once we set a date?
> >
> > Thanks again for all of your help.
> >
> > Chris
> >
> > **From:** Chambers, Micah [mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]
> > **Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2017 1:03 PM
> > **To:** Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>
> > **Subject:** Re: Call with Sec. Zinke
> >
> > Chris. Can you give me a call about this? Work cell is 202.706.9093

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On Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 8:27 AM, Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov> wrote:

> Micah –
>
> Hope you had a smooth transition over to Interior and congrats again for making the jump. I wanted to see if we can schedule a time next week for my boss to speak with Secretary Zinke about an issue they had been discussing prior to his confirmation. I think you guys have been in touch with a few of the stakeholders interested in the Twin Metals lease issue as well as the application for withdrawal of over 200,000+ acres of land in MN.
>
> Both of these items are important to my boss and it'd be great to get him on the line with the Secretary to discuss options on how we might be able to address some of these issues moving forward.
>
> I know you guys are slammed so thank you for whatever you might be able to accommodate. Let me know what works for you guys.
>
> -Chris
>
> Chris Maneval
>
> Legislative Director
>
> Representative Tom Emmer (MN-06)
>
> 315 Cannon House Office Building
>
> Washington, D.C. 20515
>
> (202) 225-2331

--

Micah Chambers

Special Assistant / Acting Director

Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs

Office of the Secretary of the Interior

--
Micah Chambers
Special Assistant / Acting Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

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--

Micah Chambers
Special Assistant / Acting Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

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Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>

Meeting with Sec. Zinke

Braun, Kate <Kate.Braun@mail.house.gov> Thu, Apr 6, 2017 at 1:29 PM
To: "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Maneval, Christopher" <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>

Hi Caroline,

Just circling back to see if you were able to determine a date that works best for the Secretary.

Please let me know! Thanks!
kate

Kate Braun

Director of Operations and Scheduler

Congressman Tom Emmer (MN-06)

315 Cannon –*New Location*

Office: 763-241-6848

Cell: 202-309-4901

Please note that all meetings with the Congressman are subject to change with little or no notice.

From: Braun, Kate
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:40 AM
To: 'Boulton, Caroline' <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Maneval, Christopher <Christopher.Maneval@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Sec. Zinke

Hi Caroline,

I apologize for the delay! I was out of the office yesterday without access to email. As far as times that work best, here are some that are best(in preferred order).

April 26: Anytime between 1pm and 5pm

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April 27: Anytime between 1pm and 5pm

If neither of those blocks work for the Secretary, please let me know!

Thanks,

Kate

Kate Braun

Director of Operations and Scheduler

Congressman Tom Emmer (MN-06)

315 Cannon –*New Location*

Office: 763-241-6848

Cell: 202-309-4901

Please note that all meetings with the Congressman are subject to change with little or no notice.

From: Boulton, Caroline [mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Braun, Kate <Kate.Braun@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Meeting with Sec. Zinke

Hi Kate,

Our Congressional Affairs office has been coordinating with Chris in your office to determine a time to meet with your boss and Rep. Nolan regarding the Twin Metals lease issue.

My understanding was that you all were looking to schedule a meeting the week following the Congressional recess. I wanted to confirm that week worked for you. I haven't planned that week out yet, but we can be in touch as we get closer to work out times. If there's a time that would work best for your boss to get off the hill for a meeting, let me know and we can try to work around that over here. It gets a little easier when you don't have to plan around Committee and votes!

Best,

Caroline

--

Caroline Boulton

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Department of the Interior

Scheduling & Advance

Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov I Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

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Label: "FOIA/OS-2019-00777 - ROJEWSKI"

Created by:cole_rojewski@ios.doi.gov

Total Messages in label:2 (2 conversations)

Created: 07-23-2019 at 06:54 AM

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Conversation Contents

RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota

Attachments:

/1. RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota/1.1 ~WRD295.jpg
/1. RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota/1.2 image001.png
/1. RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota/1.3 image002.png
/1. RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota/1.4 image003.png
/1. RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota/1.5 image004.png
/1. RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota/1.6 image005.png
/1. RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota/1.7 image006.png

"Small, Jeff" <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov>

From:	"Small, Jeff" <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov>
Sent:	Wed Jun 12 2019 17:38:30 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"'Rojewski, Cole'" <cole_rojewski@ios.doi.gov>
CC:	"Van Flein, Tom" <Tom.VanFlein@mail.house.gov>
Subject:	RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota
Attachments:	~WRD295.jpg image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png

Just tried you.

Sorry for the delay. Busy day.

Jeff Small
Executive Director | *Congressional Western Caucus*
Senior Advisor | *Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.*
2057 Rayburn HOB | Washington, DC 20515
https://westerncaucus.house.gov
(202) 225-2315 main
jeff.small@mail.house.gov

ht	ht	ht	re ins

From: Rojewski, Cole [mailto:cole_rojewski@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 5:07 PM
To: Small, Jeff
Cc: Van Flein, Tom
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota

Tried calling you. Give me a shout if you have a second

On Wed, Jun 12, 2019 at 11:51 AM Small, Jeff <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Cole,

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Here is the agenda for the trip that Rep. Gosar and Tom requested you all send someone on.

Let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

Jeff Small
Executive Director | Congressional Western Caucus
Senior Advisor | Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
2057 Rayburn HOB | Washington, DC 20515
https://westerncaucus house.gov
(202) 225-2315 main
jeff.small@mail house.gov

ht	ht	ht	re: in:

From: Small, Jeff
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:42 AM
To: Small, Jeff
Cc: Morley, Andrew; Igo, Spencer
Subject: Deadline Today: WC Visit to Minnesota

cid:image001.png@01D51D47.3596B390

Western Caucus Northeastern Minnesota Mine Tours
6/28/19

Final reminder that Reps. Stauber and Gosar **invite Members of Congress and staff** to join them on an upcoming Western Caucus mine tour trip to the Iron Range in Northeastern Minnesota.

We have four Members attending so far and more than a dozen staffers. This is going to be a great mining trip and we hope you and your boss can join!

The initial deadline to RSVP and make your reservations is today, June 12.

The trip includes visiting U.S. Steel's Minntac mine for a presentation and tour, visiting PolyMet for a presentation and tour, and a presentation from Twin Metals' leadership.

We'll be staying at Giant's Ridge on Thursday night, a resort in the region. We have a block of rooms reserved. The reservation number is 30527 and the total is $169.25 for the night with taxes. Once we have concluded the tours on Friday, we have reserved another block of rooms at the Holiday Inn in Hermantown which is a great place to stay to prepare for the return home and stay Friday night. You can call the hotel directly to make the reservation 218-722-0909 using the group code: USA. A room is $259 dollars a night. Busy time has hit in the Northland!

Apart from the lodging details, here is a good flight for the evening that would bring you to Duluth.
Delta:
Flight #DL1589

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Departs-5:44pm
Arrives-8:36pm

Itinerary for Friday 6/28/19
8:00am-Wake up and light breakfast
8:30am-Depart for U.S Steel MinnTac
9:00am-Arrive at U.S Steel MinnTac for Presentation and Tour
12:00pm-Depart U.S Steel MinnTac for The Quarry Overlook and media interviews
12:30pm-Arrive at The Quarry for interviews
1:00pm-Lunch at Giants Ridge
2:00pm-Depart for PolyMet
2:30pm-Arrive at PolyMet for Presentation and Tour
4:30pm-Depart PolyMet
5:00pm-Arrive at Giants Ridge
5:30pm-Dinner with Presentation from Twin Metals
7:30pm-End of Day

In case you missed it, there was an excellent story recently published by the Wall Street Journal in relation to the Twin Metals project.

Please contact Andrew Morley at Andrew.Morley@mail.house.gov, Spencer Igo at Spencer.Igo@mail.house.gov or Jeff Small Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov to RSVP or with questions.

Jeff Small
Executive Director | Congressional Western Caucus
Senior Advisor | Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
2057 Rayburn HOB | Washington, DC 20515
https://westerncaucus house.gov
(202) 225-2315 main
jeff.small@mail house.gov

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Cole Rojewski
Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

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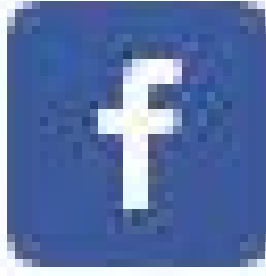
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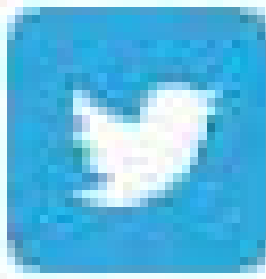
NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

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7

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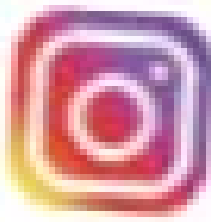

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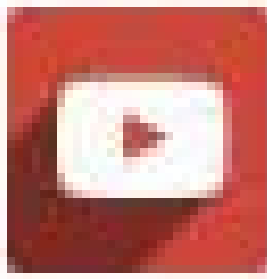
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DHS-19-0538-A-000022



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Label: "FOIA/OS-2019-00777 - ROJEWSKI"

Created by:cole_rojewski@ios.doi.gov

Total Messages in label:2 (2 conversations)

Created: 07-23-2019 at 06:54 AM

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Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] Draft Gosar questions and lead-in for today's budget hearing

Attachments:

/2. [EXTERNAL] Draft Gosar questions and lead-in for today's budget hearing/1.1 image001.png
/2. [EXTERNAL] Draft Gosar questions and lead-in for today's budget hearing/1.2 image002.png
/2. [EXTERNAL] Draft Gosar questions and lead-in for today's budget hearing/1.3 image003.png
/2. [EXTERNAL] Draft Gosar questions and lead-in for today's budget hearing/1.4 image004.png
/2. [EXTERNAL] Draft Gosar questions and lead-in for today's budget hearing/1.5 Gosar leadin and questions 5.15.19 Bernhardt Hearing.docx

"Small, Jeff" <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov>

From:	"Small, Jeff" <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov>
Sent:	Wed May 15 2019 03:52:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"cole_rojewski@ios.doi.gov" <cole_rojewski@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "taylor_playforth@ios.doi.gov" <taylor_playforth@ios.doi.gov>, "katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov" <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, "todd_willens@ios.doi.gov" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Draft Gosar questions and lead-in for today's budget hearing
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png Gosar leadin and questions 5.15.19 Bernhardt Hearing.docx

Attached are the questions and statements I drafted for Rep. Gosar for today's "budget hearing."

Wanted to pass along so the Secretary wasn't caught off-guard.

He probably won't get to the round two questions but included just in case.

Apologies for not sending this over sooner.

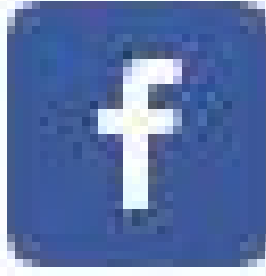
Sincerely,

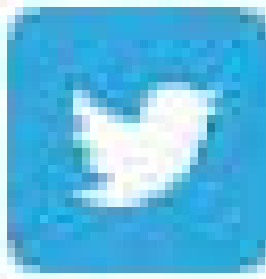
Jeff Small
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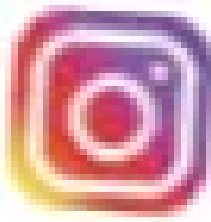

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Gosar Lead-in Statement

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

- First of all, I would like to commend you Mr. Secretary for the excellent job you are doing at the Department.

- During your tenure at DOI, you have worked diligently to increase hunting and fishing access, ensure clean water for future generations and empower local decision-making amongst other remarkable accomplishments.

- I often tell people, I wish other agencies were functioning as well and doing as much as the Department has done with your calling the shots.

- Just imagine what we could get done if the Chairman and other Democrats on this Committee worked with you, instead of against you.

- Mr. Secretary, I would also like to apologize for my friends on the other side of the aisle that decided to waste your time with this ridiculous hearing.

- Once again, the Democrats on the Committee aren't being transparent about their real agenda here today.

- Once again, Democrats on the Committee failed to produce a public hearing memo, in violation of their own Committee rules, so the media and American people know what is supposed to occur today.

- Once again, Democrats want to talk about anything other than the point of the hearing, which is supposed to be about the excellent budget produced by the Department of the Interior.

- Mr. Chairman, this circus you are running here today is embarrassing and you and your staff should be ashamed.

- This hearing should really be called, "Let's try to tear down a good man and waste his time by throwing out a bunch of bogus allegations and claims that have absolutely no merit."

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Gosar potential 1st Round of Questions

- Mr. Secretary, let's talk about actual things in the Department's budget.

- Myself and numerous members of this Committee support the administration's proposed reorganization and moving some operations out West. I have an appropriation's submission here (*hold up letter*) submitted by nearly a dozen of my colleagues and I that supports DOI's reorg. Mr. Chairman, I ask permission to submit this signed request for the Committee record? (*Wait for Grijalva to say without objection*).

  Mr. Secretary, a government closest to the people serves the people best. DOI's reorg will save taxpayer money and increase efficiency. Can you quickly elaborate on why the Department's reorganization is so important?

- Let's talk forestry. I also have an appropriation's submission here (*hold up letter*) submitted by 16 of my colleagues and I supporting DOI and the Forest Service's proposed legislative forestry packages that were included in the budget. Mr. Chairman, I ask permission to submit this signed request for the Committee record? (*Wait for Grijalva to say without objection*).

  Mr. Secretary, 2017 and 2018 were bad wildfire seasons with more than 120,000 fires burning more than 18 million federal acres. The Camp Fire cost more than $12.5 billion in insured losses, claimed 88 lives and destroyed nearly 14,000 homes. I applaud the Administration for recognizing the system is broken and including these legislative active management reforms in the budget. Can you elaborate on why these reforms are important and how they will help protect our communities?

- Mr. Secretary, you testified that strong ethics within DOI and compliance with the law are such a priority that DOI has hired 42 professional ethics advisors under the Trump Admin. and has already doubled the number of career ethics officials hired by the Obama Administration. I would argue that under your leadership, DOI is probably the most transparent, ethical and lawful agency out there. Anything you would like to add in that regard?

- Mr. Secretary, anything said earlier that you would like to respond to?

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Gosar potential 2nd Round of Questions

- Mr. Secretary, I was pleased to see yesterday that the House Democratic Appropriations Committee accepted the Department's proposed separation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education and included this proposal in their appropriation's bill. Can you elaborate on why this will save taxpayer money and improve efficiency and why this proposal will yield important benefits for Indian country?

- Mr. Secretary, I understand Democrats sent DOI a letter prior to the hearing with a bunch of false and ridiculous claims that have nothing to do with the budget, yet they are still bringing up here today. If these false claims had any merit, then they would have been transparent and provided a copy to Republicans on this Committee or included in a hearing memo. I'd like to run through some of the bogus claims and give you an opportunity to respond.

  Your decision to find a way to keep many of our National Parks open during the shutdown was very important to my district and the state of Arizona. It prevented significant harm to our tourism economy and local businesses. And it is a clear contrast between the way this administration operates and the way the Obama Administration operated by wasting taxpayer money erecting barriers to keep our veterans out of their memorials. Can you elaborate on why what you did there was important and a lawful use of FLREA funds?

  Mr. Secretary, the Dems falsely claim the Department doesn't respond to their litany of FOI requests and document demands. DOI provided 19,982 pages of requested info in relation to the Trump Administration's National Monument review, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided 8,500 pages of requested info in relation to Twin Metals. The list goes on and on. Can you elaborate on how transparent DOI has been and what all you have done to improve this process and respond to this flood of ridiculous requests?

(Continued on next page)

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Mr. Secretary, the Dems falsely claim you aren't being transparent about who you are meeting with. DOI has produced 27,000 pages of schedules, calendars, and daily cards just responding to the Committees' requests. I know you are extremely responsive, meet with folks on both sides of the aisle and ultimately make your decisions based on the merits and your principles. But can you quickly discuss why your calendar of all things isn't a concern and reiterate that you don't give any special favors to anyone that you meet with?

One of the bogus claims extreme groups and Dems on this Committee try to make is that you are selling out to special interests or the oil and gas industry. I know you are a Coloradan that cares deeply about protecting the environment. I know you have led multiple initiatives to ensure the preservation of some of our nation's treasures for sportsmen. I know you are a big hunter and fisherman. I have heard you talk about how the 1980s shale bust in your hometown deeply impacted you and have heard you publicly state that some areas just aren't appropriate for oil and gas development. Only 9.3% of the 700-million-acre federal mineral estate is leased for oil and gas development and I know you don't give special favors to anyone. Anything you'd like to add or did I do ok addressing that false narrative?

- Thank you again for being here Mr. Secretary. I don't lose a minute of sleep worrying about these absurd claims against you and DOI by extremist groups and people as I know you know the law and Department better than anyone that has ever been in your position and that you are an honest man, full of integrity. Put simply, you are the leader the Department and the American people deserve. I wish my friends on the other side of the aisle would realize these things and work with you as opposed to against you. America, would be much better off if they did. With that, I yield back.

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