

# Conversation Contents

## DOI Daily Report

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**Subject:** DOI Daily Report

## INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

### NEWS TO SHARE:

#### [E&E News: Interior review omits oil and gas rule](#)

*"The Interior Department could skip one rule in its effort to erase all agency actions that unduly strain U.S. energy production. Last week, Interior unveiled its review of all department actions with the potential to burden domestic energy activity. The report touched on the department's ongoing examination of rules introduced by the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service under the previous administration to guide oversight of oil and gas operations on sites the agencies manage."*

### CORRECTING THE RECORD:

#### [Reuters: Trump move stirs debate over Utah monuments](#)

*"President Donald Trump's announcement last week that he intends to reduce the size of two national monuments covering millions of acres of Utah wilderness has stoked local divisions over land use, with all sides anticipating a protracted battle over the move. On one side, Native American groups and environmentalists expressed anger and are ready to sue the U.S. government. On the other, conservative-leaning residents welcomed the decision, seeing it as a reversal of government overreach and a boost for traditional industries like drilling, mining and grazing."*

- **Secretary Zinke's statement:** "No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object. The recommendations I sent to the president on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much-needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation."

#### [Huffington Post: Trump's Exit From Anti-Corruption Pact Helps Big Oil Hide How Much It Pays](#)

## In US Taxes

*“The Trump administration has pulled out of a global deal to combat corruption in the fossil fuel industry, a move critics said could help oil companies keep hidden how much they pay in U.S. taxes. The Department of the Interior announced the decision on Thursday in a letter to withdraw immediately from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which compels oil, gas and mining companies to disclose payments to governments worldwide. The United Kingdom, Canada and many European Union nations already require such disclosures, and the 15-year-old initiative is credited with establishing the foundation for reform in countries such as Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo. But the U.S., which joined in 2014, only finalized rules calling for disclosures in July 2016, under the Dodd-Frank reform law passed during the Great Recession. In February, Trump signed a congressional resolution to repeal the Securities and Exchange Commission regulation, essentially leaving the U.S. without a tool to enforce EITI standards.”*

### **TALKING POINTS**

- Transparency and good governance in extractive sectors in developing nations is a worthy goal, and remains an aspect of the United States’ foreign policy objectives. At the same time, President Donald Trump’s America-First agenda prioritizes American national security and American energy dominance. Going forward, our participation as a supporting member of EITI will continue as proof of our commitment to the advancement of democracy and freedom around the world, but it will also be judged on how it benefits our citizens.
- The notion of our U.S. government compelling American companies to publish their books, a component of full EITI implementation, runs counter to the pillars of the free market system that built our nation – this is a serious violation of American business’ informational privacy. We must be vigilant in the defense of privacy and economic freedom for our own citizens and institutions first. In this spirit, the steps required to become an implementing member of EITI run counter to American law. In light of this impossible hurdle, our nation will not implement the initiative, but we will continue to support its goals in other nations around the world.
- The United States has led the global initiative in providing revenue related data and information in an interactive, open-source data portal and by regularly engaging with other implementing countries to share our best practices.

## THE HILL: Democrats oppose effort to delay or repeal Interior methane rule

*“More than 80 Democrats have asked the Interior Department not to delay or repeal a rule updating limits on methane leaks from oil and natural drilling sites on federal land. The Interior Department last month proposed delaying implementation of an Obama administration rule to cut down on pollution of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking to hold off on instating the rule until January 2019, and it is reassessing whether the rule should be fully “rescinded or significantly revised” in the meantime.”*

- **DOI statement:** "As part of President Trump's America-First Energy Strategy and executive order, the Department has reviewed and flagged the Waste Prevention rule as one we will suspend, revise or rescind given its significant regulatory burden that encumbers American energy production, economic growth and job creation. The rule is expected to have real and harmful impacts on onshore energy development and could impact state and local jobs and revenue. Small independent oil and gas producers in states like North Dakota,



Colorado and New Mexico, which account for a substantial portion of our nation's energy wealth, could be hit the hardest."

## OTHER TOP STORIES:

### [Reuters: Former Puerto Rico official denies any role in Whitefish deal](#)

*"A former Puerto Rico official who has been mentioned in connection with a controversial contract to restore electricity to the bankrupt U.S. territory after Hurricane Maria has denied having any role in securing it. In papers filed on Friday in federal court in San Juan, Elias Sanchez, a friend and one-time adviser to Governor Ricardo Rossello, said under penalty of perjury that he "never had any kind of relationship" with contractor Whitefish Energy or its principals. Rossello has come under fire for his handling of cleanup efforts since the September hurricane, the most powerful storm to hit Puerto Rico in 90 years."*

### [Washington Post: Powerful lawmaker wants to 'invalidate' the Endangered Species Act. He's getting close.](#)

*"Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) recently shepherded five bills out of the Natural Resources Committee he chairs that would dismantle the law piece by piece. Many Republicans on the panel say the proposals are necessary changes that would modernize the 1973 law. Democrats and conservationists say the bills would whittle away the law's ability to save wildlife from extinction. One measure would force the federal government to consider the economic impact of saving a species rather than make a purely scientific call. Another would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the act along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to defer to data collected by states as the "best scientific and commercial data available," although state funding related to the act accounts for a small fraction of that supported by the federal government."*

### [Associated Press: On eve of Asia trip, Trump pays visit to Pearl Harbor](#)

*"President Donald Trump paid a solemn visit to the memorial at Pearl Harbor, a sacred journey for a commander-in-chief about to depart on an Asia trip that will be shadowed by fears of another international conflict. Trump saluted Friday after entering the USS Arizona memorial following a short boat ride with first lady Melania Trump. They approached a wreath of white flowers — a gift from the couple — and watched as two sailors who stood beside it at attention placed the wreath near a wall of names of the fallen."*

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Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary  
Department of the Interior

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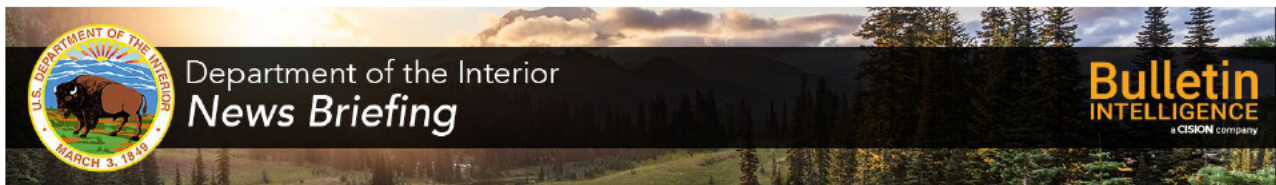
**U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, November 6, 2017**

## **Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>**

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**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
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**To:** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, November 6, 2017

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**DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017 6:00 AM EST**

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## DOI In The News

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### Trump Move Stirs Debate Over Utah Monuments.

[Reuters](#) (11/3, Cullen) reports that President Trump's announcement last week that he intends to reduce the size of two national monuments in Utah has "stoked local divisions over land use, with all sides anticipating a protracted battle over the move." According to the article, "on one side, Native American groups and environmentalists expressed anger and are ready to sue the U.S. government." Meanwhile, "on the other, conservative-leaning residents welcomed the decision, seeing it as a reversal of government overreach and a boost for traditional industries like drilling, mining and grazing."

Additional coverage was provided by [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (11/3, Huntington).

*Greens Sue Trump For National Monument Documents.* [The Hill](#) (11/3, Cama) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups is suing the Trump administration to try to obtain Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations for which national monuments to shrink." The groups, "led by Earthjustice, accuse the Interior Department, its Bureau of Land Management and the White House Council on Environmental Quality of breaking the law by missing a key deadline to respond to their Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for the recommendations."

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (11/3, Flitter) and [Law360](#) (11/3, Phillis).

### Democrats Oppose Effort To Delay Or Repeal Interior Methane Rule.

[The Hill](#) (11/3, Henry) reports 81 House and Senate Democrats sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke asking him "not to delay or repeal a rule updating limits on methane leaks from oil and natural drilling sites on federal land." The lawmakers said that they support the Bureau of Land Management's rule, as it "prevents the unnecessary waste of a public resource, and makes sure that American taxpayers get fair value in return for commercial use of that public resource."

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/4, Romeo) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recently "said the BLM will seek a one-year delay for the rule that was supposed to take effect January 2018, though its unclear if he intends to rewrite the rule or completely dismantle it." The article notes that "a public comment on the decision can be made online until Monday."

*New Mexico Regulators Report Drop In Methane Emissions.* The [AP](#) (10/19, Bryan) reports that "methane emissions from oil and natural gas production in New Mexico have dropped by more than 50 percent over the past year thanks to advances in technology and changes in the way wells are drilled, state regulators said Friday." Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Secretary Ken McQueen "told a panel of state lawmakers that most companies actively drilling in New Mexico are abiding by reporting requirements

and are tracking the volumes of methane intentionally released through venting and flaring as part of their operations." Also, "with 60,000 active wells being documented each month, McQueen said his agency found 56 instances in which operators failed to report the required data." He testified, "That leads us to believe we have a very high compliance level."

### **Western Governors Want Federal Help In Invasive Mussel Fight.**

The [AP](#) (11/3, Ridler) reports that the Western Governors' Association, which represents the governors of 19 Western states, on Thursday "sent a letter urging Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to put in place by spring 2018 controls to prevent the spread of zebra and quagga mussels." The AP states that the letter "is the second they've sent this year about invasive mussels to Zinke." The AP adds the governors are "particularly concerned about the mussels reaching the Columbia River Basin, Lake Tahoe, and the Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell."

### **Interior Review Omits Oil And Gas Rule.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/3, King) reports that last week, the Interior Department "unveiled its review of all department actions with the potential to burden domestic energy activity." The report "touched on the department's ongoing examination of rules introduced by the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service under the previous administration to guide oversight of oil and gas operations on sites the agencies manage." However, "beyond a mention of Secretary Ryan Zinke's secretarial order listing four Interior rules pinpointed in President Trump's March 28 'energy independence' directive, the NPS rule doesn't even appear in the document." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift explained, "The NPS rule was under review. No action has been taken or identified for it, which is why it is not in the report."

### **Trump Urged Native American Leaders To Extract Resources From Their Land: Report.**

[The Hill](#) (11/5, Thomsen) reports that President Trump "reportedly encouraged Native American leaders to 'just do it' and extract resources from their own land, despite federal regulations blocking them from doing so, Axios reported on Sunday." According to the article, "after the leaders told Trump they couldn't drill for the resources because of regulations, Trump reportedly said: 'But now it's me. The government's different now. Obama's gone; and we're doing things differently here.'" However, "a person in the meeting disputed that Trump was telling the leaders to break federal law and start drilling on the land, telling Axios that the remarks were just 'Trump speak.'"

### **Trump's Exit From Anti-Corruption Pact Helps Big Oil Hide How Much It Pays In US Taxes.**

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/4, Kaufman) reported that the Interior Department announced Thursday the United States would withdraw immediately from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), "a move critics said could help oil companies keep hidden how much they pay in U.S. taxes." [NPR](#) (11/3, Chappell) reported that the EITI is designed to collect and share government and corporation data showing "how much money is being paid and received for oil, gas, mining and renewable energy operations on public lands." Since the summer, the US has cited multiple factors as obstacles to remaining in the group, including the Trade Secrets Act and tax reporting laws. However, "a State Department spokesperson says the U.S. will remain as one of 17 'supporting countries' of the initiative."

[CNBC](#) (11/3, DiChristopher) reports that the Trump administration is being criticized for its decision to withdraw from its role as an implementing country in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on Thursday. Corinna Gilfillan, head of the U.S. office of Global Witness, said, "We strongly dispute the U.S. government's claim that U.S. laws prevent compliance with the EITI standard when it is Exxon and Chevron's preference for secrecy that made it impossible for the U.S. to comply." Gilfillan added,



"When major Russian and Chinese oil companies are disclosing more information about their deals around the world than their U.S. counterparts, you have got to ask: What are Exxon and Chevron so desperate to hide?"

### **Former Puerto Rico Official Denies Any Role In Whitefish Deal.**

[Reuters](#) (11/3, Brown) reports Elias Sanchez, a friend and one-time adviser to Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello, in papers filed on Friday in federal court in San Juan "said under penalty of perjury that he 'never had any kind of relationship' with contractor Whitefish Energy or its principals." Reuters says that although Rossello eventually "canceled the contract after an uproar over its provisions," some creditors and lawmakers suggested that the deal had been "facilitated by lobbyists, namely Sanchez, a lawyer who ran Rossello's 2016 gubernatorial campaign." According to Reuters, "Sanchez asked the court to strike references to his name in that filing, saying he had no contact with PREPA about Whitefish" while a company spokesman "said on Friday that its chief executive officer, Andy Techmanski, never met Sanchez."

### **California Asks US For \$7.4 Billion For Wildfire Rebuilding.**

The [AP](#) (11/3, Rodriguez) reports California Gov. Jerry Brown on Friday asked the federal government for \$7.4 billion to rebuild after last month's wildfires that "killed at least 43 people and destroyed about 8,900 homes and other buildings." In a letter, Brown said that while "the full economic impact to the agricultural, tourism, hospitality, and wine industries is still not known," the funding would help with cleanup and housing, transportation, agriculture, environmental protection and other programs in affected areas.

### **Wyoming's Quiet Governor Faces A Brash Interior Secretary, With A Bird In The Balance.**

In an analysis, the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/4, Richards, Rosenfeld) compares and contrasts Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke with Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and their approach to sage grouse conservation. The story is "about a federal administrator who seems close to unraveling one of the governor's signature achievements – preserving sage grouse protections – and attacking one of Mead's core beliefs about how politics should be conducted."

### **Additional Coverage: Trump Administration Threatens National Parks And Monuments.**

Additional coverage that the Trump Administration is "trying to scrap a ban against uranium mining in the watershed near the country's most renowned natural wonder: the Grand Canyon" was provided by [Newsweek](#) (11/5, Pereira).

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **Native Hawaiians Again Seek Political Sovereignty With A New Constitution.**

The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Lyte) reports that "decimated in number after the Western world first occupied the archipelago and later feeling marginalized within the federal bureaucracy, Native Hawaiians are now pushing hard to create their own nation, seeking the type of self-governance Native American tribes across the country established long ago." A group that "includes politicians, police officers, fast-food workers and farmers has drafted a new constitution and plans for a ratification vote." The article says that "leaders are working to raise \$2.5 million and have joined with a consortium of advocacy groups to spur the nation-building effort."

### **White Mountain Apache Ask For Tweak To Allow Water Project.**

The [AP](#) (11/4, Windes) reports that "a White Mountain Apache leader told House members Thursday that the tribe desperately needs to 'replace the failing and terminal



groundwater well system,' but that current Interior Department regulations are preventing the tribe from moving forward on the project." Tribe Vice Chairman Kasey Velasquez "told a House Natural Resources subcommittee that Interior officials do not oppose the project, but that they are not sure current regulations allow money from a settlement fund to be 'used for the system's cost overruns.'" The solution, the Apache claim, "is a one-page bill that would add 17 words to the law to clarify the situation." However, "Velasquez said it is needed urgently so there is no delay in work to improve the dire condition of the tribe's critical water infrastructure."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **Days Before Trial, Defense Confirms FBI Had Surveillance Camera Outside Bundy Ranch.**

The [Oregonian](#) (11/3, Bernstein) reported from Las Vegas that "more than three years after the 2014 Bundy standoff with federal officers near Bunkerville and after two trials in the case, testimony elicited in court Friday revealed for the first time that the FBI had one surveillance camera perched on a hill overlooking the Bundy Ranch." National Park Service ranger Mary Hinson testified that she "did not know if the footage, which captured images from outside the Bundy home and a stage set up miles down the road, was recorded. She said the FBI operated the camera." According to the [Oregonian](#), Hinson's testimony "came during questioning by defendant Ryan Bundy in a pretrial hearing held in federal court in Nevada."

The [AP](#) (11/5, Ritter) reports that "in opening statements Tuesday prosecutors will accuse the 71-year-old Bundy, sons Ryan and Ammon Bundy, and co-defendant Ryan Payne of enlisting a self-styled militia to defy government authority." The AP adds, "Defense attorneys say the four men didn't conspire with anyone, didn't wield weapons and didn't threaten anybody. They cast the standoff as a peaceful protest, with no shots fired and no one injured before overreaching government officials abandoned the cattle round-up and went home."

The [Oregonian](#) (11/5, Bernstein) notes that last year, "federal prosecutors in Portland suffered a stunning blow when a jury acquitted Ammon Bundy, older brother Ryan Bundy and five others in refuge takeover. Prosecutors in Nevada also were largely unsuccessful earlier this year in two trials of more minor figures in the Bunkerville standoff. Except for guilty verdicts against two of six lesser players, the trials ended with acquittals or hung juries."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (11/3, Ferrara) and the [Oregonian](#) (11/5, Bernstein).

### **Stretch Of Nevada Highway Honors Fallen BLM Firefighters.**

The [AP](#) (11/3) reports that "a stretch of state highway in northern Nevada is being named after two former firefighters for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management who died in the line of duty." Gov. Brian Sandoval "joined state transportation officials and others Thursday at the dedication honoring Will Hawkins and Jacob O'Malley along State Route 140 north of Winnemucca near the Oregon line." According to the article, "the two men died in a single-vehicle rollover crash on the highway when a tire blew out in July 2016 while on a routine patrol searching for lightning-sparked fires."

### **BLM Announces Hearings On Ambler Road.**

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (11/5, Granger) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "scheduled several public meetings to continue gathering comments about the Ambler Road Project, the proposed 200-mile road that would connect Northwest Alaska with the Dalton Highway and Fairbanks." The BLM is "working on an environmental impact statement for the project, identifying and analyzing concerns and issues associated with the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's proposal."

## Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

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### Sen. Broxson Aims To Keep Drilling Moratorium In Gulf Of Mexico.

The [Gulf Breeze \(FL\) News](#) (11/2) reported in a subscription-only article, that two Florida lawmakers filed resolutions to extend the current moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line. Noting that testing and training activists conducted from Florida's air and sea bases require "unconstrained access to the east Gulf of Mexico airspace and seaspaces." Sen. Doug Broxson said "We all want to see a broadened economic base, but never at the expense of this commitment of our military."

## Bureau Of Reclamation

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### ND Officials: Optimism Builds Over \$1 Billion Water Pipeline To Serve Red River Valley, Central ND.

The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (11/5, Springer) reports that "the push to deliver water from the Missouri River to the Red River Valley is gaining momentum and officials are optimistic that construction on the \$1 billion project will start in 2019." Currently, "35 community and rural water systems in central and eastern North Dakota have committed to the project, which aims to pipe water from the Missouri to the Sheyenne River, a tributary of the Red River." Officials are negotiating with the Bureau of Reclamation "for agreements that would enable the pipeline project to use water pumped from Lake Audubon on the Missouri and to use a portion of the McClusky Canal."

## Fish And Wildlife Service

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### Will The Energy Industry Even Want To Drill In ANWR?

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/6, Siegel) reported that despite a Republican push to allow oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, energy companies "might not be interested in taking up the opportunity." Tom Walsh, public affairs chairman and an oil and gas consultant, explained, "There is a lot of pressure from the shale play and Lower 48, and the price structure currently is not terribly supportive of activities in Alaska because we are a high-cost environment to produce oil." Meanwhile, Erik Milito, upstream director at the American Petroleum Institute, said, "Opening it would be an important step towards increasing American competitiveness and securing our nation's energy future."

### Powerful Lawmaker Wants To 'Invalidate' The Endangered Species Act. He's Getting Close.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Fears) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, "who said he 'would love to invalidate' the Endangered Species Act is closing in on his goal." Bishop "recently shepherded five bills out of the Natural Resources Committee he chairs that would dismantle the law piece by piece." The article notes that "unlike earlier GOP attempts to weaken the act, Bishop is poised to realize his ambition because of Republicans' control of both chambers of Congress and the White House."

### Walleye Delay Action On Endangered Colorado Pikeminnow.

The [AP](#) (11/5, Harmon) reports that "just as it approaches recovery, the endangered Colorado pikeminnow faces a new threat, a predator that eagerly scarfs down young pikeminnow, taking a jagged bite out of the species' overall numbers." According to the article, "walleye is a prized food fish, but its voracious appetite for pikeminnow is proving to be a setback to expectations that the pikeminnow could be removed from the endangered species list." Tom Chart, a fisheries biologist who heads the Upper Colorado River Endangered Species Recovery Program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "Walleye have gone gangbusters in Lake Powell."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/5,



Harmon).

### **Input Sought For Sport Hunting At Cross Creeks.**

The [Paris \(TN\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (11/3) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "seeking public comment through Nov. 27 on a draft sport hunting plan, environmental assessment and compatibility determination for Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge." The objective of the draft sport hunting plan is to update the 1984 Cross Creeks Sport Hunting Plan.

## **National Park Service**

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### **On Eve Of Asia Trip, Trump Pays Visit To Pearl Harbor.**

The [AP](#) (11/4, Lemire) reports President Trump "paid a solemn visit to the memorial at Pearl Harbor," in what the AP called "a sacred journey" in preparation for his trip to Asia, "shadowed by fears of another international conflict." Before going, the President said, "We are going to visit very shortly, Pearl Harbor, which I've read about, spoken about, heard about, studied, but I haven't seen. And that is going to be very exciting for me." At the memorial, the President and Mrs. Trump gave a wreath which was placed "near a wall of names of the fallen." Afterwards, they "tossed white flower petals into the waters above the battleship's sunken hull." The President, added the AP, "appeared moved by the visit." Meanwhile, he "said not a word about North Korea or its nuclear ambitions on Friday."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/4, Parker, Teague) reports the President was an "eager tourist" in Hawaii, and "appeared energetic and enthusiastic." After the flight, he "emerged from his plane buoyed, shaking heads with well-wishers on the tarmac for roughly 15 minutes," and said, "I tell you: This is very special being in Hawaii." The Post added, he "seemed genuinely excited about his planned evening visit to Pearl Harbor." The Post describes his visit to the memorial and concludes, "he was restrained and respectful, largely listening and taking in the memorial."

### **Proposed Entrance Fee Hikes At National Parks Could Backfire And Push Visitors To Annual Passes.**

The [Denver Post](#) (11/3, Blevins) reports that "a plan to bump entrance fees at the 17 busiest national parks to \$70 from \$30 during the peak summer months will help parks struggling to cover the tab for long-delayed upkeep as crowds continue to surge." However, "if that peak-season pricing plan is deployed next summer, the anticipated spike in demand for \$80 America the Beautiful annual passes – a mere \$10 extra for a year's access to about 2,000 federal recreation sites – could hinder the National Park Service's quest to balance cost-sharing between visitors and the federal government." Emily Douce, the director of budget and appropriations for the National Parks Conservation Association, said, "It is unknown how these proposed increases will impact the parks and the people who visit them, but it does seem reasonable that people will see the bargain in buying the America the Beautiful annual pass for entry into all our national parks and other federal lands. Our concern is how much analysis did the administration undergo to understand the implications of these fee increases."

Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by the [Hi-Desert \(CA\) Star](#) (11/3, Hunt) and the [Village Voice \(NY\)](#) (11/3, Gross).

### **Activists Behind A Rejected 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman In D.C.**

Have A New Plan: A 26-foot Digital Artwork Of A Naked Woman. The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Stein) reports that the activists who "wanted to place a 45-foot-tall statue of a nude woman on prime land on the Mall" now "want to erect a 26-foot-tall scaffold covered on two sides by 26-foot-tall digitized portraits of a nude woman." The National Park Service "hasn't finalized the permit for the structure, but Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the agency, said it is in the final stages of issuing it." Natalie White, a spokeswoman for the "Catharsis on the Mall" festival, "said that after the Park Service rejected the



group's initial permit application, women behind Catharsis decided they still wanted to promote a message of female empowerment." She "said activists are making the best of the situation while still fighting to bring the original 45-foot statue to the Mall."

Additional coverage was provided by [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (11/5, Amouzadeh).

### **Albert Pike's Complicated Legacy Leaves DC Statue In Limbo.**

The [AP](#) (11/4, Portnoy) reports that nearly everyone agrees that a statue of Confederate general Albert Pike should be removed from Judiciary Square in Washington DC.

However, "the problem is that if Congress votes to remove it, no one wants custody."

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton "filed legislation this month to seek congressional approval for the statue's removal." But "her two-page bill is silent on where the statue should go."

### **Women Take The Lead For Northern Arizona's Public Lands.**

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (11/5, Cowan) reports that "while it's no longer a rarity for women to hold top public lands jobs, the fact remains that the balance" in the National Park Service and Forest Service "remains lopsided, with women making up 35 percent of employees at the Forest Service and 38 percent at the National Park Service." The article notes that "at the same time, the agencies are confronting longstanding patterns of harassment, including sexual harassment, that have been forced into the spotlight through news reports, federal testimony, surveys and agency investigations." Grand Canyon National Park superintendent Chris Lehnertz believes "the two are connected." She said, "I do believe there is a certain amount of culture change that comes from having more women in the workforce. It doesn't just take women to change our hostile work environment and sexual harassment, but it does take fair representation to change the overall culture of the Park Service."

### **Proposed Plan Would Make Visitors Reserve Trip To Arches.**

The [AP](#) (11/3) reports that the National Park Service "proposed a new plan that would put in place a reservation system for visitors traveling to Arches National Park during its high-visitation season." Park officials last Wednesday "emphasized the point of the plan is not to limit the number of visitors, but to spread visitation out during the course of the day and throughout the year." The plan would "limit park entries during certain three-hour windows between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. over the March-through-October high season."

### **National Park Service Approves Campana Building Plan.**

The [Aurora \(IL\) Beacon-News](#) (11/5, Girardi) reports that the National Park Service has "approved the plan for apartments at the historic Campana Building on the border of Batavia and Geneva." Evergreen Real Estate Group has "submitted a zoning application with Batavia to renovate the former Campana factory for a mixed use, mixed-income development with 80 market-rate and income-restricted apartments."

## **US Geological Survey**

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### **Geology Gets Political As Federal Scientists Pursue New ANWR Oil Assessment.**

[KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (11/3, Harball) reports that as Democrats and Republicans spar over drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, David Houseknecht, who works for the U.S. Geological Survey, is "trying to figure out two key questions: How much oil is in the Arctic Refuge, and where is it?" According to the article, "the answers could decide ANWR's fate, no matter how the politics play out." In Alaska giving a talk to an industry group, "Houseknecht wanted to make one thing clear right off the bat: he's doesn't like taking sides." Houseknecht "explained coming up with a new estimate is a challenge — mainly because he doesn't have much to work with." He said, "In essence there's nothing new there. We have not assessed or reassessed the ANWR area for 20 years because there's no new data. We have no reason to think differently today than we did 20 years ago." The Trump Administration is "making a controversial push to allow what's called 3-

D seismic testing in the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain," and "that could give geologists a clearer picture of how much oil might be there." But "Houseknecht warned his audience that the results of that testing might not be what they're hoping for."

## Opinion Pieces

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### Trump Is Leading The Most Corrupt Administration In U.S. History, One Of First-Class Kleptocrats.

A more than 4,400-word [Newsweek](#) (11/3, Nazaryan) analysis stated that while President Trump promised to "drain the swamp" during the campaign, "many observers believe the swamp has grown into a sinkhole that threatens to swallow the entire Trump administration." According to Newsweek, "The number of White House officials currently facing questions, lawsuits or investigation is astonishing." Zephyr Teachout, a Fordham University law professor who authored a book on corruption in the US, declared Trump's "the most corrupt presidency and administration we've ever had" while presidential historian Robert Dallek argued "no American leader has acted with more unadulterated self-interest as Trump." However, Newsweek acknowledged that "to supporters of the president, charges of corruption are being leveled with undue zeal by anti-Trump forces that will say or do anything to thwart the president's agenda and lead to his removal from office." Newsweek also outlined specific complaints against several cabinet members.

### Our View: Cheers And Jeers.

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (11/4) gave a "jeer" to the Interior Department for failing to give enough assistance to stop the "spread of invasive mussels." According to the paper, "despite their urgent requests," governors in Western states are "being met by mostly platitudes from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's agency." The paper says that "Zinke should recognize that most Western governors belong to the Republican Party of which he is also a member and could make significant trouble for the secretary should he continue to ignore their concerns."

### Don't Delay The Methane Waste Rule.

In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/4, Ulibarri), Rock Ulibarri, board chairman of Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors urges the Trump Administration to not "delay of the Bureau of Land Management methane waste rule, which protects public health, the environment and saves taxpayers millions." Ulibarri writes that "this rule — which took six years to develop with a variety of stakeholder input — prevents more than \$330 million worth of natural gas from being wasted on public and tribal lands from venting, flaring and leaking."

### Additional Reading.

- *The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Should Not Be Open To Further Oil Exploration.* [The Hill](#) (11/3, Lewis).
- *As Wildfires Expand, Fire Science Needs To Keep Up.* [Conversation \(UK\)](#). (11/5, Simeoni)
- *PD Editorial: Fight Wildfires Without Gutting Conservation Rules.* [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (11/5).
- *Trump's Carbon Cowboy.* [Huffington Post](#) (11/3, Brune).
- *Pricing The Public Out Of The Parks.* [Huffington Post](#) (11/3, Piraino).
- *In Our View: Parks Should Be For All.* [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (11/3).
- *OUR VIEW: Speak Out On Massive Park Fee Hike.* [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (11/5).
- *Rant & Rave: National Park Fee Hike, Bike-share Vandalism And Free Auto Repairs.* [Seattle Times](#) (11/5).
- *National Park Fee Increase Will Hurt Veterans.* [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (11/4,



Brickner).

- *National Park Fee Hikes Will Hurt Users, Facilities.* [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/5, Peck).
- *Fee Hike Won't To Fix Parks Maintenance Backlog.* [Kitsap \(WA\) Sun](#) (11/5, Blair).
- *Trail Gazette Editorial – Fee Hike At Rocky A Bad Idea.* [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (11/3).
- *'This Land Is Your Land': If You Can Pay And Are White.* [Fergus Falls \(MN\) Journal](#) (11/5, Kagan).
- *Leveraging Taxpayer Funds To Improve Regional Parks.* [East Bay \(CA\) Times](#) (11/5, Doyle).
- *Protecting Sage-grouse Has Tidal Wave Of Benefits.* [Idaho State Journal](#) (11/5, Brooks).
- *Mille Lacs County Sues Feds To Get FOIA Response.* [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/3, Shiffer).
- *Consider Ratepayer As California WaterFix Costs Mount.* [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (11/3).

## Top National News

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### Trump Calls For Bilateral Trade Deal With Japan.

Coverage of President Trump's trip to Asia focuses mostly uncritically on his remarks on trade in Tokyo and on his earlier comments on North Korea. The [AP](#) (11/5, Lemire, Colvin) reports that Trump "opened his second day in Japan by pushing for stronger, more equitable economic ties." The AP says that Trump's "message to a group of American and Japanese business leaders" was that the US "was open for business, but he wanted to reshape the nations' trade relationship." Trump "rebuked the current relationship, saying the trade deals were 'not fair and not open,'" but "downplayed the potentially contentious nature of the negotiations, though the Japanese government has not shown much appetite for striking a new bilateral trade agreement."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/5, Bennett) report that Trump "began day two Monday by telling Japanese business leaders" that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "is 'a terrific person,' then assailed them for years of unfair trade." [USA Today](#) (11/5, Jackson) reports that Trump told the group, "I have to say, for the last many decades Japan has been winning – you know that." Trump "has threatened to seek changes in various US free trade deals," and Japan "in particular criticized Trump for pulling the United States from the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Bender) reports that in pressing for a bilateral trade deal, Trump offered few specifics on how to narrow the trade deficit with Japan, which totaled nearly \$70 billion in 2016. Trump [tweeted](#) (11/5), "Heading into the 12 days with great negotiating strength because of our tremendous economy." [Politico](#) (11/5, Restuccia) reports that Trump also called on Japan to manufacture more cars in the US, saying, "Try building your cars in the United States instead of shipping them over."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/5, Bennett) reports that on Sunday, Trump golfed with Abe, and "the Japanese leader surprised Trump with the sort of trucker hats Trump favors, embroidered in his preferred color – gold – and borrowing from Trump's signature slogan: 'Donald & Shinzo, Make Alliance Even Greater.'" The [Japan Times](#) (11/5, Osaki, Kikuchi) reports, "After nine holes, the two leaders were scheduled to enjoy a teppanyaki (iron-plate grill) steak dinner in Tokyo's glitzy Ginza district." Trump [tweeted](#), "Playing golf with Prime Minister Abe and Hideki Matsuyama, two wonderful people!" David Nakamura of the Washington Post [tweeted](#), "WH official said Trump and Abe talked a bit about trade and North Korea during their round but did not keep score."

*Trump Does Not Bow In Greeting Emperor And Empress.* The [Daily Caller](#) (11/5, Pickrell) reports that when Trump met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Monday morning, he "opted for a strong handshake over a bow. ... Although the president's actions differed from those of his predecessor, the greeting passed without incident."



**Trump Warns North Korea Not To “Underestimate” US Resolve.** Earlier coverage focused on the President’s remarks about North Korea. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/5, story 5, 3:15, Llamas), Jonathan Karl reported, “In a speech to US troops at the American air base near Tokyo, [Trump] set the tone for a trip where the North Korea threat will be issue number one.” Trump: “No one, no dictator, no regime, and no nation should underestimate, ever, American resolve. We dominate the sky. We dominate the sea. We dominate the land and space.”

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/5, story 2, 2:10, Quijano), Margaret Brennan reported, “The warning to North Korea was unmistakable. ... In recent months, North Korea has launched two ballistic missiles over its territory. Unity was the message” as Abe “warmly embraced Mr. Trump, presenting him with campaign-style baseball caps that said ‘Donald and Shinzo Make Alliance Even Greater.’ The two leaders then played nine holes of golf, while their wives had tea and went shopping for pearls at a high end boutique.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/5, story 3, 1:35, Snow), Kelly O’Donnell said, “Of course, North Korea is on the agenda, along with meetings with Asian leaders” and Putin.

The [AP](#) (11/5, Lemire, Colvin) reports, “Trump has delivered harsh denunciations of the renegade North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, belittling him as ‘Little Rocket Man’ and threatening to rain ‘fire and fury’ on his country if the belligerence continues. But Trump also has begun highlighting the plight of the North Koreans.” He told reporters on Air Force One, “I think they’re great people. They’re industrious. They’re warm, much warmer than the world really knows or understands.” [USA Today](#) (11/5, Jackson) reports that Trump intends to “try to persuade China and other nations to cut economic ties to North Korea, thereby pressuring” Kim “to give up nuclear weapons.”

Chris Wallace said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (11/5) that Trump “is two days into the longest and most crucial diplomatic trip of his presidency.” He is meeting allies in Asia with the hope to “rally support against a nuclear armed North Korea.” The main agenda items involve “how to put more pressure on North Korea to drop its nuclear weapons program.” Major Garrett, who is traveling with the President, said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (11/5, Dickerson) that “North Korea will assuredly dominate all the President’s conversations here in Asia.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Nakamura, Parker) reports, “Trump told reporters that he plans to decide ‘very soon’ whether to relabel North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism.” But he “also offered encouragement for North Korean citizens, calling them ‘great people.’” The [Washington Times](#) (11/5, Boyer) reports that Trump “told US service members in Japan on Sunday that ‘no dictator’ should underestimate America’s military power and determination.” David Andelman writes in his [USA Today](#) (11/5) column, “For a nation like Japan, which has feared Trump’s expectation that he wants every ally to do more for its own defense, those words about US strength could be read as reassuring. But they could be frightening for South Korea.”

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/5, McCurry) reports that Trump “has indicated that he would be prepared to meet” Kim “at some point, though he said it was still ‘far too early’ for a one-to-one conversation with his adversary.” He said in an interview, “I don’t think it’s strength or weakness, I think sitting down with people is not a bad thing.”

Michael Shear of the New York Times said on [CNN’s Inside Politics](#) (11/5) that North Korea is a problem that is “immune to some of the personal relationship-building that the President has done. So while he gets high marks for some of these relationships with the Japanese prime minister, with the president of China, the North Korean problem is not going to be solved by a couple of rounds of golf.” But Kenneth Weinstein of the Hudson Institute writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5) that Trump is rightly looking to China to aid in dealing with Kim.

**Trump Reportedly Said “Samurai” Japan Should Have Shot Down North Korean Missiles.** The [Japan Times](#) (11/5) reports that Trump “has said Japan should have shot down the North Korean missiles that flew over the country” earlier this year, according to “diplomatic sources.” Trump “questioned Japan’s decision not to shoot down the missiles when he met or spoke by phone with leaders from Southeast Asian countries over recent months,” and “said he could not understand why a country of samurai warriors did not

shoot down the missiles.”

**Trump Expects To Meet With Putin.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Bender) reports that Trump said he expects to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin during the trip. Trump said, “It’s expected we’ll meet with Putin, yeah. We want Putin’s help on North Korea, and we’ll be meeting with a lot of different leaders.” The [New York Times](#) (11/5, Davis) reports that the meeting would happen on the sideline of the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Russian activist Garry Kasparov [tweeted](#), “‘Putin’s help on North Korea’?! How, by asking Kim Jong-un to return all of the Russian nuke and missile technology he’s been giving him?”

**Corker Declines To Comment On Trip.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Sullivan) reports that Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker, who has been at odds with Trump, was “resolutely mum when asked about President Trump’s upcoming trip to Asia” and other issues. Corker said, “I have no desire to enter into, you know, 24/7, you know, disagreement. When I have strong disagreements, I’m going to express them strongly.”

**Significance Of “Indo-Pacific” Terminology Examined.** Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (11/5) writes about “the Trump administration’s revealing decision to rename the ‘Asia-Pacific’ as the ‘Indo-Pacific.’” Veteran Asia correspondent Richard McGregor said, “The US is now entrenching new language for America’s role in the Asia. ... That attempts to bring India permanently into the US web of alliances and partnerships in the region. And it is the precursor to the new partnership – ‘the quad’ – which will bring together the US, Japan, India and Australia.”

Josh Rogin writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/5), “After months of what officials and Asia experts saw as a somewhat disjointed and contradictory approach to Asia’s rising power, officials say the administration is coalescing around a strategy that will attempt to define the Indo-Pacific chessboard on America’s terms.”

**NYTimes: Trump “Arrives In Asia As A Wounded Leader.”** The [New York Times](#) (11/5) editorializes, “As President Trump undertakes his first official trip to Asia, American leadership and credibility are in doubt. Leaders in the region worry that his inflammatory statements and impulsiveness could lead to war with North Korea. And there is a serious debate in many Asian countries about whether the future lies in closer partnerships with China, the ascendant power,” or with the US. Trump “arrives in Asia as a wounded leader, with low ratings at home and a stalled legislative agenda, and dogged by revelations of Russian interference” in the 2016 election. Asian nations “want and need America to serve as a democratic counterweight to China.” Trump’s trip “will reveal whether he can rise to this challenge.”

### **Trump Praises Japan As “Treasured Partner And Crucial Ally” At Yokota Air Base.**

The [AP](#) (11/5, Lemire, Colvin) reports as President Trump landed at Yokota Air Base near Tokyo, he “was greeted by cheering service members,” and in a speech “touted American firepower and the U.S. alliance with Japan.” Trump said, “Japan is a treasured partner and crucial ally of the United States and today we thank them for welcoming us and for decades of wonderful friendship between our two nations.” He is “expected to spend much of his 12-day, five-country Asian tour exhorting allies and rivals to step up efforts to counter the dangers posed by North Korea.” Following his remarks, Trump went to the Kasumigaseki Country Club “for lunch and a round of golf with Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Japanese golfer Hideki Matsuyama.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/4, Sink) reports the President “warned nations against challenging the U.S. as he rallied American troops in Japan” at Yokota Air Base. Trump said, “We dominate the sky, we dominate the sea, we dominate the land and space.” He added, “No one – no dictator, no regime and no nation – should underestimate ever American resolve.” He also “called Japan a ‘treasured partner and crucial ally.’” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/4, Bennett) reports Trump “described the troops as the ‘last bulwarks’ against threats from ‘tyrants and dictators who prey on the innocent.’”

The [AP](#) (11/5, Lemire, Colvin) reports the visit with Abe began, “with a round of golf, a custom cap and a hamburger of American beef.” The AP called it “an effusive



display of friendship that...will give way to high-stakes diplomacy." Trump said before dinner, "The relationship is really extraordinary. We like each other and our countries like each other."

***AP Analysis: Japanese Trip To Focus On North Korea, Trade, Abductions, And Golf.***

The [AP](#) (11/4) reports on President Trump's visit to Japan, saying that he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "will meet on the golf course Sunday before holding formal talks on Monday." The visit is expected to focus on North Korea, trade, abductions of Japanese by North Korea, and golf.

***AP Analysis: Asian Trip "A Crucial International Test" For Trump.*** The [AP](#) (11/4, Lemire) reports President Trump is "ready to exhort Asian allies and rivals on the need to counter the dangers posed by North Korea's nuclear threat." The AP adds that the trip is "the longest Far East itinerary for a president in a generation." The AP calls it "a crucial international test" given the difficulties facing Asia, and says the President's "spontaneous, and at times reckless, style flies in the face of the generations-old traditions and protocol that govern diplomatic exchanges in Asia."

***McMaster To Accompany Trump At Every Stop On Asia Trip.*** In a look at who is traveling to Asia with President Trump, and who is not, the [AP](#) (11/4, Lemire) writes that National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, "the target of a far-right attack campaign over the summer, has been instrumental in organizing the trip. A three-star general, McMaster has declared that 'there is a military option' that could be used against the nuclear threat posed by North Korea."

The [New York Times](#) (11/4, Landler) writes, "The staffing of any major presidential trip is an exercise in internal politics – sometimes byzantine – as the White House parcels out coveted seats on Air Force One. But the Trump administration's staffing of this trip is drawing particular scrutiny from those seeking clues about who's up or down, and what message the president is trying to send to allies and adversaries." The President will "be backed by a full complement of national security advisers." McMaster "will accompany the president on every stop," as will Secretary of State Tillerson.

[CNN](#) (11/4, Diamond, Collinson) reports on its website that North Korea will be a key issue on the trip, and as McMaster "warned [this week], the clock is ticking. CNN learned earlier this week that North Korea is working on an advanced version of its existing KN-20 intercontinental ballistic missiles that could potentially reach the United States, and it is entirely possible that next year, Pyongyang could master the technology to tip such a missile with a miniaturized warhead."

In his [New York Times](#) (11/4) column, Nicholas Kristof writes that ex-CIA Director John Brennan "estimates the chance of a war with North Korea at 20 to 25 percent," while Joel Wit of Johns Hopkins University "puts it at 40 percent" and Richard Haass of the Council on Foreign Relations "says the odds may be somewhere around 50/50." Kristof quotes McMaster's recent remarks: "Our president has been really clear about this. He is not going to permit this rogue regime, Kim Jong-un, to threaten the United States with a nuclear weapon. And so he is willing to do anything necessary to prevent that from happening."

## **Media Analyses: North Korea To Dominate Focus Of Trump's Asia Trip.**

President Trump left the US on Friday to begin a 12-day trip that will include stops in five Asian countries. While the CBS Evening News was the sole network newscast to mention the trip, the cable newscasts and many print analyses highlighted that the visit is expected to focus on stopping North Korea's nuclear program and discussions about putting country-to-country trade agreements in place of regional ones. However, coverage of the trip was overshadowed by the developments in the investigation into alleged Russian collusion, with most outlets portraying Trump's departing remarks as an attempt to detract attention away from the probe.

The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (11/3, story 5, 0:45, Mason) Chip Reid briefly reported, "The President will be in Hawaii this evening, the first stop on that trip to Asia," which will focus on "North Korea and its nuclear weapons." [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (11/3, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Baier) correspondent Kristin Fisher similarly reported North Korea will be

Trump's top priority, "and he will be leaning on the leaders of Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, and most importantly, China, to put more pressure on Pyongyang." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/3, 6:51 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Trump, who said before boarding Air Force One, "We will be talking about trade. We will be talking obviously about North Korea. We will be enlisting the help of a lot of people and countries. We will see what happens. But I think we are going to have a very successful trip. There's a lot of goodwill."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Nakamura, Taylor) reports the President's visit to Asia, "the longest overseas trip of any president since George H.W. Bush in 1991," comes "as the once unthinkable has become a palpable concern from Tokyo to Seoul to Beijing – a war with a nuclear-armed North Korea." According to the Post, "Trump's trip – with bilateral visits to Japan, South Korea and China and stops at regional summits in Vietnam and the Philippines – could go a long way toward determining the success of his administration's policy." However, the Post concedes "Trump's escalating rhetoric and Pyongyang's accelerating weapons programs have set the region on edge and prompted national security adviser H.R. McMaster to declare this week that the world is 'running out of time' to stop the North."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Bender) reports McMaster added that "the president's trip will focus on three goals: First, strengthening international resolve to denuclearize North Korea," followed by promoting a "free and open Indo-Pacific Region" and seeking "fair and reciprocal trade." In an interview with [NHK \(JPN\)](#) (11/3), McMaster "said Trump will help pull the curtain back on what kind of regime North Korea is." McMaster also said the US may increase military pressure on the North. Mentioning "that the US is currently deploying 3 aircraft carriers in the Western Pacific region," McMaster said the carriers symbolize America's aim of ensuring "the North Korean regime knows that any aggression on its part will be met with an overwhelming response." McMaster also stressed that the US will continue to share information with Japan in case of an emergency, and "said the 2 countries completely agree on how to assess security threats by the North and others, and how to respond to the threats to protect people."

[International Business Times](#) (11/3, Pignataro) reports that according to McMaster, the President is not expected "to tamp down on his explosive rhetoric against North Korea during the trip." [Breitbart](#) (11/3, Spiering) similarly reports that "White House aides cautioned that Trump would be frank with leaders during his visit on the threat posed by North Korea." McMaster said Thursday: "The president will use whatever language he wants to use, obviously." McMaster added, "I don't think the president really modulates his language. Have you noticed him do that?"

Meanwhile, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/3, Bierman) describes Trump's fourth foreign trip as president as "perhaps the toughest test yet of his acumen on a world stage before foreign leaders skeptical of his leadership, confused by his mixed messages and worried about his impulsive behavior." The Times adds "Asia trips are famously grueling, given the long flights and time difference," and warns "missteps could set off unintended consequences, especially considering Trump's past war of words with North Korea's Kim and that regime's propensity to rattle its neighbors with nuclear and missile tests."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/3, Scott, Hunter) says the trip "provides Trump an opportunity to look presidential and talk tough about North Korea's Kim Jong Un," but it "isn't without peril for a commander-in-chief known for off-the-cuff pronouncements and awkward encounters with world leaders." In addition, [AFP](#) (11/3, Beatty) reports that Trump's trip comes loaded with "heavy domestic baggage," including "a trail of invective and scandal that risks overshadowing efforts at top-level diplomacy."

The [AP](#) (11/3, Colvin) reports the President is also "being pulled in different directions as he heads to Asia on a grueling 12-day trip." The AP says Trump's "loyal supporters are eager to hear him take a hard line on the Chinese trade and economic practices he railed against as a candidate," but "many" Administration officials "are pushing Trump to sweep those concerns aside as he works to pressure China's Xi Jinping to tighten the screws on North Korea." In a second article, the [AP](#) (11/3, Talmadge, Kurtenbach, Gomez) reports "security and trade will loom large during" the trip while the



South China Sea is another "trouble spot where Trump can showcase American leadership and commitment to the region in a high-profile way. Or display a lack of both."

Leading the second hour of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/3, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), host Wolf Blitzer said Trump was "on the attack as he heads towards Asia with lots of baggage from the Russia investigation." Kristin Fisher of [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/3, 6:10 p.m. EDT, Baier) likewise said that President Trump departed Friday for his tour of Asia, "leaving behind the growing cloud of the special counsel's investigation, which continued to seep its way into the West Wing this week." Adding to "his frustrations with the Justice Department, President Trump has also been very critical of the State Department. He slashed its budget, refused to fill vacancies, and undercut its Secretary for trying to working with North Korea."

According to [McClatchy](#) (11/3, Kumar), Trump's trip "may offer him some much-desired respite from the turmoil engulfing his White House. And for a president who has always gotten along better with autocratic leaders than democratically elected ones, he's headed to the right place." McClatchy adds that unlike his predecessors who would criticize foreign leaders over their human rights record, the President "shares some of the ideals of autocratic leaders and has voiced admiration for their strength." [Politico](#) (11/3, Schwartz) says that ahead of Trump's first visit to China, "reporters are wondering whether he will set aside his war on the media and stick up for First Amendment principles – or let a country notoriously hostile to free speech run roughshod over the American press."

However, the [New York Times](#) (11/3, A1, Sang-Hun, Rich) reports on its front-page that as South Korean President Moon Jae-in "prepares to host Mr. Trump's first visit to South Korea, he finds himself caught in a bind, compelled by the White House and conservatives at home to support hard-line policies that he once criticized – and that many of his supporters worry are dragging their nation to the brink of war." The Times adds "South Korea is more accustomed to belligerence from Pyongyang than Washington, and there is widespread concern that Mr. Trump may make matters worse when he arrives next week." The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Fifield, Taylor) similarly contrasts Trump's warm relationship with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with his more tense relationship with Moon in an article titled "As Japan Buddies Up To Trump, South Korea Frets It's Being Disrespected."

**Trump To Attend East Asia Summit.** [Reuters](#) (11/3, Mason, Brice) reports Trump on Friday told reporters "he would spend an extra day in the Philippines during his trip to Asia, which the White House confirmed would be to attend the East Asia Summit." He said, "We're actually staying an extra day in the Philippines. We have a big conference, the second conference, and I think we're going to have great success." The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Landler) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders confirmed the President's attendance at the "meeting of leaders from Australia, Japan, China, Russia and other countries that his predecessor, President Barack Obama, had made a priority." The Times says "Trump's earlier decision to skip the meeting had rattled officials in the region, who warned that it would raise questions about the United States' commitment to Southeast Asia."

**Trump Receives Briefing In Hawaii En Route To Asia.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/3, Kaleem) reports Hawaii Gov. David Ige welcomed the President at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, where "about 100 supporters – a mix of military service members and civilians – cheered the president and First Lady, who were given traditional Hawaiian leis upon arrival." According to the Times, "large crowds of anti-Trump protesters were expected to demonstrate on the streets as the president makes his way to sites around the city before sleeping at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in tourist-heavy Waikiki."

Martha MacCallum of [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/3, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Baier), reporting from Pearl Harbor, said "the first and very important briefing of the trip will be when he sits down at PACCOM, the Pacific Command, which oversees essentially 50 percent of the globe and 36 countries under its naval and military jurisdiction." MacCallum said it is unclear whether Trump will discuss the "several military incidents

that have been problematic" this year. She stressed "this is an area of the world that is very much at the read., and it's the sphere of our military defense, protecting the whole west coast of the united states and our capabilities beyond." MacCallum added that Trump will then "take in the enormity of that moving experience" at the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor. She said the experience "will be very much on the President's mind as he begins this trip."

**US-Russia Discuss Possible Trump-Putin Meeting.** The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Macfarquhar) reports "talks are underway to arrange a second meeting between President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and President Trump on the sidelines of an Asian economic summit meeting next week in Vietnam, the Kremlin said on Friday." Dmitri Peskov, the spokesman for Putin, told reporters on Friday that a meeting at the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting in Danang, Vietnam "is indeed being discussed." He added, "It is hard to overestimate the importance and significance of any contact between the president of Russia and the United States for all international matters."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Filipov) reports "there is scant optimism in Russia that face-to-face talks will yield any breakthroughs on the long list of issues that divide Washington and Moscow." According to the Post, "sanctions against Russia, tensions in Syria, the threat of military conflict in North Korea and the stalemate over Ukraine top the litany of seemingly intractable differences in the U.S.-Russia relationship. Looming above it all is the sense in Moscow that the closer special counsel Robert S. Mueller III comes to Trump's inner circle in his investigation into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election, the less likely the U.S. president will be to try to reverse the downward spiral with Russia."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (11/3, 6:13 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Rep. Ted Lieu said in light of the Russia investigation, "it would be a horrible idea" for Trump to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his tour of Asia. He reiterated, "Putin is not our ally, our friend," and Trump "should not take these actions by meeting with Putin. He should be imposing sanctions on Russia, which he's already weeks behind the deadline." On whether Secretary Tillerson will remain in the Administration, Lieu speculated, "We'll see." He added, "The President is making Rex Tillerson's job very difficult. When Rex Tillerson was trying to engage in diplomacy with North Korea," Trump tweeted "that was a waste of time. The problem is when the President does that publicly, he undercut it is credibility of Rex Tillerson. So now when he talks to leaders and members of Congress, we don't know who he's speaking with."

**North Korea Condemns "Surprise" US Air Force Exercise Over Korean Peninsula.** The [AP](#) (11/3, Tong-Hyung) reports an official with the South Korean military said Friday that two US B-1B bombers escorted by two South Korean F-16 fighter jets on Thursday "flew over the Korean Peninsula for bombing exercises that are also a show of force against North Korea ahead of President Donald Trump's first official visit to Asia." [USA Today](#) (11/3, Onyanga-Omara) reports North Korea in response "accused the 'gangster-like' United States of staging a 'surprise nuclear strike drill.'"

Brian Todd of [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (11/3, 5:51 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported "military and intelligence officials are bracing for a possible provocation from" North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during the President's tour of Asia. He explained the American B-1 bombers, joined by Japanese and South Korean fighter jets, flew near the Korean Peninsula. Todd said these "are the weapons that experts say would play key roles in any strikes on North Korea. These maneuvers bring a swift brush back from Kim Jong-un's regime," which believes the US may be staging a surprise nuclear strike drill targeting the nation. As such, "commanders and intelligence agencies from Washington to Pyongyang are jittery because of so many potential provocations coming so close to the President's trip." South Korean lawmakers have also warned "another North Korean missile test could be imminent because they sighted movement of vehicles around a missile research facility in Pyongyang."

**US Officials "Deeply Skeptical" About Yun's Chances For Diplomacy.** [Reuters](#) (11/3, Spetalnick, Mohammed, Shin) reports "interviews with more than a dozen current and



former U.S. officials and South Korean diplomats" found "most were deeply skeptical" of US Special Representative for North Korea Policy Joseph Yun, who "might be Washington's best diplomatic hope for reducing the risk of a devastating war on the Korean peninsula, he serves an administration riven by divisions over how to handle Pyongyang." Reuters says one White House dismissed Yun "with a note of sarcasm," calling him "such a dreamer," while another US official said, "We don't think this is going anywhere."

**Former North Korean Diplomat Does Not View Trump's North Korea Rhetoric As Reckless.** [The Atlantic](#) (11/2, Friedman) reports "Thae Yong Ho, one of the highest-ranking officials ever to defect from North Korea, doesn't agree with those who argue that Donald Trump is recklessly tempting war by threatening and taunting Kim Jong Un." While Thae stands by "one of the arguments he often made as a diplomat: that North Korean leaders think of nuclear weapons in defensive terms – as a means of deterring foreign, and particularly American, military intervention --" he also "stressed" that Kim "knows well that once he uses his nuclear weapons against America or South Korea, then that could end up with the total destruction of the North Korean [political] system." Still, North Korea can still leverage its weapons advancements "to go on the offensive militarily and pursue its dream of reunifying the Korean peninsula under the North's control," Thae argued, "echoing a point that Trump administration officials like National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster have made."

**Royce Urges Trump To Add North Korea As State Sponsor Of Terrorism.** The [Washington Times](#) (11/3, Taylor) reports House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce late Thursday called on "the White House to add North Korea to Washington's official state sponsors of terrorism list before President Trump arrives in East Asia over the weekend on an 11-day tour of the region." Royce said, "There is simply no reason for further delay of this decision. ... I urge the administration to take quick action."

**Analysts Examine Role Of Kim Jong-Un's Wife On Regime.** Brian Todd of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/3, 6:56 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said according to some analysts, recent images of Kim Jong-un's wife, Ri Sol-ju, signal that "there's some stability inside the regime now," and that the North Korean leader may be trying to portray a softer image. Todd outlined some new information about Ri's "powerful connections" and "mysteries surrounding the couple's children."

**Poll Finds Large Majority Of Americans Believe Trump "Really Willing" To Use Military Force Against North Korea.** [The Hill](#) (11/3, Anapol) reports a new survey from the [Pew Research Center](#) of 1,504 "adults" (10/25-10/30) found 88 percent of Republicans and 83 percent of Democrats "think the president is 'really willing' to use military force against" North Korea. The Hill states that the survey "also showed an increased concern about North Korea's willingness to use military force against the U.S., with 71 percent saying the U.S. should take North Korea's nuclear threats 'very seriously,' a 15-point increase from 2013." However, The Hill adds "only 9 percent of Democratic and Democratic-leaning respondents said they are at least somewhat confident in Trump's ability to handle North Korea, while 80 percent of Republicans and Republican leaners said they were confident in the president."

**USA Today Profiles Camp Humphreys Ahead Of Trump Visit.** [USA Today](#) (11/3, Maresca, Today) reports Camp Humphreys, "the U.S. military's newest and largest overseas base for 26,000 soldiers, family members and civilians is finally humming with activity – and buzzing about the growing threat from nearby North Korea." According to USA Today, the new headquarters of the Eighth Army is 40 miles south of Camp Yongsan in Seoul "and about 60 miles from the Demilitarized Zone that divides North and South Korea," which puts Camp Humphreys "about twice as far from North Korea as its predecessor, one of the main reasons for the move." USA Today notes "President Trump is scheduled to visit this \$10.7 billion, 3,500-acre base in the city of Pyeongtaek during his stop in South Korea on Nov. 5-8."

**Ivanka Trump Promotes Value Of Women In Economy In Tokyo Address.** [Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Buckland) reports Ivanka Trump "lauded the Japanese government's efforts to increase female workforce participation during a speech in Tokyo on Friday, giving a



high-profile boost to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's 'Womenomics' initiative." She asserted, "Womenomics recognizes the centrality of women, who represent roughly half of our global population, in achieving true economic growth." She added, "When women work, it creates a unique multiplier effect: women are more likely than men to hire other women, to give them access to capital, mentorship and networks." [Reuters](#) (11/3, Wilson) reports Ivanka Trump also argued "the world must boost women and minority participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)." She said, "Female and minority participation in STEM fields is moving in the wrong direction."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Fifield) reports the Japanese government hopes her "much-anticipated speech...will make waves." The Post describes her address as a "double-whammy win for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe" because "he gets a high-profile speaker for one of his key initiatives – and one that has failed to bear any other fruit" while also allowing him to "curry more favor with Donald Trump just two days before he arrives in Tokyo on his first trip to Japan as president." However, the Post acknowledges that "despite all the hype, the hall where Trump spoke was barely half full," and the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Rich) says "the lukewarm turnout on Friday morning contrasted with the breathless coverage of her visit by the Japanese news media, which followed Ms. Trump's every move around Tokyo and treated her landing at Narita International Airport and dinner at a luxurious restaurant on Thursday night as major news." According to Josh Raffel, a White House spokesman, Ivanka Trump's speech "was the most registered event" at the conference, "but security delayed everyone from being able to get into the room on time."

***Families Of Japanese Abducted By North Korea Looking Forward To Trump Putting Spotlight On Plight.*** "Four decades ago, according to the Japanese government, at least 17 Japanese citizens vanished at the hands of North Korea, leaving their families with precious little information," the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Rich) reports, and now President Trump "plans to press the cause, meeting during a visit to Japan starting Sunday with several of the affected families, including the parents of Megumi Yokota, abducted by North Korea in 1977 when she was just 13 years old." The Times says that in Japan, "the tragic disappearances strike a deeper emotional chord than the fear of ballistic missile attacks, and have resonance akin to that of the fate of American P.O.W.'s during the Vietnam War."

***Chinese Official Rejects Blame For US Opioid Crisis.*** The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Wee) reports Wei Xiaojun, deputy director of the narcotics control bureau at the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, "disputed the assertion that China was largely to blame" for the opioid crisis in the US. While Trump last week "said that he would raise the issue of 'the flood of cheap and deadly fentanyl' made in China as a top priority in his meeting with President Xi Jinping on Wednesday," the Times states that Wei asserted, "based on the intelligence and evidence shared' between the countries, there is no reason to conclude that 'a large portion' of the fentanyl and similar substances in America comes from China." However, the Times adds Wei "acknowledged at a news conference that 'China does not reject, nor does it deny, that there's truth' that some drugs abused by Americans – especially fentanyl, a very powerful synthetic opioid – come from China." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Areddy, Dou) reports Wei also criticized the US for rushing to judgment against Chinese nationals recently indicted for distributing fentanyl, especially since the country is cooperating with US efforts to stop the drug trade.

***Chinese Media Praises Kelly For Remarks On Communism.*** [Breitbart](#) (11/3, Martel) reports the [Global Times \(CHN\)](#) is praising White House Chief of Staff Kelly "for stating in an interview that the repressive communist system 'has apparently worked for the Chinese people.'" Breitbart adds that "the article urges those who decry China for its rampant human rights abuses, violations of international law, and consistent belligerence against its neighbors to abandon a 'Cold War mentality' against Beijing."

***Taiwan President Visits Guam During Pacific Tour.*** [Reuters](#) (11/3, Maratita) reports Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Friday arrived in Guam at the conclusion of a trip "visiting diplomatic allies in the Pacific – a trip that caused strong objections from China, which claims Taiwan as its own." Reuters notes that China "had urged the United States not to allow Tsai to transit its territory on her trip, which included two days in Hawaii

before she headed on to Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands and the Marshall Islands.” Reuters adds that “the timing is particularly touchy” given Trump’s visit to Beijing next week. However, while Reuters says Guam Governor Edward Calvo’s office “described Tsai’s visit as ‘private and unofficial,’ she was provided with a police escort upon her arrival.”

*WSJournal: Trump Must Demonstrate US Commitment To Asia.* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3) editorializes that for President Trump’s trip to Asia to be considered a success, he must reassure American allies that the US stands with them against common threats, including North Korea’s nuclear program and China’s aggressive behavior in the region.

*Paulson: Trump Needs To Challenge Xi On America’s Interests During Visit.* In a [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Paulson) op-ed, former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr. asserts President Trump “should be strategic and forceful in defense of America’s industries of the future” when he meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who “drags his feet at his own peril because the United States and others are reexamining their open-door policies and demanding greater reciprocity in China.” According to Paulson, “Xi’s new consolidation of power – and ability to use it now to get difficult things done – means Trump may have a greater opportunity on his trip to achieve breakthroughs in the security and economic arenas.”

*CFR President Concerned By Trump’s Comments On Tillerson, US Approach To North Korea.* [Reuters](#) (11/3) reports that in an interview with Fox News’ Laura Ingraham on Thursday, President Trump “said he was unsure whether his top diplomat, Rex Tillerson, would remain in his post for the rest of Trump’s term in the White House and was ‘not happy’ that some State Department staff were not supporting his agenda.” Trump “said he alone determines U.S. foreign policy. ‘The one that matters is me,’ Trump said. ‘I’m the only one that matters because, when it comes to it, that’s what the policy is going to be.’” Council of Foreign Relations President Richard Haass believes Trump’s comments indicate trouble not just for Tillerson but for overall foreign policy.

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) 📺 (11/3, 6:44 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) also broadcast segments of Trump’s interview.

### **House Republicans Revise Tax Bill Into “Less Generous” Version.**

The [AP](#) (11/3, Gordon, Taylor) reports House Republicans on Friday “quietly made changes to their far-reaching tax overhaul: Now its tax cuts would be less generous for many Americans.” In particular, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady “released a revised version of the bill that would impose a new, lower-inflation ‘chained CPI’ adjustment for tax brackets immediately instead of in 2023,” which “means more income would be taxed at higher rates over time – and less generous tax cuts for individuals and families.” In a statement, Brady said the updated bill represents “pro-growth tax reform that will deliver more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks for people across our country.”

A front-page [Washington Post](#) (11/3, A1, Debonis) article reports Brady said Friday that President Trump has been “pushing Republican leaders in Congress to make a major and potentially explosive change to their tax bill, directing them to use the legislation to begin dismantling the Affordable Care Act.” Brady “said Trump has personally requested he include repeal of the mandate – the health law’s chief mechanism to compel Americans to become insured and to keep the insurance market stable.” Speaking at an event hosted by Politico, Brady said Trump “feels very strongly about including this at some step before the final process. ... He’s told me that twice by phone and once in person. ... And members have as well.” However, the Post adds “Brady hinted Friday he was not inclined to introduce a new complication into the 400-plus-page bill, which was introduced Thursday after months of negotiations.”

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Rubin) reports that although the bill’s family tax credit expires at the end of 2022, Brady asserted it “will never go away” as future lawmakers would act to extend the tax break.

*House Republicans “Bullish” On Passage Of Tax Reform Bill.* According to [The Hill](#) (11/3, Jagoda, Wong), House Republicans on Friday also “appeared bullish they would



soon pass the first overhaul of the U.S. tax system in more than three decades." Rep. Kevin Cramer told The Hill that passage is "a layup," Rep. Tom Cole said, "I think at the end of the day, we're not going to lose very many members," and Rep. Dave Brat, a member of the House Freedom Caucus, asserted, "Leadership did a great job on this thing. ... It's pro-growth, there's middle-class tax cuts for real."

**Cohn: Tax Cuts Will Not Be Retroactive, Will Benefit Economy.** [Reuters](#) (11/3, Brice) reports National Economic Council Director Cohn in an interview with Fox Business Network on Friday said the tax reform plan "would not make adjustments retroactive...despite calls from U.S. lawmakers who want cuts to apply to 2017 as the party aims to pass the bill by year's end." Cohn asserted, "We're trying to deliver great tax reform to the American public. We can't get it retroactive to this year. We're trying to do a tax plan that starts on Jan. 1 of next year."

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (11/3, Smialek) reports Cohn, speaking on Bloomberg Television, "said the time is ripe for a fiscal boost to the U.S. economy, disagreeing with" Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein, "the man who was his boss for more than a decade at Goldman Sachs Group Inc." Cohn said, "If you looked at today's employment data report, you've had no wage growth. ... Our tax plan is designed to create wage growth."

**Schumer: GOP Tax Bill Resembles A "Dead Fish."** The [Washington Times](#) (11/3, Sherfinski) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer on Friday "likened the House GOP's newly unveiled tax legislation to a 'dead fish' and said it represents a 'betrayal' to middle class families throughout the country." Schumer added, "The more people learn about this bill, the less they're going to like it."

**Lewandowski To Promote Tax Plan For Ad Campaign.** [Bloomberg News](#) (11/3, McCormick) reports "the White House-sanctioned America First Policies" has announced "plans to spend about \$1 million on ads promoting the Republican tax proposal and will feature the president's first campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, as its pitchman." According to Bloomberg, the television and online campaign "is an initial down payment on what the group says will be a multimillion-dollar effort it hopes will help the president and Republicans score their first major legislative win." Bloomberg adds "the new ads, scheduled to start Friday and run for about a week, are set to appear on Fox News Channel and on local cable in five congressional districts represented by lawmakers who opposed a budget resolution that was a precursor to the tax legislation."

**Tax Reform Bill Prompts Lobbying Frenzy.** The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Tankersley, Kaplan, Vogel) reports the release of the tax reform bill on Thursday has "set off a scramble among lobbyists and interest groups desperate to preserve prized tax breaks that are suddenly at risk in the sweeping bill moving through the House." However, the Times says that "the ability of K Street to prevent longstanding tax provisions from getting the ax is running headfirst into Republicans' own mad dash as they attempt to quickly pass the tax rewrite and get it to President Trump's desk by Christmas."

Although the legislation is opposed by private-equity firms, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Gottfried) says the bill could have been harsher toward the industry. The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Hsu) also reports the measure would preserve "the so-called carried-interest provision," which is "a loophole that benefits hedge funds, private-equity funds and other investment managers, despite President Trump's campaign promises to eliminate it." According to the Times, the provision "is beloved by, and hugely valuable to, private-equity and other Wall Street investors."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Rappeport) reports the commercial real estate industry "appears to have emerged from the Republican tax rewrite relatively unscathed." The Times says that if passed, "developers like Mr. Trump, who made much of his fortune building skyscrapers, hotels and resorts, will have little to worry about."

**Tax Foundation Analysis Finds New Tax Cuts Do Not Fully Pay For Themselves.** [Bloomberg News](#) (11/3, Wasson) reports that according to the Tax Foundation, "the House tax plan does not pay for itself through growth, and more income benefits flow to the top 1 percent than to other groups in its first year." The study found "the bill would lower federal revenue by \$1.98 trillion over 10 years – before accounting for any economic growth it would produce. ... But accounting for growth would trim that 10-year revenue loss to \$989 billion." The Tax Foundation also determined "over the long run, the



bill's changes would lead to a 3.9 percent higher gross domestic product, would create 975,000 full-time equivalent jobs and would lead to wages that are 3.1 percent higher."

**WSJournal A1: GOP Tax Bill Places Importance On Path To Wealth, Not Sum Of Riches.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, A1, Rubin) in a front-page article outlines how the House Republican tax bill will benefit employers rather than individuals. Rep. Chris Collins acknowledged this disparity, saying, "If you earn your income as a doctor, a lawyer, an architect, you're not getting anything. ... But you're not supposed to get anything – that's how you earn your income. It wasn't intended to lower the tax rate for a doctor, a lawyer or an architect. It was intended to lower the rate for manufacturing companies making widgets and employing other people."

**Poll: Majority Of Americans Opposing New Tax Reform Bill.** [ABC News](#) (11/3, De Jong) reports a new ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1,005 "adults" (10/29-11/1) found "Americans oppose Donald Trump's emerging tax plan by broad a 17-point margin, with 60 percent saying it favors the wealthy – including six in 10 of the wealthy themselves." In addition, 50 percent "oppose the plan, up 6 percentage points from September; 33 percent support it, up 5 points. The rest, 17 percent, are undecided." According to ABC News, "criticism of the plan goes hand-in-hand with negative views of Trump's efforts to improve the federal tax system overall: 56 percent rate him negatively on this issue, versus 34 percent positively."

**WPost: GOP Tax Plan Should Phase Out If Government Doesn't Meet Revenue Targets.**

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/3) calls on Republicans to prove that their tax plan will pay for itself by modifying their legislation to phase in cuts "only so long as the federal government meets revenue targets." The piece details how this can be accomplished, concluding that "if Republicans refuse to add this essential safeguard to their tax plan, it would be strong evidence they do not believe the story they are telling Americans about self-financing tax cuts."

**WSJournal: Trump Tax Plan Hides Additional Taxes On High Earners.** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3) criticizes the GOP tax plan for having a hidden 45.6 percent marginal tax rate for some high earners. The Journal explains that the plan's 12 percent rate phases out for people making over \$1 million, and warns that it will hurt job creation by levying additional taxes on the most powerful engine for economic growth.

**Milbank: GOP Tax Cuts Only Benefit The Wealthy.** Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Milbank) column that the GOP tax plan "makes the rich richer and shifts the burden onto the working class." Milbank goes on to criticize ads promoting the plan, adding that the wealthiest taxpayers would get "about \$1,100 for every dollar" the average American gets in cuts.

## **Ryan: GOP Weighing Repeal Of ACA Mandate As Part Of Tax Reform.**

The [AP](#) (11/5, Freking) reports Speaker Ryan said yesterday "Republicans are discussing whether their tax plan should include a repeal of the Obama health law's requirement that people have insurance coverage or face a penalty, a step pushed by President Donald Trump but seen by some GOP lawmakers as possibly imperiling a much-needed legislative victory." The AP adds that such a move "would be another shot at further undermining the Affordable Care Act after repeated failures by the GOP-led Congress to repeal and replace the law." The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, O'Keefe) notes that appearing on "Fox News Sunday," Ryan "said that repealing the individual mandate is 'one of the things that's being discussed,'" and added, "We're listening to our members about what we can do to add to this bill to make it even better."

Ryan also told [Fox News Sunday](#) (11/5, Wallace) that tax reform "will help get our economy growing and reach its potential," and pledged to "clean out the special interest loopholes in the tax bill and let people keep their money in the first place."

**WSJournal Endorses Idea.** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5) endorses including a repeal of ACA mandates in the GOP's tax reform bill, noting a CBO study that found doing so would lead to \$275 billion in savings for the government. To the Journal, eliminating the mandates is not just a fiscally wise approach to funding tax reform, but also a good political move.

## **Labor Department: US Added 261,000 Jobs In October.**

The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Casselman) reports the Labor Department on Friday revealed "the hurricane-battered job market surged back to life in October" with the addition of 261,000 jobs, "the most in more than a year." According to the Times, the effect of hurricanes in Florida and Texas was most visible "in the weather-dependent leisure and hospitality sector, which lost 102,000 jobs in September, then gained them all back and more – 106,000 jobs – in October." The Times adds that "the hurricanes' damage to the labor market also was not quite as bad as initially believed," as the Labor Department "revised its estimate of September payrolls from a decline of 33,000 – the first net loss in jobs in seven years – to an 18,000-job gain. With the revision, the economy has now added jobs for 85 straight months, a record."

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, A1, Torry) in a front-page article warns the good economic news could challenge the Federal Reserve's plans to raise short-term interest rates in December. In another article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Harrison) examines how the economy's continued strong performance may challenge the upcoming tenure of President Trump's nominee for Fed chairman, Jerome Powell.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/3, story 8, 0:15, Mason) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/3, story 9, 0:25, Holt) provided similar coverage.

*WSJournal A1: Companies Selling More, Increase Spending As Economy Improving.* In a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, A1, Francis) reports that as the economy improves, large US companies are recording strong sales and healthy profits, which are allowing them to spend more on investments.

*NYTimes: Trump Should Have Kept Yellen At The Fed.* In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/3) praises President Trump's choice of Jerome Powell to lead the Federal Reserve, calling him a "levelheaded and competent person" and a "far better choice than other candidates Mr. Trump was said to be considering." However, the Times argues that Trump "would have made a much better decision had he offered Ms. Yellen a second term," noting that she "has done a terrific job" at the Fed.

## **White House Approves The Release Of Report Blaming Humans For Climate Change.**

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (11/3, A1, Mooney, Eilperin, Dennis) reports the Administration "released a dire scientific report Friday calling human activity the dominant driver of global warming, a conclusion at odds with White House decisions to withdraw from a key international climate accord, champion fossil fuels and reverse Obama-era climate policies." The Post adds that "to the surprise of some scientists, the White House did not seek to prevent the release of the government's National Climate Assessment, which is mandated by law." According to the Post, "the report affirms that climate change is driven almost entirely by human action, warns of a worst-case scenario where seas could rise as high as eight feet by the year 2100, and details climate-related damage across the United States that is already unfolding as a result of an average global temperature increase of 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit since 1900."

A [New York Times](#) (11/3, A1, Friedman, Thrush) front-page article says that "while there were pockets of resistance to the report in the Trump administration, according to climate scientists involved in drafting the report, there was little appetite for a knockdown fight over climate change among Mr. Trump's top advisers, who are intensely focused on passing a tax reform bill – an effort they think could determine the fate of his presidency." However, the Times concedes "the White House put out a statement Friday that seemed to undercut the high level of confidence of the report's findings." The Times adds that while Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt and Energy Secretary Perry are skeptics, National Economic Council Director Cohn was responsible for approving the report and he "generally believes in the validity of climate science and thought the issue would have been a distraction from the tax push, according to an administration official with knowledge of the situation." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Hernandez) says 13 federal agencies were responsible for producing the report.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/3, story 9, 0:15, Muir) and [NBC Nightly News](#)



(11/3, story 7, 0:20, Holt) provided similar coverage in brief reports.

*New Climate Change Report Unlikely To Impact Policy.* The [New York Times](#) (11/4, Plumer) reports the Trump Administration "on Friday published a report on climate change from its own scientists that left no doubt about its grim reality and its causes." However, there is "little reason to think that yet another scientific report will fundamentally shift attitudes on global warming — either among policymakers or the public at large." White House aides "said that President Trump, who spent much of Friday in the air on his way to meetings in Asia, was barely aware of the report's existence."

### **US Delegates Not Expected To Play Key Role In Global Climate Talks.**

The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Dennis, Mooney) reports delegates from more than 190 countries will convene in Bonn, Germany on Monday for the annual international climate talks. The US delegation "finds itself largely on the sidelines," and other nations have, according to the Post, seemingly reacted to President Trump's decision to withdraw the US from the Paris climate accord "with a collective shrug." Former State Department Deputy Legal Adviser Sue Binniaz confirmed the US will send "a State Department-led delegation with a career diplomat in charge, and that seems to send a signal that they're not going to Bonn to throw bombs or anything." Still, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, and California Gov. Jerry Brown will join a collection of other elected officials, philanthropists, and business leaders in an attempt "to step into the gap."

### **At Least 25 Killed In Texas Church Mass Shooting.**

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (11/5, Bradshaw, Downs) reports "at least 25 people were killed at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs Sunday morning" after "a man walked into the church...and opened fire." Moreover, "between 15-20 people were wounded." The [AP](#) (11/5, Vertuno) says "federal law enforcement swarmed the small community 30 miles southeast of San Antonio after the attack to offer assistance, including ATF investigators and members of the FBI's evidence collection team." All three network newscasts led with the story. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/5, lead story, 3:00, Llamas) remarked on "an entire town in shock as they learn the devastating news" of "this massacre, now the deadliest church shooting in America, and the fourth deadliest in modern history, behind Las Vegas, Orlando, and Virginia Tech." [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/5, lead story, 2:15, Snow) also referred to "the nation's worst mass shooting at a house of worship."

"Two law enforcement officials" tell the [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Holley, Phillips, Lowery) that "the suspect has been identified as Devin Kelley, 26, a Texas man who lived in a nearby county. Those officials did not see any immediate sign that he was motivated by international terror groups, but they cautioned the investigation is still in its early stages." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/5, story 2, 1:15, Thomas) said Kelley is "a military veteran," and the [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/5, lead story, 2:30, Quijano) that he "served four years in the Air Force before receiving a dishonorable discharge in 2014." He "fled in a vehicle after the attack," and "later died after his vehicle was run off the road."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/5) says "Kelley, who served in logistics readiness at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico starting in 2010, was court-martialed in 2012 for two counts alleging assault on his spouse and assault on their child, Ann Stefanek." Kelley "was convicted and sentenced to 12 months in custody" in addition to his "bad conduct discharge." [USA Today](#) (11/5, Toppo) runs a similar story.

[Reuters](#) (11/5, Garza) refers to "the latest in a rash of mass shootings that have plagued the United States in recent years, stirring a national debate over whether easy access to firearms was contributing to the trend." President Trump "said he was monitoring the situation while in Japan on a 12-day Asian trip," [tweeting](#), "May God be w/ the people of Sutherland Springs, Texas. The FBI & law enforcement are on the scene." [CNN](#) (11/5, Diamond) reports that in his first public comments about the shooting, Trump called it "an 'act of evil'" and "horrific," adding, "We cannot put into



words the pain and grief we all feel and we cannot begin to imagine the suffering of those who lost the ones they love.”

[USA Today](#) (11/5, Bacon) reports Sen. Ted Cruz also took to [Twitter](#), where he wrote, “Keeping all harmed in Sutherland Springs in our prayers and grateful for our brave first responders on the scene.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Holley, Phillips, Lowery) notes Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said in a statement, “The thoughts and prayers of all Texans are with the people of Sutherland Springs as tragic reports come out of First Baptist Church. My office stands ready to assist local law enforcement as needed.”

[Politico](#) (11/5, Griffiths), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/5, Pearce), [Washington Times](#) (11/5, Richardson), [New York Times](#) (11/5, Mele) and [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Korn), among other news outlets, run similar stories on the shooting. [The Hill](#) (11/5, Beavers), meanwhile, reports “Democrats are renewing their calls for gun reform.” Sens. Bob Casey, Dick Durbin and Kamala Harris “were among the Democrats who urged Congress to act in response to the latest deadly shooting.”

Under the headline “Obama Uses Texas Church Massacre To Call For Fewer Guns,” meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (11/5, Hasson) reports the former president said on [Twitter](#) “that Americans should ask God for ‘the wisdom to ask what concrete steps we can take to reduce the violence and weaponry in our midst.’”

## Editorial Wrap-Up

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### New York Times.

***“In Asia, Mr. Trump Is Met By Doubt.”*** The [New York Times](#) (11/5) editorializes, “As President Trump undertakes his first official trip to Asia, American leadership and credibility are in doubt. Leaders in the region worry that his inflammatory statements and impulsiveness could lead to war with North Korea. And there is a serious debate in many Asian countries about whether the future lies in closer partnerships with China, the ascendant power,” or with the US. Trump “arrives in Asia as a wounded leader, with low ratings at home and a stalled legislative agenda, and dogged by revelations of Russian interference” in the 2016 election. Asian nations “want and need America to serve as a democratic counterweight to China.” Trump’s trip “will reveal whether he can rise to this challenge.”

***“Willie Horton, Updated For The Trump Era.”*** The [New York Times](#) (11/5) editorializes that a recent mailer sent out by the campaign of Jack Martins, “the Republican candidate for Nassau County executive,” is “an amalgam of McCarthyism and the notorious Willie Horton ad” because of its attempt to appeal to fear through a race-based message and its misleading ploy to link Laura Curran, the Democratic candidate, to illegal immigration and MS-13. The mailer in question features images of Latino men with tattoos, the headline “Meet Your New Neighbors!,” and the accusation that Curran is supported by groups who “want to make Nassau County a sanctuary county for illegal immigrants.” The Times declines to specifically endorse Curran, but it concludes that Long Island residents might “ask themselves if they want to be represented by someone who stands proudly, as Mr. Martins does, behind so scurrilous a campaign tactic.”

***“New Yorkers Can Make Crooked Politicians Pay.”*** The [New York Times](#) (11/5) editorializes that New Yorkers voting on Tuesday “should approve Proposals 2 and 3.” Proposal 2 proposes to “direct Albany to give judges authority to reduce or revoke the pension of a politician who commits a crime in office,” while Proposal 3 proposes to “give communities in the Adirondacks and Catskills more flexibility to make vital repairs to roads or bridges and to add services like bike lanes or utility lines.”

### Washington Post.

***“Should DC Build A New Hospital? Officials Should Be Cautious.”*** A [Washington Post](#) (11/5) editorial.

***“A Case On Imported Solar Cells Will Put Trump’s Promise On ‘America First’ To The Test.”*** The [Washington Post](#) (11/5) says in an editorial that if President Trump supports

the request for solar panel tariffs sought by US manufacturers SolarWorld Americas and Suniva and SolarWorld Americas, that would “contradict his avowed motive – to support middle-class US jobs,” since according to the Solar Energy Industries Association, the resulting cost increase “would threaten thousands of jobs, as well as raise prices for the increasing number of consumers who rely on solar energy, in order to protect a fraction of the jobs such a move would risk.” The Post asks, “Will Mr. Trump’s effort to put ‘America first’ be moderated by reality – or will the president plow ahead regardless of the country’s real interests?”

*“Satellite Photographs Reveal North Korea’s Crimes Against Humanity.”* The [Washington Post](#) (11/5) editorializes that “satellite photography has become an invaluable tool in the cause of human rights,” as “David Hawk and Amanda Mortwedt Oh of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea used it to prepare a report providing unsettling details about a parallel set of prison camps in North Korea that exist along with the political camps exposed earlier.” Adds the Post, “The Nazi concentration camps shocked the world. If such a horror is discovered today, shouldn’t it prompt a response? Mr. Hawk has laid out the evidence of atrocity.”

### **Wall Street Journal.**

*“Tax Rate Cleanup In Aisle Two.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5) says in an editorial that Republicans are defending a proposed tax rate of 45.6% that would apply to tax-filing couples earning between \$1.2 million and \$1.6 million. The Journal says this rate, which should be eliminated, is basically hidden in the House tax plan, and is reached by adding a surcharge to the 39.6% rate.

*“Tax Reform And ObamaCare.”* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5) endorses including a repeal of ACA mandates in the GOP’s tax reform bill, noting a CBO study that found doing so would lead to \$275 billion in savings for the government. To the Journal, eliminating the mandates is not just fiscally wise approach to funding tax reform, but also a good political move.

*“The Stealth-Tax Republicans.”* According to a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Board) editorial, the arrests in Saudi Arabia reflect the competition for regional influence between the Saudis and Iran, who are said to be looking to generate instability throughout the Middle East in the aftermath’s of the ISIS defeat in Iraq and Syria.

## **Big Picture**

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### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[At Least 26 Dead In South Texas Church Shooting](#)

[Broad Crackdown Reins In Saudi Elite](#)

[New York Fed President Dudley To Announce Early Retirement](#)

[Amazon Snips Prices On Other Sellers’ Items Ahead Of Holiday Onslaught](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Texas Church Shooting Leaves At Least 26 Dead, Officials Say](#)

[Commerce Secretary’s Offshore Ties To Putin ‘Cronies’](#)

[Kremlin Cash Behind Billionaire’s Twitter And Facebook Investments](#)

[Saudi Crown Prince’s Mass Purge Upends A Longstanding System](#)

[De Blasio Kept Crime Down In First Term. His Next Goal: Nicer Police.](#)

[Tax Plan Burdens Blue-state Republicans And Their Districts](#)

[Shalane Flanagan Solves NYC Marathon For American Women](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[Sweeping Saudi Purge Hits Rivals Of Prince](#)

[At Least 26 Dead In South Texas Church Shooting, Officials Say](#)

[9 In Trump’s Orbit Had Contacts With Russians](#)



[In Search Of Trump Country](#)  
['Fat Leonard' Probe Expands To Ensnare More Than 60 Admirals](#)  
[Nigerien Soldier's Assertion About Tracking Militants Shifts Narrative](#)

**Financial Times:**

[Saudi Arabia's Young Prince Tightens Grip With Lightning Crackdown](#)  
[China Launches 'Magical' Island-Building Ship On Eve Of Trump Visit](#)  
[Pierre Gramegna Emerges As Early Eurogroup Frontrunner](#)

**Washington Times:**

[26 Dead After Gunman Opens Fire In Texas Church; State's Largest Mass Shooting](#)  
[Virginia Governor Candidates Reach Out From Center In Politically Polarized State](#)  
[Brazil's Revelations Further Fracture, Distract Democratic Party](#)  
[Russia Dossier Investigators Suspect Reporters Were Paid To Spread Collusion Claims](#)  
[House Republicans Sneak In 'Hidden Tax Increase' Each Year By Changing Cost-Of-Living Calculation](#)

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Suspect; Texas Church Shooting-Victims; Severe Weather; Trump-Asia Tour; DNC-Hillary Rigging Accusation; Hollywood Sexual Misconduct Accusations; Mississippi-Escapee Manhunt; Sen. Rand Paul Assaulted; College Football-Officer Attacked; New York Marathon Winner; Texas Church Shooting-Recap.

**CBS:** Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; DNC-Hillary Rigging Accusation; New York City Marathon; Saudi Arabia-Princes Arrested; Hollywood Sexual Misconduct Accusations; Amazon-Pharmacy Entry; Anti-Crime Coalition; Hollywood-Mountain Lions.

**NBC:** Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Details; Trump-Asia Tour; Russia Meddling Investigation-Wilburn Ross; Russia Meddling Investigation-Flynn; Sen. Rand Paul Assaulted; Saudi Arabia-Princes Arrested; State Elections-Female Candidates; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Baseball World Series; New York Marathon Winner; House Buying Trend.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Texas Church Shooting – 12 minutes, 35 seconds  
Trump-Asia Tour – 7 minutes

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour.

**CBS:** Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Russia Meddling Investigation; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour.

**NPR:** Texas Church Shooting; DNC-Hillary Rigging Accusation; Saudi Arabia-Princes Arrested.

## **Washington Schedule**

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**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks to U.S. and Japanese Business Leaders; participates in an Embassy meet and greet; participates in a welcoming ceremony and state call with Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan; participates in the honor guard ceremony; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe; participates in a meeting with families of North Korean abductees; attends a state banquet.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a series of briefings at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

**US Senate:** 3:00 PM Senate aims to end debate on assistant AG nominee – Senate

convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel to be an Assistant Attorney General, including a vote to invoke cloture on the nomination Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

**US House:** 12:00 PM House Ways and Means Committee marks up Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 1, The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’ \* Released last week, the bill would reduce the number of different tax bands, increase the standard deduction, eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax, largely eliminate the State and Local Tax Deduction, convert corporate tax into a flat rate, and increase the estate tax exemption Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 3043 – Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017’ and ‘H.R. 3441 – Save Local Business Act’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

**Other:** 9:00 AM ‘How Do You Solve a Problem Like North Korea?’ Cato Institute conference – ‘How Do You Solve a Problem Like North Korea?’ Cato Institute conference, with panels on ‘Pyongyang’s Capabilities and U.S. Policy’ and ‘New Approaches to Solving the North Korea Problem’. Includes keynote from former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, with other speakers including The Nonproliferation Review Editor Joshua Pollack, New America Senior Fellow Suzanne DiMaggio, Ploughshares Fund President Joe Cirincione, Hoover Institution Fellow in Contemporary Asia Michael Auslin, City College of New York Chair in Political Science Rajan Menon, and Cato Institute Senior Fellow Doug Bandow Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.cato.org/> <https://twitter.com/CatoInstitute>

9:45 AM Bill Clinton among speakers at Georgetown symposium on his campaign and presidency – Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service ‘Clinton 25: Georgetown Reflects On The Vision Of Bill Clinton’ symposium continues, examining the vision that drove the campaign and presidency of President Bill Clinton, 25 years after his election. Day two agenda includes keynote from Clinton, with other speakers including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, former White House Chiefs of Staff Thomas McLarty, Erskine Bowles and John Podesta, former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste, former Senior Advisor for Policy and Strategy Rahm Emanuel, former White House Political Director Minyon Moore, former Domestic Policy Council Director Bruce Reed, and former Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott Location: Georgetown University, 37th and O Sts NW, Washington, DC [www.georgetown.edu](http://www.georgetown.edu) <https://twitter.com/GUPolitics> #Clinton25

3:30 PM NASA astronaut Jack Fisher speaks at GW on live aboard the ISS – NASA astronaut Col. Jack Fisher speaks at the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs Space Policy Institute on ‘Living and Working Aboard the International Space Station’, including discussing the research investigations he conducted in microgravity, ‘the importance of international collaboration in space’, and how space policy has evolved in his tenure as a NASA astronaut Location: George Washington University Elliott School, 1957 E St NW, Washington, DC [elliott.gwu.edu](http://elliott.gwu.edu) <https://twitter.com/elliottschoolgw>

4:00 PM She Should Run National Conversation – She Should Run National Conversation on the evolution of elected leadership, with speakers including Democrats Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Reps. Brenda Lawrence, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Stephanie Murphy and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser, and State’s Attorney for Baltimore Marilyn Mosby \* She Should Run provides an approachable starting place and network for women leaders considering a future run for office and for those who support them Location: Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC [www.sheshouldrun.org](http://www.sheshouldrun.org) <https://twitter.com/SheShouldRun>

## Last Laughs

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### Late Night Political Humor.



No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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## Conversation Contents

**Energy Regulation Watch: EPA's methane rule stay could morph into phase-ins — CPP repeal gets West Virginia hearing — Pruitt 'sue and settle' order could affect suit**

**POLITICO Pro Energy <politicoemail@politicopro.com>**

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**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy <politicoemail@politicopro.com>  
**Sent:** Fri Nov 03 2017 10:57:46 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Energy Regulation Watch: EPA's methane rule stay could morph into phase-ins — CPP repeal gets West Virginia hearing — Pruitt 'sue and settle' order could affect suit

By Alex Guillén | 11/03/2017 12:57 PM EDT

*With help from Eric Wolff, Darius Dixon and Emily Holden*

**EPA'S METHANE RULE STAY COULD MORPH INTO PHASE-INS:** EPA is considering longer phase-in periods for key requirements under the 2016 methane emissions rule for new oil and gas wells, rather than implementing an outright stay. In a [Notice of Data Availability](#) signed on Wednesday, EPA said that the American Petroleum Institute suggested that instead of a stay, EPA could extend the existing deadlines for the key provisions at issue here, including the leak detection and repair requirements, which the industry says will require significant new infrastructure. The NODA further updates the economic analysis for the proposed stay to include foregone climate benefits from the increased emissions of methane and volatile organic compounds, which was not included in the original proposal in June.

**Should old regulation be forgot:** Plenty of observers thought EPA would rush headlong into the new stay as early as September, but the NODA's 30-day comment period and the time required to process any new comments make it all but certain EPA won't take action until after the new year. In the meantime, the rule remains in effect.

**Mark your calendars:** A federal judge in Wyoming will hold a [hearing](#) over the Bureau of Land Management's separate methane waste rule on Dec. 18. This all happens even as Interior works to repeal the rule. A federal judge in California in October ruled that Interior's previous delay of the methane waste rule was illegal, and Interior is currently taking comment on a proposal for a new 18-month delay.

**CPP — COUNTRY ROADS, TAKE ME HOME TO THE PLACE I BELONG:** EPA will hold a public hearing about the proposal to withdraw the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan in West Virginia on Nov. 28 and 29. EPA said it will convene two daylong sessions at the state capitol in Charleston, but did not explain its decision to only schedule meetings in the coal-reliant state, rather than collecting input from around the country, including from green states and businesses who disagree with the rollback. The agency said it may extend the hearing to a third day and "may also hold an additional hearing to be announced at a later date." EPA also extended the comment period on the proposal to Jan. 16, 2018.

**Caught our eye in the docket:** Comedian Samantha Bee, who hosts "Full Frontal" on TBS, has put her mark on the CPP repeal thanks to two form letters viewers can sign and submit to EPA. Each opposes the CPP repeal, but one is for [those who love Bee](#) and the other is for [those who hate her](#). ("In order to continue despising Samantha Bee, I will require clean air and



temperatures that can sustain human life.")

**KEEP TRACK OF THE ENERGY POLICY REGULATIONS** that matter most with [the Regulation Watch Tracker](#). Any tips, comments and suggestions? Send them to [EnergyRegWatch@politicopro.com](mailto:EnergyRegWatch@politicopro.com), and follow me on Twitter at [@alexcguillen](#). And don't forget our other helpful online tools. Check out the [Document Drawer](#) and peek in on the latest chatter in the energy world at the [Energy Insider Tweet Hub](#).

**RFS GOES TO WHITE HOUSE:** EPA [sent](#) the final volumes for the Renewable Fuel Standard to the White House for interagency review last week. This is normally one of the last steps in the regulatory process, but EPA has already shown a penchant for rewriting RFS proposals after review. The deadline for a final rule is Nov. 30.

**EPA WON'T EXPAND OZONE TRANSPORT REGION:** EPA today published its [final decision](#) to reject a request from nine downwind states to add nine upwind states to the Ozone Transport Region, a move that would have required those new states to implement more stringent pollution controls, even if they already meet their local air quality standards. It's not a surprising outcome — the Obama administration proposed rejecting the petition in January. EPA cited ongoing efforts to reign in ozone pollution inside and outside the OTR, saying those external efforts "provide a better pathway for states and the EPA to develop a tailored remedy that is most effective for addressing any remaining air quality problems." It is not immediately clear whether any of the states would sue over the denial.

**PRUITT 'SUE AND SETTLE' ORDER COULD AFFECT SUIT:** EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's recent directive targeting the so-called sue and settle practice for lawsuits against EPA could affect an upcoming case. North Dakota cited the directive recently, saying that it bolsters its effort to nullify a court order requiring EPA to review oil and gas wastewater rules. Environmental groups complained that EPA had not updated its oil and gas wastewater disposal rules since 1988, despite major changes related to the fracking boom and a statutory requirement that EPA reconsider the rules every three years. In December, they struck a deal that requires EPA to decide whether to update those rules by March 2019.

**Pruitt's order "aligns with North Dakota's argument** that the settlement in this case imposed obligations on U.S. EPA that go beyond" the law's requirements, the state wrote in a short [letter](#) to the court. In a [response](#), EPA says the issue at hand is whether North Dakota has standing to intervene, and that Pruitt's directive does not grant that. Green groups backed up EPA, [adding](#) that even if the directive was relevant, it can't affect a deal struck in the past. Oral arguments are Nov. 7.

**McINTYRE PRIMED FOR THE HOT SEAT:** It was always expected that Neil Chatterjee was keeping the chairman's seat warm at FERC until Kevin McIntyre got in place — and now that he's been confirmed there's plenty for the incoming chairman to get his head wrapped around. As a private citizen, McIntyre has been following FERC for decades and can read the hundreds of comments on DOE's NOPR flowing into the agency (reply comments are due Tuesday!) like everyone else. But now he'll be able to tap the vast technical experience of the staff and will be the face of whatever regulators decide to do with Energy Secretary Rick Perry's contentious grid pricing rule. The FERC chairman controls what gets voted on and when.

**And we have so many questions!** What staffing decisions does he make? Plenty of people in the energy world have been nervous about Chatterjee's hiring of Anthony Pugliese and James Danly, as his chief of staff and general counsel, respectively, so there's some eagerness to see whether McIntyre puts his own imprint on the agency's staff. What happens on enforcement reform? What are his priorities other than the FERC boilerplate of reliability and reasonable rates? Does he espouse an interest in particular energy sources? Where might he differ on issues from his fellow Republicans, or agree with Democrats?

**A BURDENSOME ROUNDUP:** Agencies have finally released their reports to the White House on regulations or agency policies that may "burden" domestic energy production. Here's a quick roundup.

**EPA:** The agency will review how its regulations and other actions affect employment across

multiple sectors. EPA will also set up task forces to consider reforms to the New Source Review permitting program and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. And EPA will continue with its "Smart Sectors" initiative that will boost coordination between EPA and key industries it regulates, which the agency rolled out earlier this month. [More](#).

**Interior:** The department is looking to speed up permitting for energy projects and minerals mining by tweaking policies designed to protect wildlife conservation areas. Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service is also re-evaluating whether laws establishing protections for migratory birds should apply to energy projects, and it's reviewing the Obama rule that gave wind developers 30-year permits to injure or kill protected eagles. More from Esther Whieldon and Ben Lefebvre [here](#).

**DOE:** The Energy Department plans to revisit how it handles the development of energy efficiency standards, the agency's central regulatory power. DOE is considering whether to issue a request for information specifically on how to amend its procedures for setting up new efficiency standards for consumer products. Details from Darius Dixon are [here](#).

**FERC:** Agency staff voluntarily reviewed four areas of FERC work: hydropower licensing, liquefied natural gas facility and gas pipeline siting, electric capacity policy in the three eastern power markets, and electric generator interconnection policy. [More](#).

**POCKET DOCKET:** Updates on new and ongoing lawsuits.

**Air permitting:** The Trump administration this week [urged](#) the Supreme Court not to wade into an appeal brought by DTE over New Source Review permits — specifically, EPA's enforcement action after the utility modified a coal plant in 2010 without getting the proper preconstruction permit. The 6th Circuit was right to rule that the enforcement can proceed even if EPA doesn't show that emissions in the real world increased following the modifications. The brief includes a footnote saying that EPA is reviewing its NSR policy in response to a presidential order, and that enforcement issues like this one are part of that review.

**Ozone FIPs:** The state of New York [says it will sue](#) EPA for missing a key deadline to issue a federal plan tackling smog-forming pollution that floats across state lines. EPA said in August 2015 that 24 states had not created strong enough plans to curb their ozone emissions to reduce pollution in downwind states. Five of those states contribute to New York's levels. But EPA missed an August 2017 deadline to issue federal implementation plans for those states. [More](#).

**CAFE penalties:** [Five states](#) and [several environmental groups](#) have asked a federal court in New York to restore higher civil penalties for CAFE violators, with the green groups calling the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's delay of the higher penalties "without statutory authority and in blatant disregard of the Administrative Procedure Act." Both coalitions asked the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals for fast action so as not to "reward" NHTSA for an illegal action. The rule boosted the fines, which had not been indexed to inflation, from \$5.50 per tenth of a mile per gallon to \$14 starting with model year 2019 vehicles.

**LNG exports:** The D.C. Circuit ruled against the Sierra Club in three lawsuits the environmentalists had filed challenging the Energy Department's approval of liquefied natural gas exports to non-Free Trade Agreement countries. More [here](#).

**Hot-spot guidance:** The D.C. Circuit has [tossed out](#) a lawsuit brought by environmentalists over an Obama-era update to agency guidance on how to measure a transportation project's effect on both fine and coarse particulate matter levels. The three-judge panel raised issues over the groups' standing and said the guidance was not a final agency action subject to judicial review.

**Stormwater discharge:** The 9th Circuit [says](#) an environmental group can pursue a RCRA lawsuit against utility PG&E over a preservative used to treat wooden utility poles that drips into stormwater discharged into San Francisco and Humboldt Bays. The 9th Circuit panel said the suit was not barred by RCRA's "anti-duplication" provision, which excludes from that law's coverage things regulated under the Clean Water Act. EPA could, but does not, require PG&E to obtain a CWA permit for its stormwater discharges, and thus the anti-duplication protection is



not triggered, the panel said in sending the case back to a lower court for further proceedings.

**Formaldehyde emissions:** The Sierra Club has [sued](#) EPA over a one-year delay of a formaldehyde emissions rule for composite wood products. A 2010 law required EPA to issue the limits by 2013, although it didn't do so until late 2016. Administrator Scott Pruitt then delayed the compliance deadline from Dec. 12, 2017, to Dec. 12, 2018.

**Endangered species:** Various California building interests have [sued](#) the Fish and Wildlife Service over how the agency defines "subspecies" under the Endangered Species Act. The groups are trying to get FWS to delist the coastal California gnatcatcher, a type of bird which it argues is not technically a subspecies and therefore "ineligible for listing."

**International water:** The Canadian province of Manitoba has [appealed](#) a district court judge's ruling upholding the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental study of a Northwest Area Water Supply project, which would move water from a Missouri River Basin reservoir to thirsty communities in North Dakota. This legal dispute has been ongoing since 2002, with Manitoba arguing that the BOR review violated NEPA over concerns that mixing water from the two basins could introduce invasive species into new habitats. A district court judge in D.C. in October dismissed the complaint, saying BOR's final 2015 supplemental EIS was satisfactory and ruling that while there is a "legitimate" policy debate, "it cannot be decided by a court."

**IT'S BACK!** After not updating the page since April, EPA has resumed posting [notices of intent to sue](#) that it receives — and there are quite a few of them. Just in October the agency received nine, including several that were previously reported, such as the ozone FIPs mentioned in the above "Pocket Docket" section, and the Center for Biological Diversity's complaint that delaying the steam electric ELG regulation violates the Endangered Species Act.

**BLM SHEDS GHG GUIDANCE:** The Bureau of Land Management last week officially rescinded its Obama-era instructions to consider climate change and greenhouse gas emissions before approving energy projects. Esther Whieldon has [more](#).

**INTERIOR PLAN SKIPS CLIMATE CHANGE:** A leaked draft of the Interior Department's five-year strategic plan omits any references to climate change and emphasizes increasing energy production on federal lands, generating revenues, speeding up infrastructure approvals, increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and securing the U.S.-Mexico border. Esther [again](#).

**PHILLY MEETS 2008 OZONE STANDARD:** The Philadelphia region, which includes parts of New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware, meets the 2008 ozone standard, EPA [said](#) this week. The area is not yet re-designated as in attainment, as authorities still need to prove they can maintain those levels.

**U.S. PULLES OUT OF EITI:** The U.S. has withdrawn as an implementing member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a voluntary international program that set standards for public reporting of how much revenue governments receive from oil, gas and mineral extraction. More [here](#).

**TRADE PANEL PROPOSALS NOT AS BAD FOR SOLAR AS THEY COULD HAVE BEEN:** The U.S. International Trade Commission offered [three recommendations](#) to the president for how to protect the U.S. solar manufacturing industry: Two of the proposals suggested quotas with percentage tariffs around 30 percent for after the quota, and one suggested a quota set at current import levels with assistance for domestic manufacturer's. A White House source [told](#) Pro's Eric Wolff that the ITC recommendations would be important guide posts in President Donald Trump's decision, but they would not be the deciding factor. Commissioners will send their recommendations to the president by No. 13. Trump will then have 60 days to make a decision.

**Who was happy, who wasn't:** The Solar Energy Industries Association, which opposes all tariffs, called the recommendations "mixed" while Suniva, one of the original petitioners, said they did nowhere near enough to protect U.S. solar makers. Suniva and SolarWorld had both called for price-specific tariffs, a stronger protection in part because percentage tariffs are a lesser penalty as product prices decline.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Nov. 6-8:** BLM state offices hold [public sessions](#) on possible changes to protections for greater sage grouse habitats.

**Nov. 7:** Reply comments [due](#) on FERC's grid resiliency pricing NOPR.

**Nov. 7:** House Natural Resources Committee hearing on a discussion draft of legislation overhauling onshore and offshore energy development regulations.

**Nov. 7:** The D.C. Circuit hears oral arguments in North Dakota's effort to intervene to block a consent decree between environmental groups and EPA setting a timeline to review oil and gas wastewater rules. 17-5010, *Environmental Integrity Project v. Pruitt*

**Nov. 8:** The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee holds a hearing on the nominations of Kathleen Hartnett White to run the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Andrew Wheeler's bid to be EPA deputy administrator.

**Nov. 9:** The D.C. Circuit holds oral arguments over EPA's brick MACT, including whether the case should be held in abeyance. 15-1487, *Sierra Club v. EPA*

**Nov. 16:** The D.C. Circuit holds oral arguments over EPA's incorporation of regional haze rules into the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. 12-1324, *Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA*

For a roundup of the latest regulation news, sign up for Energy Regulation Watch [here](#). And check our [regulation tracker](#) for updates.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/energy-regulation-watch/2017/11/epas-methane-rule-stay-could-morph-into-phase-ins-025380>

## Stories from POLITICO Pro

### EPA sends biofuel volumes rule to OMB [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 11/01/2017 10:12 AM EDT

EPA has sent the final volume requirements for the 2018 and 2019 Renewable Fuel Standard to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review.

The RFS had caused a political rift, with nine senators led by Sen. [Ted Cruz](#) (R-Texas) pressing the White House to broker a meeting with seven Midwestern senators over the rule. Cruz wants new policies that would drive down the price of biofuel credits, a change sought by a group of refiners led by San Antonio-based Valero Energy.

The Midwestern senators, led by Iowa Republican Sens. [Chuck Grassley](#) and [Joni Ernst](#), forced EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to commit to abandon plans to cut biodiesel volumes and drop discussions to allow exported biofuel to retain the RFS credits.

Pruitt had previously changed the proposed rule after OMB review in July, cutting proposed volumes for cellulosic ethanol.

That proposal left 2018 ethanol volumes at 15 billion gallons, the maximum set by law, and biodiesel volumes for 2019 at 2.1 billion gallons, though Pruitt suggested cutting biodiesel volumes in an August notice.

As of Tuesday, no one had contacted Grassley to set up a White House meeting.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The final rule is due from EPA by Nov. 30.

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## **Interior outlines plan to speed permitting [Back](#)**

By Esther Whieldon and Ben Lefebvre | 10/25/2017 07:39 PM EDT

The Interior Department said on Wednesday it was looking to speed up permitting for energy projects and minerals mining by tweaking policies designed to protect wildlife conservation areas.

Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service is also re-evaluating whether laws establishing protections for migratory birds should apply to energy projects, and it's reviewing the Obama rule that gave wind developers 30-year permits to injure or kill protected eagles.

"The federal government can and must be a better business partner," Vincent DeVito, counselor for energy policy to Secretary Ryan Zinke, said in statement accompanying the [report](#) that was written to comply with President Donald Trump's [executive order](#) calling on agencies to streamline the permit process for energy projects.

Interior said the Bureau of Land Management will examine whether to change procedures to speed up permitting, including how it grants rights of way through national monuments and other national conservation areas and for mineral leases near wild scenic rivers.

And within three months, FWS hopes to finalize new guidance on what FERC-licensed interstate pipelines should do to mitigate the damage they inflict on migratory birds and their habitat.

Interior has already taken steps on many of the rules listed in the report, including repealing a disputed Obama rule on hydraulic fracturing.

The department also made clear it was mulling loosening multiple rules governing drilling in Alaska.

The department could change or rescind numerous rules for offshore oil and gas drilling, such as eliminating the requirement that drilling companies have cap and flow systems and containment domes to stop oil spills within seven days' reach of well sites.

Another change would make it easier for BOEM to process permits for companies to conduct seismic testing offshore.

Another issue the report highlighted was a potential regulatory change to reduce the number of protests that challenge BLM lease sales. Those protests have risen sharply, the report said, and are typically focused on opposition to fracking or fighting climate change rather than parcel-specific protests.

"A regulatory change may be necessary to limit redundant protests that hinder orderly development," the report said.

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## **DOE to scrutinize efficiency rulemaking, LNG exports [Back](#)**

By Darius Dixon | 10/25/2017 04:22 PM EDT

The Energy Department plans to revisit how it handles the development of energy efficiency standards, the agency's central regulatory power, according to a memo the agency released this afternoon.

In a [six-page document](#) responding to a White House [executive order](#) aimed at reducing rules that "unnecessarily encumber" energy development, Energy Secretary Rick Perry says the

agency is focusing on four areas where it wants to shed burdensome regulations, particularly on energy efficiency.

The document says DOE is considering whether to issue a request for information specifically on how to amend its procedures for setting up new efficiency standards for consumer products. Commenters, the agency said, pressed DOE to extend the agency's so-called lookback provision, which mandates that each efficiency rule be revisited every six years for a potentially tighter standard. Although changing that timeframe would need congressional intervention, the memo states that DOE may conduct the necessary review but avoid establishing a more restrictive rule in order to give affected industries more time to comply.

Before it can sign off on a more aggressive standard, DOE rulemakers have to declare that a regulation is both "economically justified" and "technologically feasible." But DOE says economically justified "is subject to interpretation" and may seek to redefine the term.

Perry says DOE will look for ways to make the national labs "operate more efficiently" and it plans to build on its rulemaking effort to lower barriers for "small-scale" natural gas exports to non-Free Trade Agreement countries to potentially include "larger-scale exports."

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The document was sent to the White House but it didn't include a timeline for the review processes.

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**FERC rule review recommends few changes** [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 10/26/2017 11:05 AM EDT

FERC largely patted itself on the back in its response to the White House's executive order calling on agencies to sniff out rules potentially burdensome to domestic energy resources.

The [15-page document](#) says agency staff voluntarily reviewed four areas of FERC work: hydropower licensing, liquefied natural gas facility and gas pipeline siting, electric capacity policy in the three eastern power markets, and electric generator interconnection policy.

Hydropower licensing was the only subject staff said might benefit from reform, highlighting that the commission could consider allowing certain applications to be resubmitted if they're initially rejected.

When the agency explored its 180-day "pre-filing" process for LNG terminals, the report says that procedure may slow some projects but is worthwhile because it allows potential issues to be addressed early.

"Thus, although this regulation may result in delays or additional costs to the applicant early on in a project's development, its overall result is a more timely application review by considering all issues regarding a project concurrently," staff wrote. "As such, there is no need for the Commission to consider any revision to this regulation."

When it came to generation interconnection policies, FERC listed a half-dozen orders the agency has issued to make the process as efficient as possible and said: "None of these orders materially burden the development or use of domestic energy resources."

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The report is a staff product and the report warns that it "does not specifically recommend actions nor indicate the timing of any potential action."

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## **New York to sue EPA over upwind ozone pollution** [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 10/26/2017 01:12 PM EDT

The state of New York [says it will sue](#) EPA for missing a key deadline to issue a federal plan tackling smog-forming pollution that floats across state lines.

EPA said in August 2015 that 24 states had not created strong enough plans to curb their ozone emissions to reduce pollution in downwind states. Five of those states — Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia — contribute to New York's levels. But EPA missed an August 2017 deadline to issue federal implementation plans, or FIPs, for those states.

"With this action, New York makes it clear that we will not stand idly by as other states shun their responsibility to keep our nation's air quality safe," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement. "It's critical that these states take the necessary steps to reduce their environmental impact for future generations and I urge them to follow New York's lead to secure a cleaner and greener tomorrow for all."

EPA also missed an Oct. 1 deadline to issue non-attainment designations under the 2015 ozone standard, leaving its implementation uncertain. New York and various other states previously said they will sue over that missed deadline as well.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The Clean Air Act requires anyone suing EPA over a missed deadline to provide a least 60 days notice before suing.

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## **Federal court knocks down trio of LNG challenges** [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 11/01/2017 09:17 AM EDT

A three-judge panel ruled against the Sierra Club this morning in three lawsuits the environmentalists had filed challenging the Energy Department's approval of liquefied natural gas exports to non-Free Trade Agreement countries.

The court's decision to side with DOE in an earlier legal challenge regarding the Freeport LNG project "largely governs the resolution" of these more recent cases, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals judges wrote in today's [four-page judgment](#).

All three cases, which challenged DOE's approval of the Cove Point, Sabine Pass and Corpus Christi LNG export applications, had their Oct. 18 oral arguments [canceled](#) early last month.

Environmentalists have argued that the agency didn't properly estimate how the gas shipments might increase prices domestically, potentially boost coal use in the power system or increase greenhouse gas emissions. DOE had defended itself by saying that producing the numbers Sierra Club is seeking would be so speculative as to be meaningless.

The decision isn't a big surprise after the Sierra Club [lost its Freeport LNG lawsuit](#) against the agency in August, *Sierra Club v. DOE*, 15-1489. The group did not appeal that decision.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Sierra Club has a 45-day window to file for a rehearing on the court's decision.

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## **BLM rescinds Obama GHG guidance for energy projects** [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon | 10/25/2017 02:12 PM EDT

The Interior's Bureau of Land Management today officially rescinded its Obama-era instructions to consider climate change and greenhouse gas emissions before approving energy projects.

In a [memorandum](#) posted today, BLM Acting Director Mike Nedd said the agency "will no longer apply the provisions" BLM issued in the last days of the Obama administration that would have made the agency weigh the potential for increasing greenhouse gas emissions in National Environmental Policy Act reviews of energy development and production projects.

President Donald Trump in March [revoked](#) the Obama administration's Council on Environmental Quality's guidance that directed agencies to consider emissions and climate change in all NEPA reviews.

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## **Interior draft plan pushes energy development, omits climate change** [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon | 10/25/2017 01:39 PM EDT

A leaked draft of the Interior Department's five-year strategic plan omits any references to climate change and emphasizes increasing energy production on federal lands, generating revenues, speeding up infrastructure approvals, increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and securing the U.S.-Mexico border.

The [draft plan](#) for 2018 through 2022, which is dated Sept. 27 and was first reported by [The Nation](#), doesn't mention climate change, and instead calls for using the best available science to conserve water and land and to "safeguard communities against natural hazards."

The report stands in stark contrast to the Obama Interior's plan for 2014 through 2018, which mentioned climate change more than 40 times and included concrete targets for promoting solar and wind generation. The new draft report mentions renewables in the context of the agency's "all of the above" energy priorities and as part of the agency's review of rents and royalty rates.

On energy and infrastructure development, Interior is creating an "executive committee for expedited permitting" to help carry out Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's related directive. And by Sept. 30, 2019, the Bureau of Land Management aims to eliminate its backlog of oil and gas drilling permit applications and to have processed 80 percent of expressions of interest for public land leases.

And the plan would have the Fish and Wildlife Service inform all of its Endangered Species Act listing designations using "input from state fish and wildlife agencies" that opt to participate in the process by the end of fiscal 2018.

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## **Trump administration pulls out of resource transparency initiative** [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 11/02/2017 11:31 AM EDT

The U.S. has withdrawn as an implementing member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a voluntary international program that set standards for public reporting of how much



revenue governments receive from oil, gas and mineral extraction.

In a [letter](#) today, Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue, told the EITI board chair in Norway that "U.S. laws prevent us from meeting specific provisions of the EITI standard."

"While the U.S. government remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector... it is clear that domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the U.S. legal framework," Gould wrote in the letter, released by the advocacy group Publish What You Pay.

Jana Morgan, director of PWYP's U.S. chapter, said in a statement that the U.S.' participation in the EITI was "stymied" because most companies declined to disclose their tax payments.

"To be clear, U.S. law does not prevent oil, gas or mining companies from voluntarily disclosing their taxes — common practice in the dozens of EITI implementing countries," Morgan said in a statement.

The move comes on top of Republicans' use of the Congressional Review Act earlier this year to [nullify](#) a Securities and Exchange Commission regulation developed under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill that would have required public disclosure of payments made by fossil fuel extractors to foreign governments.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The U.S. will remain a "supporting country" to the initiative, Gould said.

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## **Trade panelists recommend quotas, tariffs for solar imports** [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 10/31/2017 12:43 PM EDT

Three members of a federal trade panel recommended on Tuesday that President Donald Trump establish both quotas and tariffs on imported solar cells and panels, while a fourth member called for only a quota on the foreign-made renewable energy equipment.

The four members of the U.S. International Trade Commission voted unanimously last month that low-cost solar imports have harmed U.S. solar manufacturing. The recommendations that the ITC will officially send to the White House next month will be important guideposts for Trump, who will make the final decision on what measures to take.

The proposals backed by three ITC members follows a suggestion by SolarWorld, one of the companies that filed the trade complaint, that the U.S. should institute both a quota and a tariff. None followed Suniva's recommendation of setting a price floor.

Commissioners Irving Williamson and David Johanson recommended an added 30 percent tariff on imports of solar cells to be imposed after a quota of 1 gigawatt of imports is reached, with the tariff declining 5 percentage points each year for four years. For solar modules, they recommended a similar tariff, but on all imports.

Commission Chairwoman Rhonda Schmittlein recommended a 10 percent tariff on the first 0.5 GW of solar cell imports, followed by a 30 percent tariff on imports above that quota, with the quota rising as the tariff decreases each year. She recommended a 35 percent tariff on all solar modules, declining each year.

Commissioner Meredith Broadbent offered the most lenient remedy: a cap on imports above 8.9 GW in the first year, rising by 1.4 GW each year. She suggested sale of licenses at a price of 1 penny per watt of imports. The money would then go to helping solar manufacturers, a recommendation made by the Solar Energy Industries Association. The quota amount is based on the amount of equipment imported last year, she said.

She was concerned that a quota-tariff combination like those recommended by her colleagues would harm the U.S. solar industry.

"I am firmly of the view that damaging the domestic consumers, installers, and manufacturers supporting CSPV deployment is not an effective way to save domestic producers of CSPV products," she said.

The commissioners will formalize their recommendations and send them to the president by Nov. 13. Trump will have 60 days to make a decision.

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**Source: White House sees solar manufacturing as national security issue** [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 10/30/2017 07:03 PM EDT

The Trump administration is worried that foreign dominance in solar manufacturing could pose a national security threat, according to a White House source, a factor that could play a role in whether the U.S. implements import barriers on the clean energy technology.

A federal trade panel is set to vote Tuesday on the potential remedies it will recommend to President Donald Trump after it found last month that U.S. solar cell and panel manufacturers had been harmed by imports flowing into the country. Trump will make the final decision on whether to implement trade barriers against the solar equipment largely shipped from Asia.

White House staff view a domestic production base as essential to keeping the U.S. at the forefront of solar innovation, which they see as critical for military and space applications.

The two companies that brought the trade complaint, Suniva and SolarWorld Americas, have argued that a strong manufacturing base is essential for U.S. security, both for energy supplies and to drive technological innovation.

Suniva's Matt Card, executive vice president of commercial operations, said in a statement the innovation that comes from U.S. solar manufacturing is "crucial for U.S. national security, otherwise we will be reliant on China and its proxies, with their own agendas, for this technology that is a growing part of a diverse national energy solution."

But the industry lobby group Solar Energy Industries Association, which opposes trade barriers, says innovation can come from government support and a thriving market.

"Through investments in solar, the Department of Defense has been leading the way in making America's energy supply more secure. This case threatens that very progress," said SEIA CEO Abigail Ross Hopper. "It's hard to see how devastating the American solar industry supports national security or puts us at a competitive advantage against the rest of the world."

SEIA has sided with solar installers to argue that tariffs on solar equipment would jeopardize the fast-growing solar business in the United State by driving up prices, and putting nearly one-third of the 260,000 U.S. solar jobs at risk.

Solar backers were skeptical of some of the national security concerns, acknowledging that although NASA relies heavily on solar panels to power satellites and operate the International Space Station and potentially for [solar electric propulsion](#) to reach destinations far from Earth, its panels use a different technology than the crystalline silicon at issue in the trade case.

"Space technology is very different, and that's not impacted at all by the international trade commission case," said Todd Foley, senior vice president for policy for the American Council for Renewable Energy. The group has opposed the potential tariffs, arguing that higher prices would damage demand for solar panels in the U.S. and hurt the overall industry. "The key to a vibrant manufacturing sector is a vibrant domestic market," he said.



While Trump will make the final decision on whether to institute tariffs or a floor price for imported solar panels, he will be guided by the recommendations from the four U.S. International Trade Commission members. The group, which will reveal their tariff proposals at the Tuesday meeting, could send as many as four different recommendations to the president by the Nov. 11 deadline.

"My guess will be you'll see either a single or two recommendations," said Terry Stewart, managing partner at the trade law firm of Stewart & Stewart. Any competing recommendations will be included in the report that goes to the president that lays out logic behind the different options, he added.

The White House source said the current thinking favors a simple structure like a tariff or quota, since the administrative infrastructure already exists. Suniva, which is in bankruptcy protection, has proposed both a tariff as well a minimum price for imported solar cells. SolarWorld, whose German parent is in bankruptcy, has said it preferred a tariff along with a quota. Both companies have said a tariff alone wouldn't do enough to protect the U.S. manufacturing industry.

The two companies and SEIA have offered suggestions to divert some of the proceeds any tariffs from the Treasury Department to go directly to manufacturers, although SEIA's proposal calls for no quota or floor price and a far lower tariff. Suniva and SolarWorld also proposed assistance programs for the solar sector, but the White House prefers to avoid the complexity of setting up new programs.

Suniva and SolarWorld also hope the ITC will recommend the president issue an executive order requiring federal agencies use only U.S.-produced panels and begin a review of tax credit programs like the Investment Tax Credit that supports solar power.

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## **FERC declines to extend comment period on DOE pricing rule [Back](#)**

By Darius Dixon | 10/11/2017 02:33 PM EDT

FERC [denied the requests](#) today of dozens of industry organizations seeking more time to comment on the DOE's grid resiliency pricing proposal.

Energy trade groups representing the oil, natural gas, solar and wind industries, as well as several power generators likely affected by DOE's rule, had asked for 90 days to comment on the plan and 45 days for reply comments. That would push the comment deadlines into 2018. Last week, FERC [said](#) it would accept initial comments for less than a month, and today's decision stuck to that timeframe.

"Upon consideration, the motions of the Energy Industry Associations, Independent Producers, and Industrial Energy Consumers of America for extension of time to file comments are hereby denied," FERC's notice states.

On Tuesday, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, which represents state regulators and tends to have significant influence with FERC, also requested a longer comment period, but their request wasn't cited in FERC's notice today.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** FERC is taking initial comments through Oct. 23 and reply comments through Nov. 7.

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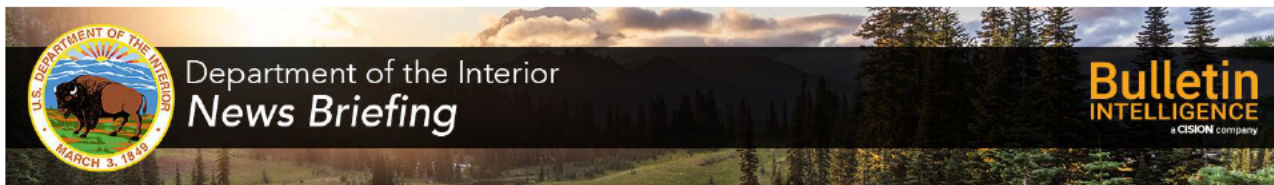
**U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, November 3, 2017**

## **Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>**

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**DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017 6:00 AM EDT**

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## DOI In The News

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### Senators Spar Over Proposal To Drill In Alaska Wildlife Refuge.

[The Hill](#) (11/2, Henry) reports that "lawmakers on Thursday fought over the possibility of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), the opening act of a legislative push to allow oil production in the Alaskan Arctic." According to the article, "Republicans from Alaska and on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee cast drilling in the refuge as an operation that can be done safely and one that would help the economies in both the state and the nation." However, "Democrats vowed to fight drilling there, saying the area is too ecologically important to allow industrial production."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/2, Siciliano, Seigel) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, "expressed confidence Thursday morning that drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a longtime Republican goal, could raise \$1 billion over 10 years to help pay for tax reform." She said, "The first 10 years are just the start of a 40-year period where responsible production raises billions of dollars in revenues for our country every year. We will see the benefits over decades, not just over the 10-year budget window."

The [AP](#) (11/2, Daly) reports that Alaska Gov. Bill Walker and members of the state's congressional delegation said Thursday that drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge "would create jobs and enhance energy security, while maintaining important environmental protections and conserving caribou and other wildlife." The recently-passed budget resolution "allows lawmakers to pursue legislation allowing oil and gas exploration in the remote refuge on a majority vote." Walker, speaking at a Senate hearing, "said opening a small section of the 19.6 million-acre site to drilling would provide billions of dollars in revenue to Alaskans and the rest of the nation, create thousands of jobs." In addition, Walker said, the drilling would "significantly improve our national security and international influence while fully protecting the wildlife and environment of the coastal plain."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Carlton) reports that Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director Greg Sheehan testified at the same hearing that if Congress authorizes production, the Administration believes it will bolster US national security and energy independence, give Alaskans more economic opportunities, and provide necessary revenue to both the federal government and the state of Alaska.

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Energy](#) (11/2, Adragna), [Fox Business](#) (11/2, Carlton), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/2, D'Angelo), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (11/2, Ruskin), and [KTVF-TV](#) Fairbanks, AK (11/2, Zampa).

**ANWR Tests Spirit Of Bipartisanship In Developing Energy Bill.** The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Grandoni) reports that a bipartisan effort to craft a comprehensive energy bill "was tested Thursday as Republican Chair Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) and ranking Democrat Maria Cantwell (Wash.) clashed over whether to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling." ANWR is back on the legislative table, and, on one hand, "Republicans and

virtually every Alaskan elected to statewide office, who argue that opening ANWR to drilling will boost the state's economy and the nation's energy security. Using modern drilling techniques, they argue, it can be done with little environmental impact." On the other, "virtually every Democrat" contends "that the region is too ecologically critical to indigenous caribou hunters and the broader Arctic ecosystem to bore for oil."

### **U.S. To Exit Global Anti-Corruption Effort Aimed At Oil Money.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Dlouhy) reports that the Trump Administration said it plans to exit a global anti-corruption initiative that requires oil, gas, and mining organizations to disclose the payments they give to international governments. Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department's natural resources revenue office, wrote in a letter to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative that the US government "remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector and the ideals of transparency enshrined in the EITI principles," but "domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the US legal framework." Bloomberg notes that "in February, amid oil industry pressure, Trump signed a congressional resolution" repealing an SEC rule "that required oil, gas and mining companies publish the payments they make to governments." The rule, mandated under Dodd-Frank, "was seen as critical to compelling disclosure and satisfying the EITI requirements."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (11/2, Bowden), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/2, Siciliano), and [Reuters](#) (11/2, Simon).

### **Rosselló Denies Reported Ties To Whitefish Energy.**

Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/2) about claims that his campaign manager is a lobbyist for Whitefish Energy. Rosselló said, "He has no ties to that effort. I personally have no ties. I had nothing to do with this contract. ... As soon as the allegations came about with Whitefish, I did two things. Number one, I invoked two investigations. Those investigations are ongoing. And secondly, even if we didn't have the information, on the best interest of the people of Puerto Rico, I decided to cancel that contract."

### **Groups Sue For Details On Trump Plan For National Monuments.**

The [AP](#) (11/2, Brown) reports that environmentalists sued the Trump Administration on Thursday "seeking to pry loose details of plans to shrink national monuments and marine areas and open them to more resource development." The lawsuit claims "the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Interior Department illegally ignored Freedom of Information Act requests for documents related to the issue." Yvonne Chi with Earthjustice, the law firm representing the environmentalists, said, "If the Trump administration thinks what they are about to do is legal, why are they keeping it secret? We expect the record to show that the administration has been speaking with industry groups."

Additional coverage of the national monuments issue was provided by [Colorado Public Radio](#) (11/2, Babits).

### **The Teddy Roosevelt Legacy At Ryan Zinke's Interior Department.**

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (11/2, Boyce) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "often pays his respects" to the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, "while still pushing the pro-industry agenda of the Trump administration." The article says that the "ideological struggle over public lands...goes back at least to Roosevelt." It adds that "the country's different land designations all have different rules, creating a conservation spectrum."

### **Tester Joins Western Senators: Congress Can't Balance Budget By Selling Public Lands.**

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (11/2, Kidston) reports that Sen. Jon Tester "joined five senators from four western states this week in urging congressional leadership to change language in the 2018 budget resolution that opens the door to selling off public lands to



reduce the federal deficit.” The letter “urges Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski not to use the federal budget as a tool to sell public lands to raise revenue.” The senators said, “We strongly believe we must tackle our debt but are concerned this partisan, fast-track process could be used by those in Congress who support selling off our public lands. We strongly oppose these efforts and respectfully urge you not to allow any such legislation to move forward.”

### **Counties, Timber Group Want To Resume Cascade-Siskiyou Litigation.**

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (11/2, Perkowski) reports that “groups representing Oregon counties and timber companies want to resume litigation against the federal government’s expansion of the Cascade-Sisikiyou National Monument.” But a federal judge is “delaying proceedings in the two lawsuits until Dec. 1 to give the Trump administration more time to consider scaling back the monument’s size.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs Planning To Re-Open Montana Jail.**

The [AP](#) (11/2) reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs “expects to re-open a privately-built jail on the edge of the Crow Indian Reservation in coming months after it sat vacant for much of the last decade.” The BIA’s director “recently told a U.S. Senate committee that the agency is finalizing a contract to begin operating the Two Rivers Detention Facility in Hardin within the next three months.” The bureau “has not said who would operate the jail.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/2, Wilson).

### **Calif. County Calls Off BIA Land Suit After Deal With Tribe.**

[Law360](#) (11/2, Westney) reports that “a California county on Wednesday dropped its lawsuit over the federal government’s decision to take more than 1,400 acres of land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, a day after the county approved a settlement with the tribe.” Santa Barbara County “had sued the Bureau of Indian Affairs in January in California federal court over its decision to take land in the county known as ‘Camp 4’ into trust for the Santa Ynez Band for tribal housing and economic development.”

### **What’s Next For A Grand Canyon Tram?**

Prospects Are Bleak. The [AP](#) (11/2, Fonseca) reports that “lawmakers on the country’s largest American Indian reservation have shot down a measure to build an aerial tram to take visitors to a riverside boardwalk in the Grand Canyon, with stores, hotels and restaurants above on the East Rim.” The prospects of “moving forward with the Grand Canyon Escalade project now appear slim.” The measure was “opposed by environmentalists and outdoor enthusiasts who are trying to keep open spaces wild.”

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **BLM Takes Step To Undo Gas Venting And Flaring Rule.**

[Law360](#) (11/2, Phillis) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Wednesday “sent to the White House for review a proposal to rescind or revise an Obama-era regulation aimed at limiting venting and flaring from gas wells on federal lands, which is the final step before it is made public.” The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, “which is part of the executive branch, posted a brief notice that said it received the BLM’s proposal.”

### **Map Shows Spills, Blowouts And Other ‘Undesirable Events’.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/2, King) reports that this week WildEarth Guardians issued a map of



"undesirable events" on public US lands from the oil and gas operations. According to the Bureau of Land Management's Automated Fluid Minerals Support Systems, since 2010, there have been 2,360 blowouts, fires, and spills which was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request. WildEarth Guardians Climate and Energy Program Director Jeremy Nichols said "if the oil and gas industry can't prevent spills, fires, blowouts and other calamities, then they shouldn't be allowed to develop our public lands, period."

### **Drilling Proposal For Nev.'s Ruby Mountains Under Fire .**

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/2) reports that a proposal to open the Ruby Mountains in Nevada for oil and gas developments, which has raised "hackles among a coalition of groups that see it as an unnecessary concession of iconic land to an industry with a scant history of operations in the state." Patrick Donnelly Nevada State director of the Center for Biological Diversity said "we feel this particular oil and gas leasing proposal stands out above the rest in terms of its egregiousness and inappropriateness." The Nevada Service is likely to make a final decision during the month of February.

### **Federal Court Jury Picked For Bundy Standoff Trial In Nevada.**

The [AP](#) (10/30) reports from Las Vegas that "a jury has been picked for the trial of rancher Cliven Bundy, two sons and one other co-defendant on federal charges stemming from an April 2014 armed standoff with federal agents." The AP adds that "U.S. Attorney's office spokeswoman Trisha Young said the judge, prosecutors and defendants finished Thursday choosing a panel of 12 jurors and four alternates to hear what is expected to be a four-month trial." Opening statements are scheduled for Tuesday.

The [Oregonian](#) (11/2, Bernstein) reports that Cliven Bundy, 71, sons Ammon Bundy, 42, and Ryan Bundy, 45, and co-defendant Ryan Payne, 34, "are accused of conspiring to block federal agents from enforcing court orders to confiscate the Bundys' cattle on public land near the family ranch after the patriarch failed to pay grazing fees and fines for more than two decades." They have "each pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to impede a federal officer by force, threats and violence, using or carrying a firearm in a crime of violence, threatening a federal law enforcement officer, obstruction of justice and extortion." Jury selection "lasted three and a half days, with the last 90 minutes done to the violin strains of classical music and pop tunes piped into the courtroom as lawyers quietly made peremptory challenges."

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (11/2, Smith).

### **Waste Dumping Being Investigated.**

The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (11/2) reports that Bureau of Land Management staff are "seeking information on two incidents involving dumping of human waste on public lands along Copper Gulch Road." Keith Berger, field office manager, said, "It is important that those responsible are held accountable. Their actions pose risks to public health, as well as wildlife in the area and ultimately, taxpayers end up paying for the clean up."

### **BLM Citizen Council To Meet For First Time Since National Monument Review.**

The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (11/2, Hooks) reports that "the Bureau of Land Management Farmington District will host a public meeting of its resource advisory council for the first time since the U.S. Interior Department canceled all such meetings earlier this year." The council will "convene for a day-long meeting in Farmington Dec. 5 and 6."

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

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### **Offshore Drilling: House Panel Looks For Common Ground.**

The [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (11/3, Topper) reports that environmentalists, business leaders and legislators hesitant about offshore energy development are seeking opportunities to work with oil advocates to limit the impact of offshore drilling. According to Frank Knapp, president and CEO of the S.C. Small Business Chamber of Commerce, "If

we can get the petroleum industry to agree to force the technology to come up with a testing procedure that has very minimalistic impact on marine life, and if we can get the industry to tell BOEM to require only one exploration that everybody would have to share instead of five of them for a whole year, we'd have something to talk about." Knapp, along with other environmentalists, has been tasked with working with Bonnie Loomis, director of the S.C. Petroleum Council to come up with a potential agreement regarding offshore surveying. According to Loomis, "I believe seismic is coming. I believe that the permits will be issued early in 2018. I think that we owe it to ourselves to work to manage that change."

## **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

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### **Settlement Talks Continue In Suit Over 13-Year-Old Oil Leak.**

The [AP](#) (11/2, Kunzelman) reports that Taylor Energy Co. is seeking additional time to enter a settlement, which "could allow it to recover millions of dollars it set aside for work to end" a leak that started in 2004. US officials have met with the company "four times in the past year to discuss possible terms of a settlement that would resolve the company's lawsuit against the federal government." Interior Department Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle took part in a September 26 meeting.

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

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### **Yellowstone Grizzlies May Soon Commingle With Northern Cousins.**

The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Robbins) reports that the bears in Yellowstone National Park, "protected from hunting, have been cut off from the rest of their kind," and "their closest kin prowl the mountains some 70 miles north, in and around Glacier National Park." In a new study, "biologists say that as grizzly populations increase in both Glacier and Yellowstone, more adventurous males from both parks are journeying farther to stake out territory, winding up in places where they have not been seen in a century or more." If the bears "keep roaming and expanding, the two populations will likely reconnect, perhaps as soon as five or 10 years from now." Frank van Manen, leader of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, said, "It's very encouraging for the long-term future of the bear."

### **Groups Want Protections Restored For Louisiana Black Bear.**

The [AP](#) (11/2, McGILL) reports that "environmental groups put federal officials on notice Thursday that they intend to file legal action to return the Louisiana black bear back to a list of threatened species." Officials announced the "removal of the bear from the list in March 2016," but "some conservationists and environmentalists opposed the move when it was announced." On Thursday, the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility "released copies of its letter to the Department of the Interior, announcing plans to sue under provisions of the Environmental Protection Act unless the department's Fish and Wildlife Service restores federal protections for the bear and its habitat."

### **Is The California Gnatcatcher Truly Endangered? Lawsuit Wants Feds To Take Another Look.**

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (11/2, Steinberg) reports that "seeking to free up about 200,000 acres from Ventura County to San Diego for housing, a group representing property owners, homebuilders and others has filed a lawsuit seeking to loosen the endangered species status for the coastal California gnatcatcher." The lawsuit, filed Thursday by the Pacific Legal Foundation, "asks the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a fair review of scientific evidence that has emerged casting doubt on the rarity of the bird." According to the foundation, the data shows "that the gnatcatcher is not an imperiled subspecies living only in Southern California, but part of a large and healthy species found from Southern California to the southern tip of Baja, Mexico."



## National Park Service

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### Interior Official Compares \$70 Entry Fee To Cost Of A Movie.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/2, Hotakainen) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Thursday "defended a plan to charge \$70 for a peak-season entry fee at 17 of the busiest national parks next year, saying it's roughly the same cost as taking his family to a 3-D movie." Bernhardt "said park fees have not kept pace with inflation." He added "that higher fees would not keep most low-income Americans from visiting the parks, adding that a bigger problem for them is the cost of transportation and lodging associated with traveling to the parks."

*Most US Voters Oppose Fee Hikes for National Parks.* [Morning Consult](#) (11/2, Gheorghiu) reports that "a majority of U.S. voters oppose increasing fees for national parks during peak season to pay for park infrastructure and maintenance." A Morning Consult/Politico poll "conducted Oct. 26-30 shows a majority of registered voters oppose the proposed fee hikes, regardless of the region they live in or their political ideology." According to the poll, "fifty-two percent of registered voters said they do not support increasing the cost — currently between \$25 and \$30 — to \$70 for each private vehicle entering one of the parks during peak season, while 36 percent support the higher fees." Meanwhile, "in the West, where most of the affected parks are located, 55 percent oppose the fee increase and a third support it." The article notes that "a majority of Democratic, independent and Republican voters also oppose the cuts."

*Additional Coverage.* Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/2, Brean), the [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (11/2, Pace), the [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (11/2), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/2, Roth), the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (11/2, Davis), and [WBEZ-FM Chicago](#) Chicago (11/2, Wamsley).

### US House Backs National Park Designation For Indiana Dunes.

The [AP](#) (11/2) reports that the U.S. House has approved the bill to make the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore "the country's 60th national park." The House "approved the bill in a unanimous voice vote Wednesday, sending it to the Senate for consideration."

### Eisenhower Memorial Commission Gets Digging.

[Roll Call](#) (11/2, Connolly) reports that Sen. Pat Roberts delivered the "final remarks at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial's groundbreaking Thursday." The commission has "set a target date to complete and dedicate the memorial on May 8, 2020, the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in the Second World War." According to the article, "every hurdle has been cleared after the National Park Service on Monday issued the Eisenhower Memorial Commission a permit to begin construction."

### Musical Lineup Announced For National Christmas Tree Lighting.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (11/2, Massimo) reports that the National Park Service has "announced the musical acts for the lighting of the National Christmas Tree." According to the park service, "Craig Campbell and Us the Duo will headline the ceremony, which will be held Nov. 30 on the Ellipse at the White House." The NPS "said more entertainers will be announced in the next few weeks."

### GMP Details Emerge At Park Open House.

The [Point Reyes \(CA\) Light](#) (11/2, Guth) reports that the National Park Service "hosted two public meetings last week to discuss its future management of agriculture and tule elk in the Point Reyes National Seashore, which will ultimately be codified in an amendment to the seashore's general management plan." The NPS has proposed six strategies that "range from extending ranch leases to 20-year periods and limiting elk on ranchlands to eliminating ranching altogether while allowing the elk to expand." According to the article, "the park's 'initial proposal,' the option the agency has suggested the public focus on, allows for 20-year leases, operational flexibility and

diversification on ranches, along with increased elk management in the pastoral zone."

### **Incident Renews Importance Of Following Assateague Island's Pet Laws.**

The [Maryland Coast Dispatch](#) (11/2, Soper) reports that "after an incident emerged related to dogs going after one of the wild horses on Assateague, National Park Service officials this week are reiterating the importance of the laws regarding pets on the barrier island." According to the article, "photos of two dogs harassing one of the famed wild horses on Assateague began circulating on social media platforms last weekend, prompting Assateague Island National Seashore officials to begin an investigation into the incident." Assateague Island National Seashore Chief of Interpretation and Education Liz Davis "this week confirmed the incident was being investigated, but could not comment specifically on it because the investigation is ongoing."

### **Mysterious Debris Washed Ashore In Outer Banks Could Be Part Of Historic SpaceX Rocket.**

The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (11/2, Hampton) reports that "debris found washed ashore last month was what it looked like: part of a SpaceX rocket that possibly made history." Photographer Erin Everlee and "neighbors found the piece, about 15 feet long, lying on the beach and reported it to the National Park Service." Officials with Cape Hatteras National Seashore "contacted the Air Force and NASA to find out who it belonged to."

### **Isolated Gustavus Deals With National Park-sized Garbage Problem.**

[KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (11/2, Resneck) reports that the National Park Service pays the city of Gustavus, "which is small, with less than 500 year-round residents," to handle Glacier Bay National Park's waste. National park maintenance worker Dan Grivois said, "We typically get around anywhere from 100 to 200 pounds of trash every day. My job is basically to get the biggest diversion rate out of that as I can." According to the article, "to cut down on space – and expense – the park burns its waste in a towering incinerator." But "aside from the faint smell of mulch from the compost heap, there's almost no odor."

### **Yosemite Mountain Pass Closes Ahead Of Snowstorms.**

The [AP](#) (11/2) reports that "a mountain pass across the Sierra Nevada that runs through Yosemite National Park was closing to traffic Thursday ahead of storms expected to dump up to 2 feet of snow on the highest peaks, park officials said." Tioga Road, "the soaring eastern entry to Yosemite, was closing to traffic shortly before nightfall Thursday." Also closing was Glacier Point Road, "which offers sweeping views of Yosemite Valley." According to the article, "both roads are to be shut through Monday, when the storms are expected to dissipate and road conditions can be assessed."

## **Office Of Insular Affairs**

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### **World 'Running Out Of Time' On North Korea, Trump To Tell Asia: White House.**

[Reuters](#) (11/2, Holland) reports National Security Adviser McMaster said Thursday that President Trump will tell leaders on his upcoming five-nation Asian tour that the world is "running out of time" on North Korea's nuclear crisis and "that he will give his strategy to isolate Pyongyang a few months before making adjustments." Trump's goal during the trip "will be to increase international support for an effort to deprive North Korea of resources as leverage to coerce it to give up nuclear weapons." Said McMaster, "The President recognizes that we're running out of time (to deal with North Korea) and will ask all nations to do more."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/2, Miller) reports McMaster also said Americans should not expect President Trump to tone down his rhetoric while visiting Asia. "I don't think the President really modulates his language, have you noticed that," McMaster told



reporters. According to the Times, he "bristled at criticism in the news media that Mr. Trump uses inflammatory rhetoric toward North Korea," saying, "What's inflammatory is the North Korean regime and what they are doing to threaten the world." [USA Today](#) (11/2, Jackson) reports Asian leaders fear Trump's "aggressive rhetoric on 'Rocket Man' Kim could lead to a military confrontation with North Korea, possibly involving nuclear weapons."

Meanwhile, President Trump, in an interview with [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (11/2), said, "We have a problem called North Korea. ... If we don't solve it, it won't be very pleasant for them. It won't be very pleasant for anybody, but China is helping us."

According to the [AP](#) (11/2, Superville), McMaster also suggested that North Korea could be returned to the US' list of countries sponsoring terrorism as part of Trump's strategy to counter the North's growing nuclear threat. "You'll hear more about that soon, I think," McMaster said. Citing the killing in a Malaysian airport earlier this year of the estranged half-brother of North Korea's leader, McMaster said, "A regime who murders someone in a public airport using nerve agent, and a despotic leader who murders his brother in that manner, I mean, that's clearly an act of terrorism that fits in with a range of other actions."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Tweed, Sink, Reynolds) says "there's little sense of a way forward" in the crisis before Trump travels to the region as his "team struggles to articulate a unified policy on dealing with Pyongyang." In a piece titled "Trump Heads To Asia With An Ambitious Agenda But Little To Offer," the [New York Times](#) (11/2, Landler) says Trump departs on his first trip to Asia "weakened and scandal-scarred, ready to face off against newly empowered Chinese and Japanese leaders in a region increasingly determined to set its course without American direction." While the White House is "framing the trip as a chance for Mr. Trump to showcase his budding personal relationships with President Xi Jinping of China and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan," his "erratic statecraft, compounded by the shadow of the Russia investigation, leaves him in a questionable position to extract concessions from Mr. Xi or even allies like Japan and South Korea."

[CNN](#) (11/2, McKirdy) reports on its website that Trump may be "looking forward to his upcoming Asia trip as a moment of respite from domestic strife, but he will face a new set of unique challenges across the Pacific, analysts say." With issues like North Korea and "foundering trade deals in the wake of the scuppered Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)," CNN says the trip will be "a test of Trump's dealmaking – and diplomatic – skills."

[Reuters](#) (11/2, Spetalnick, Thul) reports that Trump's first trip "will bring him face-to-face with a number of leaders with poor human rights records" as his Administration "has been taking a more muted approach than his predecessor to such concerns, said current and former US officials, rights activists and diplomats." They cite "what they see as a slow, overly cautious response" to Burma's Rohingya crisis and Trump's "eagerness to engage with the Philippines' controversial president, Rodrigo Duterte, and a less vocal approach to human rights in China." But McMaster "pushed back against the notion that Trump would downplay human rights" on his trip, saying he would speak out "about the importance of promoting freedom and individual rights."

*Tillerson To Travel With Trump.* [Reuters](#) (11/2) reports the State Department said Thursday that Secretary Tillerson will visit Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Burma as part of President Trump's trip to Asia. In a statement, the Department said Tillerson would represent Trump at the East Asia Summit in Manila before traveling to Burma.

*US Bombers Fly Over Korean Peninsula; Kelly Warns Of Missile Advancements.* [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/2) reported that ahead of President Trump's Asia trip, the US Air Force has flown two B-1 bombers over the Korean peninsula. The "show of force" comes as White House Chief of Staff Kelly is "hinting" North Korea has made progress in their weapons program. CNN showed Kelly saying, "The American people should be concerned about a state that has developed a pretty good ICBM capability and is developing a pretty good nuclear re-entry vehicle."

*Administration Dubs Region "Indo-Pacific."* The [AP](#) (11/2, Pennington) reports

President Trump “isn’t just remaking American foreign policy in Asia by tearing up trade deals and getting tough on North Korea. His administration is giving the region a whole new name.” For decades, the region has been referred to in Washington as the “Asia-Pacific,” but “White House officials and even the president himself are steering clear of that term” and using “Indo-Pacific” instead. The AP notes McMaster “used it repeatedly when he previewed” the President’s trip on Thursday.

*Trump To Visit Pacific Military Command In Hawaii.* The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/2, Hennigan) reports that two days after the Navy “blamed sloppy seamanship and navigational blunders for two ‘avoidable’ collisions at sea that killed 17 sailors this summer,” President Trump departs today for Hawaii to visit the “troubled” Pacific Command. Trump will receive a briefing at command headquarters in Honolulu and visit the battleship Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor before he leaves for his first official visit to Asia.

## US Geological Survey

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### Walrus Threatened After U.S. Declines To List As Endangered.

[NPR](#) (11/2, Raphelson) reports that “walrus are facing a ‘death sentence’ after the Trump administration declined last month to list the Pacific walrus as endangered, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.” The center, “which took legal action starting in 2008 to get walrus on the list, says the White House’s decision puts the species in a dire state as it confronts the effects of climate change.” Chad Jay, who leads the walrus research program at the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center, says that walrus are confronting a loss of their habitat due to sea ice melt. Jay says, “The sea ice model projections indicate that the sea ice decline is going to continue through the end of the century, so a good deal of their habitat is still going to be lost in the future. It’s really hard to say how well they’re going to deal with that as conditions get worse.” While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “acknowledged sea ice is declining due to climate change, it said the Pacific walrus is not ‘in danger of extinction for the foreseeable future,’ suggesting walrus will likely be able to adapt to their changing environment.”

### State Officials Want Earthquake Early Warning System Funded.

The [Pasadena \(CA\) Weekly](#) (11/2, Coleman) reports that “in a letter to Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, 34 members of Congress, including Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), urged the Trump administration to include funding for the continued development and operation of the West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System (EEW) in the 2019 budget.” The lawmakers wrote in the Oct. 31 letter, “To follow through on the funding made by the federal government, as well as growing commitment from states and the private sector, it is critical that this program be fully funded at \$16.1 million annually so the West Coast will be prepared for the next catastrophic earthquake. This technology will save lives and reduce the economic impact of an earthquake; it simply needs to be properly funded.”

### Additional Reading.

- *USGS Threat Rankings Of Haleakalā, Hawai‘i Volcanoes.* [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (11/2).
- *Great Salt Lake’s California ‘Sister’ Shows Lingering Impacts Of Water Use.* [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (11/1, Larsen).
- *USGS Records Trio Of Quakes In Area.* [Enid \(OK\) News & Eagle](#) (11/2, Rains).

## Opinion Pieces

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### Ryan Zinke Is Erasing ‘Public’ From Lands He’s Meant To Guard.

In an op-ed for the [Seattle Times](#) (11/2, Krupp), Chris Krupp, who works for WildEarth Guardians, claims that “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s actions show his priority is to



fossil-fuels companies and whether they will be able to profitably access the public lands they've long relied on for cheap natural resources." Krupp criticizes the proposal to raise entrance fees at the 17 most popular national parks, the decision to rescind the federal moratorium on coal leases on public land, and the move to repeal "an Obama administration rule that ended a scam coal, oil and gas companies had long relied on to make deceitfully small royalty payments to the federal treasury." In Krupp's view, "when Zinke talks of improving public access to federal lands, he has an extremely narrow subset of the public in mind."

### **National Parks For The 1 Percent.**

In his column for the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Egan), Timothy Egan criticizes the plan to raise fees at national parks because it would "make it prohibitively expensive for many to enter the most popular national parks." As "a birthright of citizenship," Egan asserts that "all national parks should be free, like the great museums of Washington." He argues that "we should care for these special places with a budget commensurate to their value, treating them like the huge income generators they are, producing \$34 billion to local businesses."

### **Four Dams In The West Are Coming Down — A Victory Wrapped In A Defeat For Smart Water Policy.**

In an op-ed for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/2, Leslie), Jacques Leslie writes that "when a top Interior Department official acknowledged recently that the Trump administration wouldn't try to block removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, he signaled a monumental victory for local Native American tribes, salmon fishermen and the national dam removal movement." However, "this development is less momentous than it would have been in 2015, when dam removal was just one component of a broad plan for the Klamath Basin, which straddles the California-Oregon border." Leslie points out that, "the dams are going to come down, but no water-sharing plan will accompany their removal." As a result, "the ranchers and farmers in the Upper Klamath Basin, where Republican voters predominate, will not have a reliable source of irrigation water."

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Zinke Is Right To Explore New Ways To Prevent Forest Fires.* [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (11/2, Hartman).
- *Don't Let Secretary Zinke Dismantle Sage Grouse Conservation Plans.* [AmmoLand](#) (11/2, Evans).
- *Raising National Park Gate Fees Will Punish Those Who Live Nearby.* [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/2).
- *Keep National Parks Affordable.* [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/2).
- *A \$70 Fee To Enter National Parks Is Ludicrous.* [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (11/2).
- *Editorial: Fee Increase Would Do Little To Aid National Parks.* [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (11/2).
- *National Parks Need A Fix-up: Proposed Fee Increases Are A Good Investment For Overdue Projects.* [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (11/2).
- *Funt: Fix The Parks, Not The Fees.* [Lakeland \(FL\) Ledger](#) (11/3, Funt).
- *Keep National Parks Affordable.* [California Aggie](#) (11/2).
- *Retiring Marine Going The Distance For Public Lands.* [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (11/2, Seymour).
- *Glacier Park Maintenance Requires Action.* [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/2, Cuffe).
- *Saving Wilderness From The Land Grabbers.* [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) New Times](#) (11/2, Hewes).
- *Value Of Wild Places.* [Cedar Springs \(MI\) Post](#) (11/2, Mueller).
- *Our View: Tribe Must Take More Control Of Tourist Trade.* [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (11/2).
- *A Letter To The Secretary Of Interior: It's Wrong To Remove Klamath Dams.* [Klamath](#)

## Top National News

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### Trump Calls House GOP Tax Plan “A Big Beautiful Christmas Present” To Taxpayers.

Coverage of the House Republican tax plan unveiled Thursday paints the plan as primarily reducing taxes on corporations and the wealthy, but also offering some benefits to the middle class. It would also markedly increase the federal deficit. Reports highlight Republican divisions over some aspects of the measure, with less focus on the expected Democratic opposition.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (11/2, lead story, 4:00, Muir) opened with the “new tax plan unveiled today by President Trump and House Republicans, and the President’s promise that it will be law by Christmas.” ABC’s Mary Bruce: “A beaming President Trump today welcomed the sweeping new Republican tax bill with a smooch, and a holiday promise to the American people.” Trump: “We are giving them a big beautiful Christmas present in the form of a tremendous tax cut.” Bruce: “On the Hill, it looked like Christmas morning for many House Republicans.” House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady: “This is the beginning of the end of this horrible tax code in America.” Bruce: “The number of tax brackets drops from seven to just four. A family making up to \$90,000 would pay 12%; up to \$260,000, 25%; up to \$1 million, 35%; while the wealthiest Americans would still pay the same rate as they do now, 39.6%. ... The plan also offers some big potential breaks for the rich, including repealing the estate tax after six years.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer: “They’re doing tax giveaways to the wealthy and the powerful, and telling the middle class, ‘Take a hike, you’re on your own, baby.’”

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (11/2, lead story, 2:45, Holt) also opened with the story, reporting, “With great fanfare, Republicans in Congress announced their plans to dramatically overhaul the US tax code today – a business-friendly blueprint for tax cuts that also carries a promise to lower the tax bite on middle-income families.” NBC’s Kasie Hunt: “Trump and Republicans in Congress today rolling out the biggest rewrite of the tax code in a generation, racing to pass a bill that will affect every American family.” Trump: “This is a middle-income tax reduction.” Hunt: “But it’s not necessarily that clear-cut. The bill slashes the corporate tax rate from 35 to 20. It eliminates the estate tax, helping wealthy Americans, and it ends deductions that many families rely on for medical expenses, student loans and state and local taxes.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (11/2, story 3, 2:55, Mason), Nancy Cordes reported, “Democrats noted that the GOP proposal would also eliminate deductions for student loans and medical expenses, and it would slice the mortgage deduction cap for new homes in half, from \$1 million to \$500,000.” House Minority Leader Pelosi: “What they give you with one hand, they take away with the other.”

Trump said on [Fox News’ Ingraham Angle](#) 📺 (11/2), “They are big tax cuts – the biggest tax cuts in the history of our country. We have reform and we have simplification. ... We really have had tremendous receptivity to it to a point that I don’t think I have seen anything like it.” [Reuters](#) (11/2) reports that National Economic Council Director Cohn said at the Economic Club of Washington that the President supports the plan. Cohn said, “The bill that the House has delivered today...is a bill that the President can support. If it delivers middle class tax relief and a 20% corporate tax rate and it shows up on his desk, I can guarantee he’s going to sign it.”

Asked on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 📺 (11/2) if it is realistic to expect that the bill will be signed by Christmas, Brady said, “I believe it is, and here’s why: We’ve worked six years towards this moment, held hundreds of town halls around the country. ... The American people are sick of the current tax code.” Asked why it is necessary to “jam it through so quickly and secretly,” Brady said, “The House Republican tax reform plan was introduced a year ago. The President’s plan working with us, three months ago. We’ve incorporated in this more than 50 lawmakers’ ideas. We consulted and they’ve consulted



with their families and businesses all the way along."

The [AP](#) (11/2, Fram, Gordon) says the plan "would touch virtually all Americans and the economy's every corner, mingling sharply lower rates for corporations and reduced personal taxes for many with fewer deductions for home-buyers and families with steep medical bills." The measure "is the product of a party that faces increasing pressure to produce a marquee legislative victory of some sort before next year's elections."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Wasson, Kapur) reports that the plan "is estimated to add \$1.49 trillion to the deficit over a decade – just fitting in under the amount allowed under the congressional budget adopted last week."

[USA Today](#) (11/2, Jackson) reports that while "Republican leaders touted savings for the average family and said lower rates and new write-offs for businesses would spur job creation," Republicans from New Jersey and New York "were angered their states would be hurt by the elimination of the deduction for state income taxes and a new cap on the deduction for property taxes," and "some groups on the conservative end of the spectrum were sounding alarms" over the deficit and "a corporate tax provision aimed at overseas companies selling products into the United States that could raise costs for consumers."

The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Tankersley, Kaplan, Rappeport) says the bill "includes several land mines that could complicate its passage," including the limits on the mortgage interest deduction and the state and local tax deduction. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Rubin) reports that while most Republicans rallied behind the measure, some expressed skepticism or called for revisions. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Peterson, Hughes) says in another item that groups like the Club for Growth, the National Association of Realtors, and the National Federation of Independent Business offered criticism.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Paletta, Debonis) says the bill's "true impact on the middle class will be difficult to immediately measure. The bill would create a new 'Family Credit' and expand the child tax credit used by working families," and "would nearly double the standard deduction that many Americans claim on their taxes, raising it from \$12,700 to \$24,000 per family. But this benefit would be partially offset by the personal exemption many Americans can claim."

Before the measure was unveiled, Senate Minority Whip Durbin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/2), "There is an element of political desperation here. Here we are at the end of the calendar year. I can count on one hand, maybe three fingers, what we've done substantively in the United States Senate during the course of this year. ... Now there's a desperate effort to get something done before the end of the year."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (11/2), "If they really wanted to sit down and write a tax proposal that would help middle-income families, I would be all on this. ... This is a tax proposal that will raise taxes on some people who are middle-class." Warren said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (11/2), "What's happening right now is the Republicans are saying, 'Let's give \$2 trillion to giant corporations,' and then when it blows a hole in the debt, which we know it will do, they come back in a year, two years and say, 'Gee, really, really sorry, but we're going to have to cut Medicare, going to have to cut Medicaid, going to have to make cuts in all the investments here in America.'"

The [New York Times](#) (11/2) editorializes, "With their new bill that would slash taxes on the wealthy and blow up the federal budget deficit, House Republicans and President Trump are making it absolutely clear whom they are working for – the top 1 percent – and whom they consider dispensable. Well, that's pretty much everybody else." The bill "contained multibillion-dollar gifts for corporations, Wall Street titans and rich families," with "a few peanuts thrown at lower-income and middle class families."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) editorializes, "Republicans promised Americans a smart, careful tax reform that would simplify the code without adding a penny to the debt. The bill that House Republicans released Thursday betrays that promise. It also betrays the nation's children, and their children, who would eventually have to pay for this big, unpaid-for tax cut that the country does not need." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) says in an editorial that the bill fails to mirror the 1986 tax reforms, offering

needed pro-growth reforms but also making parts of the individual tax code worse.

The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Cohen) writes that "economists are divided over whether the plan is likely to revitalize the economy or merely bestow a windfall on the wealthiest investors," and the [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Long) writes that among the plan's "winners" are "big corporations," "the super-rich," and "edge funds, doctors and lawyers," while the "losers" include "people in high-tax blue states," "the working poor," and "charities." The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Long) reports that budget experts say the measure "jeopardizes what could otherwise be one of the great legacies of Republican-controlled government: fixing the US tax code and improving the economy." Maya MacGuineas of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said, "I do think this is a sensible framework. It emphasizes the need for corporate reforms and how our tax system works. But this is still a deficit-exploding tax cut at a time when the deficit is at near-record levels." [Politico](#) (11/2, Faler) also reports on the broad outlines of the plan.

***New Yorker Analysis: Trump Would Benefit From Tax Plan.*** The [New Yorker](#) (11/2, Cassidy) reports that "Donald Trump himself" would benefit from the changes. According to Trump's 2005 tax return, "parts of which were leaked earlier this year, he paid \$38.4 million in federal taxes on income of \$152.7 million. ... If this tax bill had already been in effect, Trump would have seen his tax bill reduced by more than eighty per cent." He also "stands to be a big beneficiary of the new flat rate on pass-through income" and "the abolition of the estate tax."

***Plan Caps Property Deduction At \$10,000, Limits Mortgage Deduction.*** [USA Today](#) (11/2, Jackson) reports that the proposed "sweeping overhaul of the tax code" would "cap the deduction for property taxes at \$10,000 and preserve the mortgage interest deduction only for existing mortgages and new purchases with loans of \$500,000 or less." Brady said the change "was being made to drive tax relief to middle income families, but it also will go to offset lower corporate rates that sponsors believe will spur the economy and job creation." The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Dougherty) says that in taking of "the deduction of interest on mortgage debt," the plan "takes aim at the most sacred of cows."

***Child Tax Credit Would Be Expanded, Child Care Pre-Tax Benefit Eliminated.*** [McClatchy](#) (11/2, Wise) reports, "Working parents would no longer be able to use pre-tax money to help pay for child care" under the plan, though it "would increase another per-child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$1,600 and add a new \$300 credit for each parent and non-child dependent in a household, such as a grandparent." [Politico](#) (11/2, Cook) notes that the plan includes one of Ivanka Trump's "pet issues – the child tax credit – but expands it less generously" than she "had hoped."

***Plan Expands American Opportunity Tax Credit.*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Mitchell) reports that the plan would increase aid available under the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which helps defray higher-education costs. Students can collect a credit of up to \$2,500 a year or an annual tax refund of up to \$1,000 for a maximum of four years. The GOP plan would add a fifth year credit of up to \$1,250 or a maximum refund of \$500.

***Plan Eliminates \$7,500 Electric Vehicle Credit.*** [Reuters](#) (11/2, Shepardson) reports that the plan eliminates a \$7,500 tax credit for electric vehicles "that could hurt automakers like General Motors Co, Tesla Inc and Nissan Motor Co that are selling larger numbers of vehicles."

## **Trump Tells Senators To Leave Dreamer Protections Out Of Year-End Spending Bill.**

In a meeting with GOP senators Thursday, President Trump rejected including language addressing the status of "dreamers" in a must-pass year-end spending bill. The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, O'Keefe) reports that in doing so, Trump "rais[ed] the stakes for year-end negotiations that could force a government shutdown or finally resolve an emotionally fraught element of immigration policy." Trump's request "could set up a high-stakes spending showdown in early December if GOP leaders don't take up immigration legislation beforehand," as Democrats have threatened to withhold their



support for the spending legislation if Congress does not pass legal protections for “dreamers.” [Politico](#) (11/2, Kim) says that if Trump maintains that stance, “it will increase the odds of a government shutdown, as Republican leadership will almost certainly need a large chunk of votes from Democrats to keep the government open.”

[The Hill](#) (11/2, Bolton) reports that Sen. David Perdue and other Republicans at the meeting “said Trump was ‘emphatic’ about keeping the immigration bill separate from the year-end spending bill.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Litvan, John) reports that Trump “said he wants Congress to adopt separate border security legislation that includes an extension of the immigrant protections established under President Barack Obama known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.”

**Trump: Ending Chain Migration Will Be Part Of DACA Deal.** [Reuters](#) (11/2) reports that President Trump told [Fox News’ Ingraham Angle](#) 📺 Thursday that ending chain migration will be part of any legislation to address “dreamers.” Trump said, “Yes it will be part of a DACA deal. ... I don’t think any Republican would vote for anything having to do with leaving chain migration. Chain migration is a disaster for this country and it’s horrible.”

### **Trump: US Will Have “A Great Wall” For “\$18 Billion Or Less.”**

President Trump said on [Fox News’ Ingraham Angle](#) 📺 (11/2), “We are going to have a wall. ... First of all, they say the wall is going to cost \$40 billion. It won’t cost anywhere near that. ... We are talking about less than half. ... I think for \$18 billion or less, we are going to have a great wall. We are doing prototypes right now. We are going to make the choice.”

### **Trump Nominates Powell To Replace Yellen As Fed Chair.**

President Trump announced Thursday that he has nominated Fed Governor Jerome Powell to replace Janet Yellen as Federal Reserve chair. The [AP](#) (11/2, Crutsinger) reports that Powell, “who has backed Yellen’s cautious approach to interest rate hikes,” is “seen as a safe pick whose selection will likely assure investors hoping for continuity at the central bank.” To the [New York Times](#) (11/2, Swanson, Appelbaum), while Powell “is expected to stay the course on monetary policy if the economy continues its steady growth,” it is “less certain” where he “would lead the Fed if the economy falters.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (11/2, story 3, 0:20, Holt) reported that this marks “the first time in decades a new president has not renominated a sitting Fed chair for another term.” Similarly, [Reuters](#) (11/2, Schneider, Mason) says that by denying Yellen a second term, Trump broke with precedent, but casts his selection of Powell as a signal of “a continuation of her cautious monetary policies.” Powell has supported Yellen’s “direction on monetary policy and, in recent years, shar[ed] her concerns that weak inflation justified a continued cautious approach to raising interest rates.” [USA Today](#) (11/2, Davidson) says Powell “is likely to maintain the Fed’s strategy of gradual interest rate hikes but may be open to easing some regulations on banks.”

[Politico](#) (11/2, Guida, White) says Trump “has made a habit of jettisoning anything associated with the Obama administration, and the Fed became no different.”

Nonetheless, he praised Yellen as “a wonderful woman who has done a terrific job.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Jacobs, Talev, Olorunnipa) reports that Trump considered renominating Yellen, according to “people close to him.” However, “people familiar with the matter” said that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin “wielded outsized influence as Trump deliberated on the Fed” and he “favored Powell.” Mnuchin’s stance even “bested that of Vice President Mike Pence, who urged Trump to make a more dramatic change of direction at the Fed by nominating Stanford University economist John Taylor, a favorite of conservatives across Washington.”

A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Timiraos, Harrison) says Powell’s career indicates he will be a Fed chairman like Yellen and former chairman Ben Bernanke, meaning his Fed will be similar to those since former chairman Alan Greenspan retired in 2006. The Journal adds that the markets, which eschew uncertainty, would welcome that consistency. Greg Ip writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2)

describes Trump's choice of Powell as a gamble because he is changing Fed chairs at a time when unemployment is low, the economy is growing, and the stock market is posting records. However, Ip adds that Powell appears to be a safe bet because, of all the people Trump considered for the job, Powell's positions are closest to Yellen's.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (11/2), Scott Sumner, an emeritus professor of economics at Bentley University and director of the Program on Monetary Policy at the Mercatus Center, writes that while Trump's choice of Powell "can be seen as a vote for continuity," there are "a few reasons to be concerned about his appointment." Sumner points out that Powell is a lawyer, not an economist, like the past four Fed chairs. In addition, Powell "believes the Fed should focus not just on macroeconomic stability, but should also try to prevent financial market excesses," a position many economists are skeptical. Nonetheless, Sumner writes that he expects Powell "to do fine in the near future" as "the real danger occurs at the extremes of high inflation or a deep recession," when "a deep understanding of monetary policy is most essential. A job as important as Fed chair should be given only to the most highly qualified individuals."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) says in an editorial that while it would have preferred to see Yellen renominated, Powell "is a good choice – and by far the best non-Yellen option floated," while a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) editorial expresses concern about Powell's ability to manage the next financial crisis given that his years on the Fed board have been relatively turmoil-free.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/2, Lee) reports that Powell is likely to "face an immediate test as stronger economic growth exerts greater pressure on the central bank to step up the pace of interest rate hikes." Trump has expressed a desire to keep rates low, and Powell "has shown he is in no hurry to raise rates." However, amid a strengthening economy and high stock prices, he "soon could find himself in the uncomfortable position of having to build consensus around making more rapid rate increases, seldom a popular or easy thing to do."

***Trump Says He Does Not Get Enough Credit For The Economy.*** President Trump was asked on [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (11/2) if he is getting enough credit for the "economic revival." Trump said, "I am in here now 10 months and we are setting record after record, day after day. I think we hit another one today. No, I am not getting enough credit for it because a lot of the reason is enthusiasm level and the fact they cut regulations to the extent that I have cut them."

***Stocks Finish Mixed.*** The [AP](#) (11/2, Jay) reports that stocks posted mixed results Thursday. The Dow climbed 81.25 points to a record 23,516.26, and the S&P 500 added 0.49 points to close at 2,579.85, while the Nasdaq ended the day 1.59 lower at 6,714.94. The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Hsu) says the major indexes "initially plunged as lawmakers circulated a set of talking points covering the House's highly anticipated \$1.51 trillion package on Thursday morning," but "recovered by midday." The Times adds that the GOP's "proposed caps on the popular mortgage-interest deduction" sent "shares in home-building companies lower."

## Editorial Wrap-Up

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### New York Times.

***"A Tax Plan For A New Gilded Age."*** The [New York Times](#) (11/2) editorializes, "With their new bill that would slash taxes on the wealthy and blow up the federal budget deficit, House Republicans and President Trump are making it absolutely clear whom they are working for – the top 1 percent – and whom they consider dispensable. Well, that's pretty much everybody else." The bill "contained multibillion-dollar gifts for corporations, Wall Street titans and rich families," with "a few peanuts thrown at lower-income and middle class families."

***"Mayor De Blasio Has Earned A Second Term."*** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/2) endorses New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio for reelection, saying he "has been an able mayor who can point to an impressively low crime rate, sound municipal finances and progress on revivifying schools and on creating reasonably priced apartments." The



election will be held on Nov. 7.

*"Catalonia Tottering."* A [New York Times](#) (11/2) editorial says that if Catalan parties "are in fact prepared to participate in a new regional election," Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy "should display magnanimity by apologizing for the behavior of the police on Oct. 1 and pledging greater respect for Catalan national yearnings. The crisis has done great damage to Spain and Catalonia, and the sooner the mending can start, the better."

### **Washington Post.**

*"Republicans Break Their Promise On Tax Reform."* The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) editorializes, "Republicans promised Americans a smart, careful tax reform that would simplify the code without adding a penny to the debt. The bill that House Republicans released Thursday betrays that promise. It also betrays the nation's children, and their children, who would eventually have to pay for this big, unpaid-for tax cut that the country does not need."

*"Can Hamas And The Palestinian Authority Reconcile In Gaza? Be Skeptical."* The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) editorializes that a recent reconciliation agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority "demands a healthy dose of skepticism: Half a dozen previous unification pacts between the two movements have broken down since their violent split a decade ago, and the most difficult questions about this one have yet to be tackled." The Administration "has taken a cautious interest in the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinian factions, rightly insisting that Hamas disarm and recognize Israel before it joins a unity government. Were that to happen," the Post argues that there "might be a genuine opening for a peace process."

*"Trump's Fed Pick Is Incredibly Important. And He Made A Good Call."* The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) says in an editorial that while it would have preferred to see Fed Chair Janet Yellen renominated, Fed Governor Jerome Powell "is a good choice – and by far the best non-Yellen option floated."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

*"Half A Tax Reform."* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) says in an editorial that the Republican tax reform bill fails to mirror the 1986 tax reforms, offering needed pro-growth reforms but also making parts of the individual tax code worse.

*"Mnuchin Gets His Man."* A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) editorial expresses concern about Fed Governor Jerome Powell's ability to manage the next financial crisis given that his years on the Fed board have been relatively turmoil free.

## **Big Picture**

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### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Republicans Stick With Big Corporate Tax Cuts In House Bill](#)

[Winners And Losers Of Republican Tax Plan](#)

[Prosecutors Weigh Charging Russians Over DNC Hacking](#)

[Mr. Ordinary: Who Is Jerome Powell, Trump's Federal Reserve Pick?](#)

[US Considers Suit Against AT&T's Deal For Time Warner](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Republican Plan Delivers Permanent Corporate Tax Cut](#)

['Major, Major' Tax Cut May Not Be In Store For Middle Class](#)

[Trump And Sessions Denied Knowing About Russian Contacts. Records Suggest Otherwise.](#)

[Islamic State Claims Responsibility For Lower Manhattan Terrorist Attack](#)

[Robert Mercer, Bannon Patron, Is Leaving Helm Of \\$50 Billion Hedge Fund](#)

[Trump's Female Accusers Feel Forgotten. A Lawsuit May Change That.](#)

[The Mayor Sought Money, A Donor Sought Access: Both Said "Yes"](#)  
[China's Newest Film Festival Tests The Limits Of Independence](#)

***Washington Post:***

[A Familiar Fear Of Backlash For Muslims In One NJ City](#)  
[In Besieged Syria, Health Of Ill Children Worsens](#)  
[Trump Remarks May Snag NY Trial](#)  
["A Sensible Framework" — But "Still A Deficit-Exploding Tax Cut" For The Rich](#)  
[GOP Unveils Sweeping Tax Overhaul](#)

***Financial Times:***

[Trump Choice Of Powell Is A Vote For Continuity](#)  
[Republicans Risk Backlash With Sweeping US Tax Reform](#)  
[Italy's Berlusconi Back On Campaign Trail Ahead Of Sicily Poll](#)  
[Bank Of England Lifts Rates For First Time In A Decade](#)

***Washington Times:***

[Trump, House Republicans Optimistic About Speedy Approval Of Proposed Tax Cuts](#)  
[At Current Pace, Democrats Can Draw Out Debate For 8 Weeks On Trump's Circuit Court Nominees](#)  
[Republicans Cut Tax Break For NFL, Let Churches Pick Sides In Political Elections](#)  
[Top Figures Caught Up In 'Weinstein Effect' At Liberal News Outlets](#)  
[Brazile Says She Found DNC Deep In Debt From Obama, Controlled By Clinton A Year Before Nomination](#)  
[Trump's Choice Of Powell As Chairman Signals Steady Policy At Federal Reserve](#)

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Tax Reform Plan; Colorado Walmart Shooting; Russia Meddling Investigation; NYC Truck Attack; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Family Organ Transplant; New Jersey-Police Violence; Kevin Spacey Sexual Harassment; Alabama-Kidnapped Victim; Fire Extinguisher Recall; Pyramid-Hidden Space Found; World Series.

**CBS:** Niger US Casualty Investigation; Weinstein Sexual Harassment; Tax Reform Plan; NYC Truck Attack; White House-NYC Attack, Russia Meddling; Trip Advisor Review Deleting; Health-Heart Stents; Colorado Walmart Shooting; Fire Extinguisher Recall; World Series.

**NBC:** Tax Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation; Federal Reserve Appointment; Colorado Walmart Shooting; NYC Truck Attack; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; Trip Advisor Review Deleting; Health-Umbilical Cord Use; Fire Extinguisher Recall; Pyramid-Hidden Space Found; Fall Colors; World Series.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Tax Reform Plan – 9 minutes, 40 seconds  
Russia Meddling Investigation – 9 minutes, 5 seconds  
NYC Truck Attack – 6 minutes, 55 seconds  
Colorado Walmart Shooting – 4 minutes, 5 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Tax Reform Plan; Trump-Twitter Account; Trump-Asia Trip; NYC Truck Attack; Wall Street News.

**CBS:** Tax Reform Plan; Federal Reserve Appointment; NYC Truck Attack; Navy Collisions Investigation; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Tax Reform Plan; NYC Truck Attack; Trump-Twitter Account.

**NPR:** Tax Reform Plan; Federal Reserve Appointment; Russia Meddling Investigation; NYC Truck Attack; Colorado Walmart Shooting.

**Washington Schedule**

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## Today's Events In Washington.

### White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a United States Pacific Command briefing in Aiea, HI; participates in a tour of the USS Arizona Memorial.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a series of briefings and demonstrations at the United States Secret Service James J. Rowley Training Center.

**US Senate:** No public schedule announced.

**US House:** 9:00 AM House votes on CHAMPION Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of 'H.R. 3922 – Community Health And Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:15 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on improving access to capital – Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment Subcommittee hearing on 'Legislative Proposals to Improve Small Businesses' and Communities' Access to Capital', with testimony from Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York Director of Finance Patrick McCoy (on behalf of Government Finance Officers Association); University of Mississippi School of Law Lecturer and Professor Mercer Bullard; FS Investments Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs Michael Gerber; Investment Company Institute CEO Paul Stevens; and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Market Competitiveness Executive Vice President Tom Quaadman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

**Other:** 9:30 AM Brookings discussion on the opioid crisis – 'Policy approaches to the opioid crisis' Brookings Institution USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy conference on how public policy can address the opioid epidemic. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Ann McLane Kuster, economist Angus Deaton, and University of Michigan School of Public Health Health Management and Policy Assistant Professor Rebecca Haffajee Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #OpioidCrisis

10:00 AM Freedom House / Global Americans discussion on democracy and human rights in Latin America – 'Revisiting Latin America's Foreign Policy Commitment to Democracy and Human Rights' Freedom House / Global Americans discussion, to analyze the foreign policies of govts in the Americas and select countries of the Global South regarding democracy, human rights, social inclusion, and international norms. Includes keynote from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Michael Fitzpatrick, and panelists Argentinian Ambassador to the OAS Juan Jose Arcuri, Satin Lucian Ambassador to the U.S. Anton Edmunds, Mexican Ambassador to the OAS Jorge Lomonaco, Peruvian Ambassador to the U.S. Carols Pareja, Paraguayan Ambassador to the U.S. German Rojas, Paraguayan Ambassador to the OAS Elisa Ruiz Diaz Barreiro, and Guyanese Ambassador to the U.S. Riyad Insanally Location: Freedom House, 1850 M St NW,

11:30 AM POLITICO Playbook Interview with GOP Rep. Kevin Brady – POLITICO Playbook Interview, with Republican Rep. Kevin Brady interviewed by POLITICO's Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.politico.com](http://www.politico.com) <https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents>

2:00 PM 'Preserving Public Broadcasting at 50 Years' symposium at the Library of Congress – 'Preserving Public Broadcasting at 50 Years' symposium, hosted by Library of Congress and Boston public broadcaster WGBH to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, with panels featuring pioneers and experts in public broadcasting. Speakers/participants include Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) President and CEO Patricia Harrison, American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB) advisers Cokie Roberts and Democratic Sen. Ed Markey, former FCC chairman Newton Minow (via video), former FCC commissioner Nicholas Johnson, NPR co-founder Bill Siemering, TV anchor Jim Lehrer, former TV host Dick Cavett, 'Frontline' creator David Fanning, and 'Sesame Street' co-

creator Lloyd Morrisett Location: Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Bldg, 101 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC <http://www.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html>  
<https://twitter.com/librarycongress>

Israeli American Council National Conference – Israeli American Council National Conference. Speakers include U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC [www.israeliamerican.org](http://www.israeliamerican.org) <https://twitter.com/israeliamerican>

## Last Laughs

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### Late Night Political Humor.

**Jennifer Lawrence:** "I am your guest host for the night, Jennifer Lawrence. I am the fourth and final guest host of the week. Jimmy will be back on Monday, so until then, it is up to me to save healthcare."

**Jennifer Lawrence:** "Congratulations to the Astros. They not only won the championship, but a one-in-a-lifetime chance to turn down the visit to the White House."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Today, [Congress] announced a \$1.5 trillion overhaul of the tax code, with major tax cuts to corporations and the rich. This is the biggest story! Or it would be, if we hadn't just heard that Beyonce will be starring in the new 'Lion King!'"

**Stephen Colbert:** "The President hasn't taken [Steve] Bannon's advice. Instead, he's listening to friends like Newsmax exec Christopher Ruddy, who said of Bannon, 'I like Steve, but his advice is not always the most helpful. Whatever Steve says, the President should do the opposite.' So, be a black supremacist?"

**Trevor Noah:** [Referring to Russia meddling in 2016 elections using social media] "This is really depressing both for America and for Russian spies because in the old days, espionage meant using exploding pens and poisoned-tipped umbrellas. Now they have to use the same tools as your divorced aunt."

**Trevor Noah:** "I'm sorry. Al Franken is hilarious. This guy is so funny, he should go do comedy."

**Seth Meyers:** "Security researchers have reportedly discovered that recently indicted former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort used 'bond007' as one of his computer passwords. He also signed his checks, 'From Russia with love.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "In an interview, Trump said he enjoys being President, and leaves the office late. In fact, he was supposed to only be there til May."

**Conan O'Brien:** "President Trump tweeted, 'Congratulations to the Houston Astros for winning the World Series.' Yep. Trump said he's so happy for the Astros, he's only going to deport some of their players."

**Conan O'Brien:** "Thinking of politics, the Republican tax plan came out today. And President Trump announced, 'It will bring trillions of dollars to the US.' He then said, 'Specifically to three members of my cabinet.'"

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# Conversation Contents

## Trump administration pulls out of resource transparency initiative

### **POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard <politicoemail@politicopro.com>**

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**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
<politicoemail@politicopro.com>  
**Sent:** Thu Nov 02 2017 09:32:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Trump administration pulls out of resource transparency initiative

By Alex Guillén

11/02/2017 11:31 AM EDT

The U.S. has withdrawn as an implementing member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a voluntary international program that set standards for public reporting of how much revenue governments receive from oil, gas and mineral extraction.

In a [letter](#) today, Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue, told the EITI board chair in Norway that "U.S. laws prevent us from meeting specific provisions of the EITI standard."

"While the U.S. government remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector... it is clear that domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the U.S. legal framework," Gould wrote in the letter, released by the advocacy group Publish What You Pay.

Jana Morgan, director of PWYP's U.S. chapter, said in a statement that the U.S.' participation in the EITI was "stymied" because most companies declined to disclose their tax payments.

"To be clear, U.S. law does not prevent oil, gas or mining companies from voluntarily disclosing their taxes — common practice in the dozens of EITI implementing countries," Morgan said in a statement.

The move comes on top of Republicans' use of the Congressional Review Act earlier this year to [nullify](#) a Securities and Exchange Commission regulation developed under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill that would have required public disclosure of payments made by fossil fuel extractors to foreign governments.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The U.S. will remain a "supporting country" to the initiative, Gould said.

*To view online:*

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/11/trump-administration-pulls-out-of-resource-transparency-initiative-095114>

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EarthRights International v. US Department of Interior, 22-cv-01503-CKK00004800



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Neutral

Not really

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# Conversation Contents

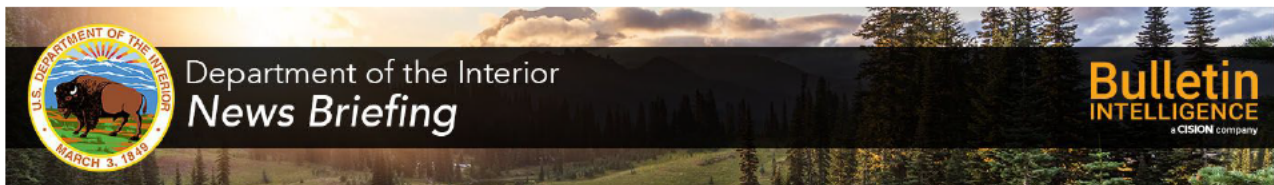
**U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 30, 2017**

## **Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>**

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**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 30 2017 04:01:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
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**DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017 6:00 AM EDT**

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## DOI In The News

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### Puerto Rick Gov. Rosselló Announces Cancellation Of Whitefish Energy Contract.

On Sunday, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló announced the cancellation of energy firm Whitefish Energy's contract with the Puerto Rico Electrical Power Authority. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (10/29, story 5, 2:00, Llamas), Victor Oquendo reported on the "shock announcement from the governor." Rosselló: "I have asked the board of the power authority to invoke the cancellation clause in the contract immediately." Oquendo: "That contract with Whitefish Energy could soon be scrapped after the revelations the Montana power company had just two employees when it was awarded a massive \$300 million contract to restore power across the island," and that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "hails from the same town the company is based in." [Politico](#) (10/29, Wilhelm) reports that Zinke said on Friday that he had "absolutely nothing to do" with the awarding of the contract to Whitefish."

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (10/29, story 4, 2:00, Quijano), David Begnaud reported, "Three hours after the governor's surprise announcement, Ricardo Ramos, head of the Puerto Rico Electrical Power Authority, announced that the contract will be canceled, but only after Whitefish completes its current work." Ramos: "It becomes effective in 30 days." Begnaud: "So far, Ramos says Whitefish has been paid nearly \$11 million, and there is another \$9.8 million payment that is pending." The [AP](#) (10/29, Coffey, Levin, Fieser) reports that Rosselló also "said that Whitefish will continue with current work, but the contract would then be scrapped – leading to delay of 10 to 12 weeks in completing the work."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (10/29, story 2, 2:35, Snow), Gabe Gutierrez reported that Whitefish Energy CEO Andy Techmanski said that he "had nothing to hide. ... You used LinkedIn to get a \$300 million contract?" Techmanski: "LinkedIn's going love this, but yeah." Gutierrez: "He strongly denies that [Zinke] or anyone else in the Trump Administration had anything to do with the contract. Still, FEMA said it had significant

concerns and never reviewed the document, despite wording that suggested otherwise. ... Techmanski says that language wasn't supposed to be there and had been deleted from an amended version of the contract."

[USA Today](#) (10/29, Gomez) reports, "Democrats and Republicans in Congress have called for investigations, and last week...Rosselló requested that the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security look into the contract." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29, Scurria) reports that Sens. Maria Cantwell and Ron Wyden have also asked the US Comptroller General to investigate the use of public money under the Whitefish contract. The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Robles, Caron) reports, "Critics have raised questions about why the power authority opted not to request aid from mainland utilities after Hurricane Maria struck the territory."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/29, Mufson) reports that Rosselló's statements have "added to the confusion about the oversight of the utility and the commonwealth, both of which are bankrupt. A financial oversight board Congress created for Puerto Rico is planning to ask a federal court this week for clear authority to examine contracts as small as \$10 million," and a federal judge "is overseeing the restructuring of Puerto Rico's more than \$70 billion in debts."

Before the announcement, San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz was asked on [MSNBC's AM Joy](#) (10/29) if she supported a cancellation. Cruz said, "Yes, I called for that last week. There were too many questions. It was evident that this company did not have everything that was required to complete the mission that it has to do in Puerto Rico."

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (10/27, Wamsley), [The Hill](#) (10/27, Bowden), [The Hill](#) (10/28, Cama, Henry), and the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (10/27, Gomez).

**Trump Administration Disavows Puerto Rico Power Contract.** The [AP](#) (10/27, Biesecker, Daly) reports the Trump Administration "scrambled Friday to distance itself from the decision to award a \$300 million contract to help restore Puerto Rico's power grid to a tiny Montana company from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown," as White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said federal officials played no role in the selection of Whitefish Energy Holdings by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority." Sanders "said Zinke had given the president his personal assurance that he had nothing to do with what she described as 'a state and local decision made by the Puerto Rican authorities and not the federal government.'" The AP reports Zinke "also issued a fiery denial on Twitter, saying 'Only in elitist Washington, D.C., would being from a small town be considered a crime.'" In addition, [Reuters](#) (10/27, Heavey, Cowan, DiSavino) reports White House spokesman Raj Shah "said that the administration's 'understanding' was that the contract was awarded solely by PREPA, and they are 'not aware of any federal involvement' in the deal."

In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/27, lead story, 3:05, Muir) story, chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl reported that the two-year-old company has "just two employees, but clear political ties to the Trump Administration." Karl added that "before this, it's largest previous federal contract just over \$1 million, about 1/300th the size of the Puerto Rico deal." According to Karl, Whitefish Energy's "main financial backer, Dallas based HBC Investments, was founded by Joe Colonna, who donated more than \$75,000 to Energy Secretary Perry's 2008 and 2012 campaigns as well as "nearly \$90,000 to support the Trump campaign and the RNC in 2016." However, an Energy Department spokesperson said the department "was not involved in the selection of Whitefish for this contract."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (10/27, Pérez-Peña) reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency "said on Friday that it had 'significant concerns'" about the Whitefish Energy contract and "warned that it might refuse to cover any costs if the contract between Whitefish Energy and the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, known as Prepa, was found to be improper." The [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Davis) reports FEMA also "said in a statement that it is looking into whether the contract between Whitefish Energy and the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, or PREPA, 'followed applicable regulations to ensure that federal money is properly spent.'" Ricardo Ramos, the



Executive Director of Prepa, in an interview on Friday told the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Scurria) that provisions in the agreement claiming FEMA had approved the deal were a mistake caused by his rush to sign the deal. Ramos also expressed hope that the controversy would not drive the company to back out of the contract.

[Reuters](#) (10/27, Heavey) reports a spokesman for Whitefish Energy in an interview with MSNBC defended the company's contract as having been reached "in good faith with PREPA." He asserted the deal "speaks for itself" and added, "There's nothing there."

However, on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/27, lead story, 2:25, Mason), correspondent David Begnaud reported San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz "believes the deal with Whitefish Energy should be voided. She described the company as 'inadequate' and asked for transparency." Julianna Goldman reported in the second [CBS Evening News](#) (10/27, story 2, 1:55, Mason) segment that several lawmakers are demanding further investigations, and House Minority Leader Pelosi late Friday called for the contract "to be terminated immediately." Goldman added that the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general has agreed to conduct an audit of the company's ties to lawmakers and government officials, "but there's one aspect of the deal that appears to be off limits. The contract says federal and state officials 'don't have the right to review the cost and profit elements of the labor rates.' Like \$462 per hour for a subcontractor site supervisor, and time and a half for anyone working over 40 hours."

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (10/27, Boyer), [The Hill](#) (10/27, Fabian), [The Hill](#) (10/27, Cama), [Politico](#) (10/27, Lima, Lefebvre), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27, Siciliano), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27, Siegel), [Fox News](#) (10/27), and [Montana Public Radio](#) (10/27, Ouellet, Hegyi).

*Whitefish Energy HQ Based Out Of Home Owned By CEO In Zinke's Hometown.* On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/28, story 3, 2:00, Ninan), David Begnaud recounted visiting the headquarters of Whitefish Energy Holdings "in a remote, affluent area nestled in the mountains of northwestern Montana" that is also the hometown of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Begnaud reported "the headquarters turns out to be a two-bedroom, two-bath house that's owned by" CEO Andy Techmanski, and "according to real estate record online, the house was up for sale, but it was taken off the market two days after Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico." Begnaud said that since winning a \$300 million contract with Puerto Rico's power authority PREPA, Whitefish has grown from two employees to more than 300. He added that the [AP](#) has revealed "the Secretary's son at one time had a job with Whitefish Energy," although Zinke "is insisting he had absolutely nothing to do with" the contract.

## **Trump Plans To Shrink Two National Monuments In Utah.**

The [New York Times](#) (10/27, Friedman) reports Sen. Orrin Hatch on Friday "said...that President Trump had told him the administration would shrink" Bears Ears National Monument, created by former President Obama, and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, established by former President Clinton, based on the recommendation of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said a final report would be released 'shortly,'" but she "did not confirm whether the president has signed off on it in part or in whole." Sanders said, "I'm not going to get ahead of the president's announcement on the specifics of that, but I can tell you he will be going to Utah in the first part of early December and we will release more details at that point, if not before."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Eilperin, Fears) reports "Trump did not specify exactly how he would change the boundaries, according to Hatch spokesman Matt Whitlock, though Interior Department officials have privately indicated that the administration plans to shrink it by hundreds of thousands of acres." Hatch said, "I was incredibly grateful the President called this morning to let us know that he is approving Secretary Zinke's recommendation on Bears Ears." Hatch added, "We believe in the importance of protecting these sacred antiquities, but Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration rolled up their sleeves to dig in, talk to locals, talk to local tribes, and find a better way to do it. We'll continue to work closely with them moving forward to ensure Utahns have a



voice.”

The [AP](#) (10/27, Daly) reports that “the Republican-led San Juan County, Utah commission welcomed Trump’s action on Bears Ears.” According to the article, “the three-member panel objected to the monument designation, saying it was too large and could hurt residents’ ability to earn a living from livestock grazing.”

The [AP](#) (10/28, Daly) adds that “environmental groups have promised to take the Trump administration to court to block any attempts to rescind or reduce the monument designations.” [Reuters](#) (10/27, Flitter) reports that “the Navajo, who consider Bears Ears sacred ground, on Friday followed up their comment in September that they would sue the Trump administration for violating the Antiquities Act if it tried to reduce the monument’s size.” Ethel Branch, the Navajo Nation’s attorney general, said, “The Navajo Nation stands ready to defend the Bears Ears National Monument. We have a complaint ready to file upon official action by the President.”

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (10/27, Henry), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Carlton), the [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Eilperin, Fears), the [Washington Times](#) (10/27, Persons), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27, Siegel), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/27, Schneider), [Reuters](#) (10/27, Flitter), [CNN](#) (10/27, Merica), [Newsweek](#) (10/28, Kwong), the [Huffington Post](#) (10/28, Papenfuss), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (10/27, York), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/27, Milman, Agencies), the [Salt Lake City Weekly](#) (10/27, Harris), [WEAR-TV Mobile \(AL\)](#) Mobile, AL (10/27, Mullahy), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (10/27, Edwards, Wells), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (10/27, Mills).

**Trump To Visit Utah Ahead Of Decision On Bears Ears Monument.** The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27, Morrongiello) reports that President Trump will “visit Utah in early December where he is expected to shrink the size of two national monuments – Bears Ears and Grand Staircase – that were designated under previous administrations.” White House press secretary Sarah Sanders “announced the upcoming visit at a briefing on Friday, hours after Trump met with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to discuss his review of various monument designations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/27, Burr, Maffly) and the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/27, O'Donoghue).

## **Under Trump, The Lines Are Drawn For A Battle Over Resources In The West.**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/27, Schneider) reports that “nearly a year after the 2016 election, a momentous 21st century confrontation is building over coal mining that is serving as a proxy for upcoming skirmishes over the West’s rural extractive economies.” According to the article, “the issue for both sides, as it was in the 1980s under the Reagan administration, is whether hard-rock mining, oil and gas, timber harvesting and irrigated agriculture will thrive or fade away.” Currently, “fossil fuel development commands the playing field.” The article notes that “in his first major policy speech, delivered in late September, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke laid out the contours of the administration’s perspective for an audience at the Heritage Foundation.” Zinke said, “This administration, the president, believes in American energy dominance. Our goal is an America that is the strongest energy superpower this world has ever known. I can assure you today that the war on American energy is over.”

## **Interior Department Kickstarts Initiative To Get Veterans Back Into America’s Wild.**

[Breitbart](#) (10/27, Wong) reports that the Interior Department on Thursday welcomed “a gathering of veterans, hunting, and wildlife groups” for a “meeting to discuss how to improve access for hunting and fishing for veterans, particularly wounded warriors and those with PTSD.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “hosted the gathering to kickstart the initiative, one of his big priorities at the department.” Addressing the group, Zinke said, “Our veterans are spending more time overseas than they are at home. And it has an effect on the VA. It has an effect on communities because normal has become over there, rather than over here, so I’m concerned about the experience when they come home that our public lands are once again returned to the people.” Zinke continued, “Hunting and fishing is part of our legacy. And a lot of veterans are part of our hunting

and fishing experience, and I am concerned that we've seen a lack of access, roads being closed, the wilderness, even."

### **Key Obama-Era Leasing Reform To Get The Ax.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/27, Streater) reported the Interior Department is working to eliminate master leasing plans, "a key Obama-era leasing reform strategy designed to guide oil and natural gas development away from areas with high natural and cultural resource values." MLPs allowed the Bureau of Land Management to prevent energy development around national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Interior argues that removing MLPs will streamline the regulatory process for energy development on public lands, which instead will be guided by individual resource management plans. While MLP proponents say they offer certainty for the energy industry on where new oil and gas and mining activity is suitable, "reducing challenges to leases," the industry complained that MLPs "restrict access to valuable domestic energy resources."

### **Energy Dominance Meets Market Realities.**

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (10/27, Adragna) reports that the Interior Department "plans to offer 10 million onshore acres in the National Petroleum Reserve in northern Alaska in December and 77 million offshore acres across the entire Gulf of Mexico in March, but the combination of low oil prices and ample private land available for fracking may keep some away." Ken Medlock, director of the Baker Institute's Center for Energy Studies at Rice University in Houston, said, "It's almost like having a fire sale of all the acreage. Wouldn't surprise me at all if there's a lot of acreage that doesn't sell."

### **Ryan Zinke: Cowboy In Trump's Cabinet Taking Aim At America's Public Lands.**

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/27, McLaughlin, Montana) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "meticulously crafts his image as wilderness-loving western cowboy and sportsman." However, "nine months into his job at the Department of the Interior, the federal agency that oversees most public lands and natural resources, the act is wearing thin with environmentalists and outdoors enthusiasts who say his early moves demonstrate strong allegiance to the oil, gas and other extractive industries seeking access to some of America's most spectacular protected landscapes." Land Tawney, president of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, said, "He sold himself as a Theodore Roosevelt Republican. That means wise use. More and more sportsmen are waking up to what's going on."

Additional commentary appeared in the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (10/28, McCoy).

### **Turkish Touch On Los Angeles.**

The [Daily Sabah \(TUR\)](#) (10/28, Sayiner) reports that "the first Hollywood Turkish Film Festival was held on Oct. 20-22." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "participated in the festival where famous Turkish actors and actresses, including Demet Akbaş, Selçuk Yöntem and Meryem Üzerli, were also in attendance."

### **Western Senators Urge Longer Sage Grouse Comment Period.**

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (10/27) reports that "Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, along with their Western Democratic colleagues, on Friday urged Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to extend the comment period by 45 days for changes to the Greater Sage-grouse conservation plans." The letter from seven Western senators "responds to the Trump administration publishing a Notice of Intent earlier this month to amend Greater Sage-grouse conservation plans with only a 45-day comment period, closing on November 27." They wrote, "Given the importance and complexity of the proposed rule, and the intersection with BLM's resource management plans, it is essential that all stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to prepare and provide feedback."



## **Trump Administration's Costly One-Two Punch For Taxpayers.**

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/29, Jenkins), David Jenkins, the president of Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, criticizes the "policy rollbacks" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt are "pursuing at the behest of special interests." Jenkins points to the rules "designed to limit the waste of taxpayer-owned natural gas, increase royalty revenue and reduce air pollution." He argues "these common-sense standards were designed to help cut the approximately \$2 billion worth of natural gas (primarily made up of methane) currently wasted by the oil and gas industry every year." Jenkins urges the Trump Administration to "halt efforts to roll back methane waste rules designed to protect taxpayers and their resources."

## **Guest Opinion: Don't Drill Beside TR's National Park.**

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/27, O'Neill), Jayson O'Neill, deputy director of the Western Values Project, claims that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "set on opening up any and all of our public lands to special interests, including a pending oil and gas lease proposal that borders Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which was created to honor and protect Roosevelt's former ranch and conservation legacy." O'Neill argues that "through this effort they are getting rid of common-sense rules that protect our national parks, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation opportunities from the very industrial exploitation that Roosevelt warned us of." He writes that "if Zinke wants to honor Roosevelt's legacy, he should not continue to give our national park and monument landscapes away to special interests."

## **It's Congress' Turn To Fight Wildfires.**

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/28, HumphriesOpinion Contributor —), Rebecca Humphries, CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation, urges Congress "to implement long-needed changes to laws regulating national forest management and end the erosion of the Forest Service's budget for proactive forest work." She argues that "active forest management and forest restoration can significantly diminish the severity of damage caused by fire." But to do so, agencies "need adequate funding to effectively manage these lands."

## **Don't Let Congress Hand Arctic Refuge To Big Oil And Gas.**

Natural Resources Defense Council President Rhea Suh, in an op-ed in the [Seattle Times](#) (10/27, Suh), criticized GOP leaders in Congress as having "stooped to backdoor budget chicanery to try and raid the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" in "a shameful betrayal of the public interest" that must be defeated. Other provisions would open to drilling "federal waters in the Arctic Ocean, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and up and down the Atlantic seaboard, irreplaceable marine and coastal habitat that have been protected from the oil and gas industry." Suh calls for the public "to stand up and demand that Congress strip these pernicious provisions out of the final budget language that both houses agree to and make sure they do no more damage."

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **Deadline Near For Tribal Members To Claim Settlement Money.**

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that "American Indian tribal members and their descendants have until Nov. 27 to ask for their share of the remainder of \$3.4 billion in settlement money awarded to Native Americans after a major class-action lawsuit against the federal government." U.S. District of Columbia District Court Judge Thomas Hogan set the deadline in a January order, "after it was apparent that efforts to find tribe members to entitled to the award money listed as 'whereabouts unknown' were no longer as successful." According to the article, "unclaimed funds that remain after the deadline passes will be added to the Cobell Educational Scholarship Fund."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/27, Wilson).



## **Tribal Leaders Call Land-Use Bill Step In Right Direction.**

The [AP](#) (10/29, Windes) reports that "tribal leaders backed a House bill Wednesday that would give tribes the ability to control more of their land, instead of having to get federal approval for virtually any use." The American Indian Empowerment Act would "let tribes shift federally controlled trust land to 'restricted fee land,' a move that could save millions of dollars that tribes now spend on 'burdensome regulation,' while restoring a level of tribal sovereignty." The article adds that "while they called the bill a step in the right direction, however, witnesses said they are concerned about ambiguities in the thin, three-page bill that 'could allow state or local governments to implement property taxes on tribal land,' among other issues."

## **Tribal Leaders Received Payments In Failed Brokerage Deal.**

The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (10/27, Ellis) reports that Lower Brule Tribal Council members were "among those who received payments from a taxpayer guaranteed loan that was used to buy a failing Wall Street brokerage firm." However, "the payments to tribal members were not illegal and simply part of doing business in Indian Country." Those are among the conclusions of an investigation by the Interior Department "into the tribe's purchase of Westrock Group, a brokerage that went bankrupt shortly after the Lower Brule tribe bought it."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **CBS: Wild Horse Protection.**

The [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (10/29, story 8, 2:25, Quijano) reported, "President Trump's proposed budget has ignited a battle in the wild west between the livestock industry and animal rights activists. It's a dispute over grazing territory. Tens of thousands of wild horses could end up being slaughtered."

### **State, BLM Work Together On Land Exchange.**

The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (10/28) reports that New Mexico State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn and Acting Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Director Aden Seidlitz s"igned a proclamation Friday (Oct. 27), agreeing to work together on a land exchange that will consolidate state and federal holdings within the Río Grande del Norte National Monument and the Sabinoso Wilderness Area." The Interior Department is "expected to transfer 43,000 acres of state-owned surface and mineral estate within the monument and the wilderness area to the BLM in exchange for giving the state 78,000 federal acres in several counties including Chaves, Colfax, Guadalupe, Lincoln, McKinley, Mora, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Socorro and Torrance Counties."

### **Plan Keeps Most Of Sonoran Desert Monument Open To Shooters.**

The [AP](#) (10/28, VERNILE) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters." The plan, "posted Oct. 20 in the Federal Register, calls for making 11 percent of the monument's land off-limits to shooting." The article notes that "hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits."

### **Bundey, Sons Finally Get Their Day (more Likely Months) In Court For Armed 2014 Standoff.**

[KSNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (10/29, Clemons) reports from Las Vegas that "Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy and two of his sons – Ryan and Ammon along with independent militia leader Ryan Payne – will appear in federal court at 8:30 a.m." this morning "as jury selection begins in a long-awaited trial." The four "have been in a federal detention for nearly two years, awaiting earlier trials of others connected to the confrontation," and

"they face potential decades in prison if convicted of conspiracy and other charges related to the 2014 incident." KSNV-TV adds that in April 2014, "Bundy and his supporters had a week of confrontations with Bureau of Land Management Rangers and contractors hired by the government to confiscate nearly 1,000 head of his cattle grazing in the Gold Butte area." Two previous trials of other defendants "ended with several acquittals and just a pair of convictions, leading three defendants to cut plea deals with prosecutors on much lesser charges."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/28, Ferrara, Lochhead).

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

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### **Air Gun Oil Exploration Might Blast Rare Whale Out Of The Gulf.**

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/27, Baurick) reported the Center for Biological Diversity is petitioning to have the Gulf of Mexico's population of Cuvier's beaked whales listed under the Endangered Species Act, warning that seismic air gun testing could deafen or kill the remaining numbers. The whale is the deepest diving mammal, and has already struggled because of the Gulf's oil industry, according to Abel Caldiva, a biologist with the center. Endangered status could lead to the northern Gulf being designated a critical habitat, and lead to the development of a federal recovery plan for the whale.

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

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### **Idaho Approves \$3 Million To Study Raising Boise River Dams.**

The [AP](#) (10/28) reports that "Idaho officials have approved spending \$3 million to help pay for a federal study to increase the height of three dams on the Boise River." The Idaho Water Resources Board on Tuesday "approved paying for half of the \$6 million study that requires a 50 percent non-federal match." The Bureau of Reclamation study will "look at raising Anderson Ranch Dam by 6 feet, Arrowrock Dam by 10 feet and Lucky Peak Dam by 4 feet."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/27, Ellis).

## **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

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### **How A 672,000-Gallon Oil Spill Was Nearly Invisible.**

The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Caron) reports that when an oil pipeline owned by LLOG Exploration, lying about a mile below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, fractured in early October, about 672,000 gallons of oil escaped, in what appears "to be the largest since the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010." However, "hardly any of it was visible" on the surface, as "the oil seemed to have completely disappeared." The oil, under high pressure and seeping through a small fracture, escaped in droplets measured in microns, according to Lt. Cmdr. Steven Youde of the Coast Guard. Much of the oil was eaten by oil-degrading bacteria, with larger droplets that rose to the surface broken down by "sunlight, wind and wave action."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

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### **Forensics Lab Solves Crimes Against Animals.**

[CNN](#) (10/29) provided a look at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory, "the only lab in the world devoted entirely to investigating crimes against animals." According to the article, "located in Ashland, Oregon, this state-of-the-art facility boasts a pathology department, an on-site forensic ornithologist and a genetics team to investigate illegal animal killings, smuggling and other crimes."



## **Wildlife Refuge In New England Set For Major Expansion.**

The [AP](#) (10/29, Casey) reports that "a plan to significantly expand a wildlife refuge that covers parts of the Connecticut River watershed in New England is running into opposition from the timber industry and governors in several states." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "earlier this year released a 15-year conservation plan for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, which covers more than 37,000 acres in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut." The agency "identified 197,000 acres that could be added to the refuge either through purchases or other agreements with land owners or nonprofits."

## **First Whooping Cranes Sighted At Wildlife Refuge.**

The [Victoria \(TX\) Advocate](#) (10/27, Priest) reports that "whooping cranes are back on the Texas Coast, about two months after Hurricane Harvey changed their wintering grounds." Wade Harrell, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' whooping crane recovery coordinator, said Friday, "Two groups of two were spotted at different times and at different locations. I think the first group was on Wednesday and the second group was on Thursday. They were adults, and that's pretty typical. The family groups or the pairs with juveniles are usually the last to arrive." Harrell said the whooping cranes were seen on Blackjack Peninsula at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

## **National Park Service**

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### **Lawmakers: High User Fees Could Hurt Acadia, National Parks.**

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that "Maine's congressional delegation is turning a critical eye on a U.S. Department of the Interior proposal to raise fees at national parks, including Acadia National Park." Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King "sent a letter to the department after an announcement that it's proposing increasing fees at 17 national parks. The peak season increases would help offset overdue maintenance costs." They "say the department should consider creating a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund or Conservation Service Corp to help address the backlog."

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that Washington Gov. Jay Inslee "says that a National Park Service plan to impose steep increases in entrance fees at 17 of its most popular parks would hurt rural counties in Washington state." In a letter sent to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Thursday, Inslee "says the increase would likely decrease the number of visitors to the parks, and that the cost would put the parks out of reach to lower and middle income families."

Also reporting are the [Daily World \(WA\)](#) (10/28), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (10/28, Frissell, Reilly), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/27, Sambides), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/27, Kasler), and [KCNC-TV Denver](#) Denver (10/27, Boyd).

Commentary in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/27, Board), the [Denver Post](#) (10/27), the [New Republic](#) (10/27, Atkin), and the [Canandaigua \(NY\) Daily Messenger](#) (10/29, Lisenbee) criticized the proposal, while the [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/27, Board) supported it in an editorial.

### **Trump Celebrates Halloween Early With Journalists' Children.**

The [New York Times](#) (10/27, Flegenheimer) reports that "for some 180 seconds on Friday," the "Halloween-costumed" children of White House reporters "inspired a quintessential Trump performance – part executive gripe session, part grandfatherly charm, part open-mic night for the under-12 set."

Although the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (10/27, story 12, 0:25, Mason) in a brief report acknowledged "Trump observed a truce with reporters...long enough to invite their kids into the Oval Office for an early Halloween celebration," [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (10/27, story 10, 0:40, Muir) broadcast the President asking, "So how does the press treat you?" He continued, "I'll bet you get treated better by the press than anybody in the world, right? Huh? I think so. Hi, sweetie. Well, congratulations, folks. You did a good



job.” Trump added, “You did a good job. Here you did a good job. I wouldn’t say you did very well here. But really beautiful children.”

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that “the president will also be welcoming ghost[s] and goblins to the South Lawn for trick-or-treating on the eve of Halloween on Monday.” The AP adds that “federal agencies including NASA, the Secret Service and the National Park Service also will be handing out giveaways.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (10/29, Caplan).

### **Too Many Tourists: Crowding Is A Big Headache At National Parks And Theme Parks.**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/28, Martin) reports that “across the country, people have been trekking to national parks, theme parks and other tourist attractions in record numbers during the past few years, creating an unexpected problem for the tourism industry: too many customers.” Without a solution, managers “fear that long lines and unruly crowds ultimately will turn off future visitors.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/27, Reese).

### **Parks Service Denies Permit For Giant Statue Of Naked Woman On National Mall.**

[CNN](#) (10/27, Tatum) reports that “the group behind an effort to bring a 45-foot-tall sculpture of a naked woman to the National Mall says it is ‘looking to formalize litigation’ after the National Park Service denied approval of the statue.” Natalie White, spokeswoman for Catharsis on the Mall, said in a statement, “We need a law firm willing to take on overly restrictive NPS rules that inappropriately seem to value the preservation of the perceived aesthetic of the National Mall over First Amendment activities. Historical use of this public space includes free-speech demonstrations that continue to shape the character of our country.”

Also reporting are [Newsweek](#) (10/27, Solis).

### **Feds Pull Funding For Black Panther Legacy Project In Berkeley After Backlash.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Lim) reports that “a Black Panther Party legacy project at the University of California Berkeley will no longer proceed after the National Park Service bowed to pressure applied by conservative organizations and pulled federal funding, according to a report.” The National Park Service “announced in September it would award \$98,000 to Ula Taylor, UC Berkeley’s incoming African-American studies chairwoman,” for the Black Panther Party Research, Interpretation & Memory Project. Spokesman Craig Dalby said, “After an additional review of the project, the [National Park Service] decided not to move forward with funding the project.”

Also reporting are the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/27, Robertson) and the [East Bay \(CA\) Times](#) (10/27, Drummond).

### **Light Pollution Is Stealing Your View Of The Stars.**

National Parks Want To Give It Back. The [Denver Post](#) (10/29, Finley) reports that managers at national parks are “trying to set themselves up as preserves by obtaining official ‘dark sky’ designations.” Karen Treviño, chief of National Park Service’s Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division, said, “On one hand, it would be an honor to be able to provide the American public with an experience they are seeking, particularly if they cannot get that anyplace else. That’s partly why national parks were established. On the other, it’s kind of sad to think we might get to a point one day where national parks are the only places where Americans could have that type of experience.”

### **Culture Of Harassment At NPS ‘Completely Unacceptable’.**

The [Rafu Shimpo \(CA\)](#) (10/26) reports that Sen. Mazie Hirono, ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, “on Oct. 13 called for action to be taken following the release of a National Park Service (NPS) survey that found that 38 percent of NPS employees have been harassed or discriminated against in the past year.” The Interior Department “announced that NPS will receive

additional resources to address complaints and expand training.” Hirono said, “Today’s announcement confirms what we’ve known for some time – there is a pervasive culture of workplace harassment in the National Park Service. Continued silence and inaction are completely unacceptable. Working together, we can provide the necessary oversight and resources to ensure that all NPS employees – regardless of age, race, gender, and sexual orientation – have a safe working environment.”

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Davidson).

### **Marin Resident To Head Golden Gate National Recreation Area.**

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (10/27, Prado) reports that Laura Joss, regional director for the National Park Service’s Pacific West Region, will become the next superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in November. Joss said, “It’s been a dream job for years. I’m so happy and amazed that this opportunity came about.”

### **Once-thriving Thurmond, W.Va., Is Now A Coal-country Ghost Town.**

[USA Today](#) (10/27) reports on Thurmond, “a ghost town whose fortunes rose and fell with the coal industry.” According to the article, “much of the once-bustling town of 500 is now owned by the National Park Service’s New River Gorge National River.”

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (10/27, Bordsen).

## **Office Of Surface Mining**

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### **Fourpole Creek Watershed Association Honored For Work Protecting Local Waterway.**

The [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (10/28) reports that “watershed volunteers were recognized for their tireless efforts of working for clean water in WV for the 19th year at Watershed Celebration Day an event hosted by Friends of the Cheat and the WV Watershed Network earlier this year.” According to the article, “volunteers took part in tours of the Cheat River watershed as they floated down the river to learn the positive impact of tourism or hiked into the mountains to see how volunteers can plan, fund, and implement remedial projects that treat acid mine drainage.” Rick Buckley, with the Office of Surface Mining, “an original partner helping FOC clean up pollution from old coal mine drainage in the Cheat Watershed,” said, “The Friends of the Cheat (FOC) has been in existence for 23 years and are both locally and nationally recognized for their leadership role and determination to restore, preserve, and promote the outstanding natural qualities of the Cheat Watershed. It is exciting for us to have them host other volunteers and demonstrate the keys to their many successes.”

## **US Geological Survey**

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### **Proposed Name Change For Confederate Corners Subject Of Monterey County Online Survey.**

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/27, Johnson) reports that “seeking community input on possible renaming of the little known “Confederate Corners” intersection, Supervisor Jane Parker and Monterey County staff have released an online survey allowing the public to weigh in.” The survey says “that the Board of Supervisors has been asked by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to make a recommendation about how to handle the Confederate Corners name, which the U.S. Geological Survey uses to designate the intersection of Monterey-Salinas Highway and Hitchcock Road where former Confederate soldiers settled after the Civil War.” The survey, “which will accept responses until Nov. 8, asks respondents to decide between four main options: Take no action and allow the USGS to make a decision about the name; ask the USGS to remove the name ‘Confederate Corners’ and leave this as an unnamed location; ask the USGS to change the name; and ‘Other.’”



## Additional Reading.

- *Armageddon Via Imaginary Planet Has Been Pushed Back — Yet Again — To November.* [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Selk).
- *New USGS Map Shows Where Hurricane Maria Triggered Landslides On Puerto Rico.* [Weather Channel](#) (10/27, Breslin).
- *After The Napa Fires, A Disaster-in-Waiting: Toxic Ash.* [Wired](#) (10/29, Rogers).
- *100-year Floods Prompt Drone Visit At Historic Site.* [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (10/28, Albers).
- *Alaska's Glaciers Are Shrinking Fast.* [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (10/27, Gillette).
- *Pacific Sees Preview Of Flood Inundation Map.* [Missourian](#) (10/27, Masson).
- *Thousands Of Monarch Butterflies Could Be Stranded.* [New York Post](#) (10/27).
- *Toxic Ash, Debris From California Wildfires Pose Risks During Cleanup.* [CNN](#) (10/28, Wotus, Gray).
- *Volcano Watch: USGS Maps Identify Lava Inundation Zones For Mauna Loa.* [Hawaii Tribune-Herald](#) (10/29).
- *When Will The Yellowstone Supervolcano Erupt?.* [Forbes](#) (10/27) .

## Top National News

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### Trump Blasts Mueller Probe Amid Reports That Charges Could Be Announced Today.

In the wake of reports that a grand jury has approved the first charges in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, the President took to Twitter Sunday to criticize the investigation, Hillary Clinton and congressional Democrats. Trump's tweets and speculation about who is targeted by the indictment garner heavy media coverage – leading two of the three network news broadcasts – and were the subject of a great deal of discussion on the Sunday talk shows. Trump is generally cast as lashing out at the investigation and seeking to shift attention to possible connections between members of the Clinton campaign and Russia.

Trump [tweeted](#), "All of this 'Russia' talk right when the Republicans are making their big push for historic Tax Cuts & Reform. Is this coincidental? NOT!" In a series of earlier tweets ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) Trump wrote, "Never seen such Republican ANGER & UNITY as I have concerning the lack of investigation on Clinton made Fake Dossier (now \$12,000,000?),....the Uranium to Russia deal, the 33,000 plus deleted Emails, the Comey fix and so much more. Instead they look at phony Trump/Russia,.....'collusion,' which doesn't exist. The Dems are using this terrible (and bad for our country) Witch Hunt for evil politics, but the R's...are now fighting back like never before. There is so much GUILT by Democrats/Clinton, and now the facts are pouring out. DO SOMETHING!"

The [AP](#) (10/29) says Trump "is unleashing new criticism of the investigations into possible ties between his campaign associates and Russia." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/29, Willman) says that in "an angry series of tweets," Trump "sought to blame partisan politics for the widening scandal," and the [Washington Post](#) (10/29, Johnson) reports that in the "four tweets sent over 24 minutes," Trump "expressed frustration that his campaign is under investigation over possible ties to Russia's plot to influence the 2016 election but that his former opponent Hillary Clinton is not facing the same level of scrutiny." In the lead story for The [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (10/29, lead story, 2:15), Eliane Quijano said Trump in "a hail of tweets...shrugged off the looming charges, suggesting in capital letters that the spotlight be turned instead towards Hillary Clinton." [USA Today](#) (10/29, Wolf) reports that Trump "appeared ready for the other shoe to drop, taking to Twitter on Sunday to denounce the investigation, Democrats and his election opponent, Hillary Clinton." To the [New York Times](#) (10/29, Davis), Trump was seeking "to shift the focus to a litany of accusations against" Clinton "a day before the special counsel inquiry will reportedly produce its first indictment in the case." Similarly, the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Feldscher) says Trump responded to reports that



indictments are about to be announced "by pointing the finger at Democrats."

Kate Snow reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (10/29, lead story, 2:30) that Trump "bemoaned all the Russia talk," and Kelly O'Donnell said he "vent[ed] broadly about the Russia investigation." [Politico](#) (10/29, Griffiths) says Trump "expanded on his long-simmering disdain for the investigation," while [The Hill](#) (10/29, Samuels) describes Trump as lashing out and says his "outrage" was "apparently prompted by a Washington Post report earlier this week that a lawyer working for Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) helped fund" the so-called Trump Dossier.

A [New York Post](#) (10/29, Moore) headline, meanwhile, describes a "Twitter meltdown" by Trump. The Post reports that Trump's "twitter explosion comes as CNN reported" that Mueller "is expected to announce his first indictments in the case as soon as Monday." However, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/29, Levin) reports that special White House counsel Ty Cobb said news of the pending charges did not trigger Trump's tweets. Cobb said in an emailed statement, "Contrary to what many have suggested, the president's comments today are unrelated to the activities of the special counsel, with whom he continues to cooperate." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Lim) reports that Cobb told the New York Times on Saturday that Trump "has no concerns" about "any impact" of conversations between Mueller, Manafort or Flynn. Cobb said, "I think he would be sad for them, as a friend and a former colleague, if the process results in punishment or indictments. ... But to the extent that that happens, that's beyond [Trump's] control." The [Washington Times](#) (10/29, Sherfinski) and the [Daily Caller](#) (10/29, Donachie) also report on Trump's tweets.

[Politico](#) (10/29, Nussbaum) says the expected indictment leaves Trump "facing a politically perilous week as his White House juggles unveiling significant tax legislation, announcing its pick for Federal Reserve chair and launching a 12-day-long foreign trip." According to Politico, "the expected indictment...could make Monday one of the most politically consequential days of this presidency." Politico cites "a senior White House official and a top GOP Capitol Hill aide" who said that House Republicans "still plan to release a draft of their tax bill this week." Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway "said the White House could keep its policy aims front and center this week," telling Politico, "We know there is a complete disconnect between what Americans are told matters to them and what they tell us matters to them."

***Indictment Could Be Unsealed Today; Schiff Says Manafort Or Flynn Could Be The Targets.*** [Reuters](#) (10/29, Hosenball) cites "a source briefed on the matter" who said a Federal grand jury approved charges on Friday. While the indictment "was sealed under orders from a federal judge so it was not clear what the charges were or who the target was," the source said it could be unsealed as early as Monday. David Wright reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (10/29, story 2, 3:10, Llamas) that "sources tell ABC News the grand jury has approved charges." Wright added that there is "no shortage of possible members of Trump's inner circle who have faced questions about their dealings with Russians. Or there could be others we haven't heard of before." Wright said that while the "two key targets so far" are former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, "Manafort's team says they don't think an indictment is coming their way. Flynn's team hasn't responded." Also in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (10/29, lead story, 2:30), O'Donnell said that "Manafort and Flynn deny any wrong doing and others who've received less public attention could be in jeopardy."

Paula Reid reported in the lead story for The [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (10/29, lead story, 2:15) that because "the threat of an indictment can certainly provide an incentive to cooperate with investigators," if the person "who is expected to be charged suddenly decides to work with the special counsel, it is possible that the charges could remain under seal, and we won't see any arrests this week."

Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on [MSNBC AM Joy](#) 📺 (10/29), "I don't know who was indicted. We certainly do know Manafort has at least told people that he believed that he would be indicted. It could be Manafort. It could be Flynn. Many people have been pointing out that you generally go

after the small fish first. Those are not small fish. We are talking about the National Security Adviser for the President and we are talking about the President's campaign manager. If those are the small fish then the big fish has got to be pretty big." Schiff said on [ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos](#) 📺 (10/29), that if it is Manafort, "it may help us answer one very central question in the investigation. That is, we know that the Russian government, through intermediaries, was reaching out to the Trump campaign, reaching out to Paul Manafort and others. ... We also know from the Washington Post reporting that contemporaneously to that, Paul Manafort is reaching out in the other direction...offering information in exchange for money. ... The question is, who gave what to whom, as a result of these overtures?"

Francesca Chambers of DailyMail.com said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) 📺 (10/29), "One thing I can tell you is the White House received no indication that it is someone who works at the White House currently, Jared Kushner or someone who would be close to the President like Don, Jr." Julie Pace of the Associated Press said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) 📺 (10/29), "One thing that is certain no matter what happens tomorrow, this undermines the message that the White House has been trying to push, which is essentially that the Mueller investigation is turning up nothing and is close to ending. That is simply factually inaccurate." Similarly, Perry Bacon of FiveThirtyEight said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) 📺 (10/29), "Sarah Sanders, I assume, cannot say the investigation is ending tomorrow after an indictment comes out. So I'll be curious to see what the tweets are like, if they back off." Bacon added, "What do the members say? There's always this idea out there that maybe Trump will fire Mueller. I'll be curious if the members sort of at this point say, you cannot, cannot do that or we will do something else."

"Face the Nation" host John Dickerson was asked on The [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (10/29, story 2, 1:50, Quijano) about the political significance of an indictment. Dickerson said, "It depends who the indictment is aimed at and if it is a minor character on the fringe of this story, it won't mean very much. In fact, you can imagine, and now we're really getting into the ether, here, of speculation. But if it's a sideline figure that is not related to the President, it is possible to imagine that the President would take some heart from that and say it approves this is a witch hunt. On the other hand, if it is somebody very close to the Trump campaign, then it would require all kinds of responses both from the President and his team, that would create more volatility."

**BuzzFeed: FBI Probe Focusing On 13 Wire Transfers By Companies Linked To Manafort.** [BuzzFeed](#) (10/29, Leopold, Cormier) reports that the FBI's investigation of Manafort "includes a keen focus on a series of suspicious wire transfers in which offshore companies linked to Manafort moved more than \$3 million all over the globe between 2012 and 2013. Much of the money came into the United States." BuzzFeed News "has learned that investigators have been scrutinizing at least 13 wire transfers between 2012 and 2013." Citing the BuzzFeed report, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/29, White) says the wire transfers "drew the attention of federal law enforcement officials who were examining if he was helping the Ukrainian regime launder millions it plundered through corrupt dealings."

**Gowdy: Mueller Should Put A Stop To Leaks.** In appearance on [Fox News Sunday](#) 📺 (10/29, Wallace), House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy called on Mueller to crack down on leaks, [Politico](#) (10/29, Guida) reports. Gowdy said, "The only conversation I've had with Robert Mueller, it was stressing to him the importance of cutting out the leaks with respect to serious investigations." He added, "It is kind of ironic that the people in charge of investigating the law and executing the law would violate the law. ... Make no mistake, disclosing grand jury material is a violation of the law. So, as a former prosecutor, I'm disappointed that you and I are having the conversation because somebody violated their oath of secrecy." Gowdy also "said he's not pushing for Mueller's investigation to be curtailed or shut down." [Townhall](#) (10/29, Meads) says Gowdy "lambasted Democrats, leaks stemming from special counsel Robert Mueller's Investigation, and President Trump's Department of Justice" during the Fox interview.

**Christie: Disclosure Of Grand Jury Indictments Could Be A Criminal Violation.** The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Giaritelli) reports that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie told



[ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos](#) 📺 the person who told CNN that the grand jury will issue indictments this week may have committed a crime. Christie said, "We don't know who leaked it to CNN. It would be a crime if prosecutors or agents leaked it. If defense lawyers leaked it, it might be less. ... It's supposed to be kept secret." Christie said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) 📺 (10/29, Tapper) that "there are very, very strict laws on grand jury secrecy. So depending upon who leaked this to CNN, that's a criminal violation, potentially." Similarly, Christie told [CBS' Face The Nation](#) 📺 (10/29, Dickerson) that "there are strict laws against any of this type of leaking of grand jury activity and so the idea that we may know, in fact that there is been some activity done already depending upon who leaked that information, that could be criminal violation as well."

***Waters Sees Sufficient Grounds To Discuss Impeachment.*** Rep. Maxine Waters said on [MSNBC AM Joy](#) 📺 (10/29), "I have faith in our special counsel. Mueller is doing a good job. As a matter of fact, he's going to be bringing some indictments next week. We don't know who they are. It could be Manafort, it could be Flynn, it could be Carter page, I don't know, but I think that if a reasonable person takes a look at all of the connections with Russia, the fact that this President has said that he wanted to lift sanctions, the fact that we pass law that said – strengthened those sanctions against Russia and he has not implemented the law that we passed, he won't say a negative word about Putin, there's enough there for responsible, reasonable members of Congress to talk about impeachment."

***Portman: Americans Should Be Focused On Russian Meddling.*** Sen. Rob Portman was asked on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) 📺 (10/29, Todd) if he is concerned the President may issue pardons or fire Mueller. Portman said, "I hope Congress will encourage that the Senate Intelligence Committee, which I think is doing a great job, bipartisan with Senator Warner, Senator Burr, complete their work and that we support this investigation that the Department of Justice has now appointed this special prosecutor. Let's let him get to the bottom of it. As you know, I've been involved in this issue quite a while in terms of the disinformation the Russians are doing, in terms of their meddling and every American, Republican and Democrat alike, should be focused on that."

***Gowdy, King Question Uranium One Deal.*** Gowdy was also asked on [Fox News Sunday](#) 📺 (10/29, Wallace), about the Uranium One investigation. Gowdy said that "we've spent most of 2017 trying to better understand what Russia did to this country in 2016. Not to the Democrats, not to the Republicans but to the country. So, what we know is that Russia was not our friend in 2016. It is not that big of a leap to ask if they were our friends in 2010. That is not that big of a leap. It was not Republicans who gave the reset button to Russia. It was not Republicans who said we will have more flexibility in a second term. It was a Republican named Mitt Romney that said Russia was our greatest threat and the Democrats laughed at him. So yes, I do want to know if the same group that tried to sabotage our democracy in 2016 is buying uranium in 2010. I want to know that."

Sen. Angus King appeared on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) 📺 (10/29, Tapper), "I think one of the House committees has already begun an oversight committee hearing. I always think oversight hearings are appropriate. I've been trying to understand this deal, I think the important thing that I learned in reading the background is the company changed hands, but the uranium that's mined in the United States cannot leave the United States. So it wasn't really the sale of uranium. It was the sale of a mining and manufacturing company. But there are questions about it. And I think, you know, we need to get to the bottom of them."

***Collins: Podesta, Wasserman Schultz Should Be Called To Testify About Trump Dossier.*** [Reuters](#) (10/29, Gibson) reports that Sen. Susan Collins told [CBS' Face The Nation](#) 📺 Sunday that Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and former DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz should be called to testify concerning reports that the DNC and the Clinton campaign paid for parts of the Trump dossier. Collins said, "It's difficult to imagine that a campaign chairman, that the head of the DNC would not know of an expenditure of this magnitude and significance. ... But perhaps there's something more going on here. But certainly, it's worth additional questioning of those two witnesses. And



the lawyer; absolutely, he more than anyone." [Politico](#) (10/29, Guida) reports that Collins said, "Certainly, it's worth more questioning of those two witnesses," and the [Washington Times](#) (10/29, Sherfinski) quotes Collins as saying, "They absolutely need to be recalled." Collins "also said she has not yet seen any 'definitive' evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia." The [AP](#) (10/29) also reports on Collins' comments.

Dickerson said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (10/29, story 2, 1:50, Quijano) that news of the dossier "certainly helps the President make his case. or at least before this indictment news came forward, about what the Clinton team was up to. But really, there are two separate things. And so particularly with respect to the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Collins was saying that the lawyer, who we know was involved with this creation of the dossier or at least spending money on it, was at the table with John Podesta, the chairman of the Clinton campaign when he said he knew nothing about how it was funded. So that lawyer will now, according to Senator Collins, should come back and testify himself as opposed to sitting there just as somebody there going along with John Podesta."

**WTimes: Nunes Has Shifted Russia Debate Closer To Democrats.** The [Washington Times](#) (10/29, Scarborough) reports that House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes "has shifted the Russia debate in Washington further away from President Trump and closer to Democrats" by "expos[ing] the practice of 'unmasking' by Obama aides and flush[ing] out the source of payments for the scandalous anti-Trump dossier that drove the Russia collusion narrative." While Nunes "talked publicly about his discovery to much derision from Democrats and Washington's press corps," his "legacy lives on" as "both the Senate and House intelligence committees have summoned former Obama aides as witnesses."

Schiff said on [MSNBC AM Joy](#) 📺 (10/29), "I used to be part of a commission, the Democracy Assistance Commission, that would meet with emerging democracies, and one of the points we would always make is, if you win an election, when you win an election, you don't try to use the justice system, pervert the justice system to punish your vanquished opponent, and that's what is happening here. The White House in violation of Justice Department policy has intervened with the Justice Department to say we want you to take certain steps, and lift the gag rule to advance an investigation of my vanquished opponent. I have to say for the Republicans in Congress to go along with that, to open up an investigation to become complicit in that makes them part of the dismantling of the checks and balances, one brick at a time."

**Book Claims Obama Plotted To "Destroy" Trump.** The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Bedard) reports in its "Washington Secrets" column that new book titled, "All Out War: The Plot To Destroy Trump," alleges that former President Obama was "dumbfounded" that Trump beat Clinton in the election and, along with "a top aide began plotting to 'destroy' the president-elect around Christmas" with a goal of setting him up for impeachment. Author Ed Klein describes "a 'Christmastime' dinner during which national security adviser Susan Rice pushed plans to 'unmask, or disclose, the names of several Trump campaign associates who were mentioned or whose conversations were captured in intelligence intercepts of Russian officials.'"

[The Federalist](#) (10/29, Davis) reports that since April of last year, Obama's campaign organization, Obama for America, "has paid over \$972,000 to Perkins Cole," the "law firm that funneled money to Fusion GPS, the firm behind the infamous" Trump dossier. The Federalist adds that the "timing and nature of the payments...raise significant questions about whether OFA was funding Fusion GPS, how much Obama and his team knew about the contents and provenance of the dossier long before its contents were made public, and whether the president or his government lieutenants knowingly used a partisan political document to justify official government actions targeting the president's political opponents named in the dossier."

**Rivkin, Casey: Trump Can Shut Down Mueller Probe With Blanket Pardon.** In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29), David Rivkin and Lee Casey, who served in the White House Counsel's office and Justice Department in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations, argue that Mueller's investigation, which has been widely seen as

partisan from its start, has become open-ended and Trump can bring it to an end by issuing a blanket pardon to anyone involved in alleged collusion with Russia during the campaign. If Congress was to find evidence of collusion, they add, the House can decide whether to begin impeachment proceedings.

*Twitter Suspends Stone.* [USA Today](#) (10/28, Miller) reported Saturday that Twitter has suspended former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone "after an expletive-filled tweetstorm late Friday attacking CNN and some of the network's on-air personalities." Stone "lashed out with vulgarities at anchors Don Lemon and Jake Tapper, among others." The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Fortin) says Stone's tweets, which were "littered with expletives," appeared to be "in response to reports that a federal grand jury had approved charges in the continuing investigation into the Trump campaign's possible connections to Russia."

*NYTimes Analysis: Warner Leading Critic Of Tech Firms In Russia Investigation.* The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Kang) reports on ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee Sen. Mark Warner's (D-VA) role in the Senate investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 elections, and particularly "how some of the biggest American technology companies, like Facebook, Google and Twitter, were used to spread foreign propaganda." Executives from those companies will testify before the committee this week. Warner is described as "among the harshest" critics of the companies, after having "built a fortune...as a technology and telecommunications investor and executive." The companies are arguing against regulation or legislation to compel them to disclose information about political ads, particularly a bill by Sens. Warner, Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and John McCain (R-AZ). The Times says that the committee chairman, Sen. Richard Burr "has been more reserved than Mr. Warner" and Republicans "have been reluctant to regulate the rapidly evolving industry."

### **Mattis Threatens "Massive" Military Response From US Should North Korea Use Nuclear Weapons.**

Defense Secretary Mattis during a visit to Seoul on Saturday denounced North Korea's "outlaw behavior" and vowed the US would have a "massive military response" to any nuclear attack. While the network newscasts did not provide coverage, the major print dailies and wires highlighted that the Defense Secretary's remarks came a day after he visited the demilitarized zone and ahead of President Trump's visit to the region.

The [New York Times](#) (10/28, Cooper) reports Mattis, speaking at the South Korean Ministry of National Defense, "accused North Korea of accelerating the threat of nuclear war through its series of nuclear and ballistic missile tests." He also "characterized Pyongyang's behavior as threatening and said that the United States would do everything in its power to protect its allies in the region." According to the [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Taylor), he "offered unequivocal support for American allies in the face of threats from North Korea." Mattis told reporters, "any attack on the United States or our allies will be defeated, and any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response that is effective and overwhelming." In addition, the Defense Secretary "reiterated that the military options being considered were 'designed to buttress diplomats' efforts to maintain a deterrent stance and denuclearize the peninsula.'" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/28, Cheng, Lubold) reports Mattis acknowledged that although "diplomacy remains our preferred course of action in dealing with North Korea," he asserted, "I cannot imagine a condition under which the U.S. would accept North Korea as a nuclear power."

However, the [AP](#) (10/28, Burns) says Mattis "did not mention that...Trump has ratcheted up his own rhetoric." The AP notes the President in August "warned the North not to make any more threats against the United States, and said that if it did, it would be met with 'fire and fury like the world has never seen.'" [Reuters](#) (10/28, Stewart) reports "tension between North Korea and the United States has been building after a series of nuclear and missile tests by Pyongyang and bellicose verbal exchanges between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and...Trump."

[AFP](#) (10/28) highlights that "Mattis' trip comes ahead of Trump's first presidential



visit to South Korea next month as part of his Asia tour which also includes Japan, China, Vietnam and the Philippines." AFP adds that "all eyes will be on Trump's message to the North and Kim," as the President "is expected to deliver a speech at the South's parliament and to visit an US military base during a November 7-8 trip to Seoul."

**NYTimes A1: Asian States Reconsidering Nuclear Weapons Amid Threat From North Korea.** The [New York Times](#) (10/28, A1, Sanger, Sang-Hun, Rich) reports on its front-page that "as North Korea races to build a weapon that for the first time could threaten American cities, its neighbors are debating whether they need their own nuclear arsenals." The Times says that "for the first time in recent memory, there is a daily argument raging in both South Korea and Japan – sometimes in public, more often in private – about the nuclear option, driven by worry that the United States might hesitate to defend the countries if doing so might provoke a missile launched from the North at Los Angeles or Washington."

**UN Special Rapporteur Warns Sanctions Could Punish North Korean Populace.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Fassihi) reported Tomas Ojea Quintana, the UN special rapporteur for human rights in North Korea, in his annual report to the UN General Assembly on the state of human rights in the country on Thursday warned tough new economic sanctions against North Korean government could backfire on the population. At a press conference on Friday, Quintana said, "I don't want to see the U.N. putting the government of North Korea [in a position] to choose between nuclearization and the economy."

**Masterminds Behind Kim Jong Nam Murder Remain At Large.** The [AP](#) (10/28, Talmadge) reports that during the ongoing "trial that could send two Southeast Asian women to the gallows, Malaysian prosecutors are shining a light on several men at large they say masterminded and played crucial roles in carrying out the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong's Un's estranged half brother," Kim Jong Nam. The AP says that since the trial of Siti Aisyah, 25, of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong, 29, of Vietnam began on Oct. 2, "the alleged role of the four missing suspects has come to dominate the proceedings." The AP recaps "what's come out so far about the missing men, who are referred to officially in court only by their aliases, and what's known about their actions."

### **Mattis, Pence Deliver New Warning To North Korea Over Nuclear Weapons.**

Defense Secretary Mattis arrived in the demilitarized zone on Friday to demand North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions while Vice President Pence told airmen at Minot Air Force Base that they should "be ready" to act in the event of an emergency. Although just one of the network newscasts provided coverage, reporting considered how their warnings could escalate tensions ahead of President Trump's visit to the region next week.

Richard Engel of [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/27, story 4, 2:10, Holt) reported that Mattis "flew right to North Korea's doorstep...and looked out on to the very hills where North Korea has hundreds of rockets and artillery pieces ready to fire in the event of a war." Along the demilitarized zone, "Mattis came within yards of North Korean soldiers as, in a bizarre scene in this tense place, tourists in the North looked on." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Lubold, Cheng) reports Mattis said, "North Korean provocations continue to threaten regional and global security despite unanimous condemnation by the United Nations Security Council." [USA Today](#) (10/27, Onyanga-Omara) reports Mattis also denounced North Korea as "an oppressive regime that shackles its people, denying their freedom, their welfare and their human dignity in pursuit of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery in order to threaten others with catastrophe."

However, [AFP](#) (10/27) reports Mattis said, "As the US Secretary of State Tillerson made clear, our goal is not war but rather the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula." AFP adds Mattis asserted he and South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-Moo "made clear our mutual commitment to a diplomatic solution to address North Korea's reckless, outlaw behavior." [The Hill](#) (10/27, Manchester) reports Mattis continued, "We're doing everything we can to solve this diplomatically, everything we can. But ultimately our diplomats have to be backed up by




strong soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.”

The [AP](#) (10/27, Macpherson) reports Vice President Pence during a Friday “visit to one of America’s most potent nuclear bases,” also “vowed...the U.S. will keep up economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.” Speaking at Minot Air Force Base, Pence told about 250 airmen “there is no greater force for peace in this world” than the US nuclear arsenal. Pence asserted, “Under President Trump’s leadership, we will make sure that our nuclear deterrent is stronger than ever before – modern, robust, flexible, resilient, and ready to confront any and all enemies of peace with a rapid, effective and overwhelming response.” [Politico](#) (10/27, Nussbaum) reports Pence said, “Our enemies should never doubt the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.” He continued, “Anyone who would threaten our nation should know that America always seeks peace, but if we are forced to defend ourselves or our allies, we will do so with military power that is effective and overwhelming.” Pence added, “Now, more than ever, your commander in chief is depending on you to be ready.”

[Reuters](#) (10/27, Stewart) reports Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Friday also “met with his South Korean counterpart, General Kyeong Doo Jeong, a U.S. military statement said,” and he “renewed U.S. warnings of retaliation to further provocations.” The statement said Dunford “reaffirmed that any attack by North Korea would be met with a response that will be overwhelming and effective, using the full range of U.S. military capabilities.”

In an interview with the [AP](#) (10/27, Pennington), Joseph Yun, the US envoy to North Korea, suggested that with China proving unhelpful in reining in North Korea, “Russia could play a useful diplomatic role.” Yun added, “If Russia delivers a unified message with the U.S., China, South Korea and Japan that the U.S. is not interested in regime change but rather we want to resolve the WMD issue, they can help better than anyone else to convince them of that.” According to the AP, “Yun said he and...Tillerson want Moscow to support the international pressure campaign against North Korea by implementing U.N sanctions, and to urge the isolated, often inscrutable government to engage in diplomatic efforts.” The AP notes National Security Adviser McMaster last week “addressed Russia’s importance with North Korea, saying it maintained ‘considerable influence’” and “urged Moscow to help ‘convince Kim Jong Un and his regime to move toward denuclearization of the peninsula as really a last chance to avoid severe consequences.’”

According to the [New York Times](#) (10/27, Cooper), Mattis’ visit to the DMZ “highlighted the central contradiction in the Trump administration’s rhetoric on North Korea: that for all the talk of military options, there really aren’t any – at least, none that wouldn’t put the sprawling city of Seoul, with its population of 10 million, in the cross hairs of thousands of Pyongyang’s artillery installations.” While Song “seemed at times to be giving his American counterpart a guided tour of how a strike against North Korea’s nuclear facilities would quickly trigger retaliation,” American defense officials acknowledge that North Korea has “a significant retaliatory capability, including chemical, biological and nuclear weapons as well as conventional forces. It would be virtually impossible, the officials said, to destroy all of North Korea’s offensive capabilities before it could strike Seoul.”

Meanwhile, [CNN’s Situation Room](#)  (10/27, 5:52 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) correspondent Will Ripley reported “North Korea has been uncharacteristically quiet. No missile launches in a month and a half. No nuclear tests, at least not yet.” However, Ripley added that throughout North Korea, propaganda posters depict anti-Trump messages, “and the rhetoric has revved up.” He said a senior North Korean diplomat told him that the world must take literally Pyongyang’s “threat to conduct an above-ground nuclear test,” and so “the big question on everybody’s mind” is whether “it will happen when President Trump is in the region, and what would be the result – and the response – from the US.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/27, Kong, Cho) says that “while a Trump visit to the DMZ hasn’t been ruled out by the White House, it could be seen as provocative – North and South Korean soldiers stand feet part on either side of a line that marks the heavily

fortified border." Nonetheless, [CNBC](#) (10/27, Daniels) reports on its website that "North Korea stepped up its defiant rhetoric against the U.S. on Friday and said the U.S. is making 'criminal moves for igniting a war of aggression,' according to a state-run outlet."

**UK Blames The "WannaCry" Cyberattack On North Korea.** The [New York Times](#) (10/27, Bilefsky) reports UK Minister of Security Ben Wallace told the BBC on Friday that the British government "believes 'quite strongly' that North Korea was behind the 'WannaCry' cyberattack in May that wreaked havoc on the National Health Service's computer systems and spread to more than 150 countries." He asserted, "This attack, we believe quite strongly, came from a foreign state. North Korea was the state that we believe was involved this worldwide attack." However, Wallace "declined to elaborate on the evidence that had led to the conclusion. 'I can't obviously go into the detailed intelligence, but it is widely believed in the community and across a number of countries that North Korea had taken this role,' he said."

### **Federal Grand Jury Approves First Criminal Charges In Russia Investigation.**

In the lead story for the [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (10/28, lead story, 2:05, Ninan), correspondent Reena Ninan reported, "Sources tell CBS News a federal grand jury has approved Special Counsel Robert Mueller's first charges" in the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Justice reporter Paula Reid said the "charges have been filed under seal, but they could become public as early as Monday, marking the most significant development of the special counsel investigation so far." Reid added that the target of the indictment is unclear, but "the grand jury has heard testimony from several business associates of former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort. Investigators also serve a warrant on Manafort's home over the summer where they obtained documents and other physical evidence. So most of what has been publicly presented to the grand jury has been connected to Manafort. But we also know that Mueller is also looking into former national security adviser Mike Flynn's lobbying payments to Turkey."

Meanwhile, Errol Barnett of the [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (10/28, story 2, 1:35, Ninan) said Trump on Saturday "refrain[ed] from directly responding to news...Mueller has obtained his first indictment, choosing instead to tweet about the GDP and compliments from President Carter." He added that "despite repeated efforts, the White House is not commenting on the record about what these pending charges from the special counsel could mean," focusing instead on Trump's upcoming visit to Asia. Barnett noted Trump "has long maintained his innocence and that of his campaign team during and after the election, claiming the Department of Justice probe is really motivated by political opponents," and he and White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "have claimed Hillary Clinton colluded with Russia."

However, [Politico](#) (10/28, Samuelsohn) reports the White House and personal lawyers "scrambled" on Saturday in anticipation of where Mueller's Russia investigation could lead. Attorneys close to the case "said their cellphones have been ringing nonstop as they connected with each other, and with reporters," and "said they wouldn't be surprised if the charges were targeting Flynn or Manafort family members, or a longtime accountant or lawyer."

**Cobb: Trump Not Concerned About What Former Aides Will Tell Mueller.** White House lawyer Ty Cobb told the [New York Times](#) (10/28, Apuzzo) that President Trump is confident that neither Flynn nor Manafort has damaging information about him to give prosecutors. In an interview on Thursday for The Times' podcast "The New Washington," Cobb also "said none of the White House documents turned over to Mr. Mueller showed evidence that that anyone colluded with Russia, or that Mr. Trump tried to obstruct justice."

**Trump Team Trains Rage On Clinton, Leaks Following Report Of First Charges In Russia Probe.** In an analysis, [Politico](#) (10/28, Karni) reports that despite anticipating for months that Mueller would file criminal charges in his Russia probe, Trump, his lawyers, and senior officials "were all caught off guard" by reports a federal grand jury had approved the first indictment in the investigation. Politico says the resulting lack of information on



the case that could have major consequences on the Administration "left many current and former Trump advisers livid, focusing their rage on how the information leaked and on a forever target: Hillary Clinton."

[The Hill](#) (10/28, Manchester) reports White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Saturday the evidence of Clinton campaign's collusion with Russia during the 2016 president election is "indisputable." Sanders [tweeted](#): "Clinton spokesman just said he's 'damn glad' Clinton campaign colluded w/ Russia to spread disinformation about @POTUS & influence election." The Hill observes that Sanders' tweet "appeared to reference comments [former Clinton spokesman Brian] Fallon made to The Washington Post on Friday." In another [tweet](#) that linked to an article from The Federalist, Sanders wrote, "The evidence Clinton campaign, DNC & Russia colluded to influence the election is indisputable."

[The Hill](#) (10/28, Carter) "Briefing Room" blog reports former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said Saturday that focus should be kept on the "continued lies of the Clinton administration." During an interview on Fox News' Fox & Friends, Lewandowski argued that the "speculation is so insane right now" and that focus must center on the "Clinton administration" and "the continued fallacies that they perpetuate."

***House Intelligence Committee Reaches Agreement Over Fusion GPS Bank Records.***

[Reuters](#) (10/28, Volz, Hosenball) reports the House Intelligence Committee announced Saturday it had reached an agreement over its subpoena of Fusion GPS' bank records as part of the panel's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The announcement "came a day after a federal judge had given an unnamed bank more time to respond to the congressional panel's subpoena to Fusion GPS."

***CNN Failed To Disclose Ties To Fusion GPS Operatives.*** The [Daily Caller](#) (10/28, Ross, Hasson) says CNN's reporting on the so-called Russia dossier compiled by Fusion GPS "has left out at least one crucial fact: the close ties between the network and the opposition research firm at the center of the dossier controversy." The Daily Caller states that CNN's justice correspondent Evan Perez, who led the reporting, has a "personal closeness" with Fusion GPS operatives, as evidenced by Facebook photos of Perez and Fusion GPS partners Neil King and Peter Fritsch appearing together at different public and private events. The Daily Caller adds that "at no point in Perez's reporting did he disclose his close ties to the Fusion GPS operatives."

***Ex-Trump Aides Say Comey's "Coordination" Testimony Offers New Context On Clinton Campaign's Dossier Funding.*** The [Washington Times](#) (10/28, Scarborough) reports that former FBI Director James Comey's statement during congressional testimony last March that his agents were investigating "whether there was any coordination between the [Trump] campaign and Russia's efforts" would fit the Hillary Clinton campaign and Democrats today, according to ex-Trump aides. Former Trump campaign communications adviser Michael Caputo said, "If there was enough Russia collusion evidence to warrant a special counsel for the president, there's far more now on the Clinton campaign's connection to a foreign spy ring that included Russians. ... That, coupled with the stymied investigation into the Russian bribery plot and donations directed to the Clinton Foundation, are grounds for a special counsel."

**WPost A1: While Trump Is Eager Salesman On Tax Reform, Congress Crafting Policy.**

In a front-page analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (10/27, A1, Paletta, Costa, Rucker) reports that amid the ongoing debates over tax policy, President Trump "has emerged as a relentless salesman, proclaiming one promise after another. ... But for all the bustle emanating from the White House, most of the policy action is at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, in the Capitol, as Republicans try to rush through a sweeping tax cut package by the end of the year." The Post highlights Republicans after to craft tax legislation, some of the policy items under debate, and Trump's support for the package, as long as it benefits the middle class and cuts the corporate tax rate.

***White House Report Predicts Faster Economic Growth From Corporate Tax Cuts.*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Sparshott) reports that a new report released Friday by the



White House Council of Economic of Economic Advisers says that reducing the corporate tax rate to 20 percent and permitting companies to write-off the cost of their capital spending would increase business investment, spur faster economic expansion, and raise household income. The Journal adds that the study is meant to bolster the case for cutting corporate taxes and highlights several specific policies.

**McConnell Criticized For Locking Democrats Out Of Tax Reform.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Andrews) reports some Republicans are criticizing Senate Majority Leader McConnell for keeping Democrats out of the tax reform process, despite their interest in engaging with the GOP. Among them, Rep. Mark Walker warns that the "secrecy and trying to force feed it and all of the sudden" will cause the legislation to fail. Similarly, Rep. Richard Neal says that "for this to succeed, you're going to need Democratic input." Despite calls for bipartisanship and President Trump's push for bipartisanship, the Journal notes that no Democrats have seen the bill ahead of its public release.

**Brady: Republicans Want To Increase Retirement Contributions.** The [Washington Times](#) (10/27, Persons) reports House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady in an appearance on [Fox News](#) said on Friday that contrary to prior reporting, Republicans "want to increase the amount that you can give to your 401(k) or IRA." Brady added that he has spoken to President Trump about incentivizing people to "save more and save sooner."

**Governors Criticize Tax Plan's Proposed Removal Of SALT Deduction.** [Reuters](#) (10/27, Kearney) reports the governors of New York and California said on Friday that the tax plan's proposed elimination of the state and local tax deductions on federal income tax is "an attack" on high-tax states and a "gross manipulation of our tax code." They went on to argue that the plan would actually make their residents pay more, with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office claiming that his state's taxpayers would pay an additional \$5,300 in federal income taxes on average. The [AP](#) (10/27, Ronayne) reports California Gov. Jerry Brown also warned that some California Republicans would lose their seats if they voted for the provision.

**WSJournal: Republicans Should Not Flirt With "Millionaire Tax."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27) writes that Republican considerations of raising the top income tax rate to potentially 42 to 44 percent would signify a capitulation to pressure from redistributionists and would cut back on potential economic gains. The Journal concludes that the point of tax reform is to eliminate subsidies and loopholes that distort economic decisions in favor of lower rates, and that maintaining high rates for millionaires will encourage tax lobbyists and Congress to create more loopholes.

**Schumer: Trump Tax Plan Is "Absolute Catastrophe."** In a [USA Today](#) (10/27) op-ed, Senate Minority Leader Schumer criticizes President Trump's tax plan, arguing that it differs from former president Reagan's plan in "three major ways:" it hurts the middle class, it would "explode the deficit," and it hasn't had any Democrat input. Schumer goes on to detail the plan's benefits for wealthy taxpayers, and argues that it "will add between \$3 trillion and \$5 trillion to the deficit." He concludes that the plan is an "absolute catastrophe."

**Marcus: Trump Tax Cuts Are "Dangerous," Will Explode National Debt.** Ruth Marcus writes in her [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Marcus) column that the US "doesn't need a tax cut," and that President Trump's tax reform is "dangerous" because it will "add trillions to the national debt at a point when it is already dangerously large as a share of the economy" at 77 percent. Marcus goes on to argue that Republicans are "desperate for a legislative win," and are willing to pass a "reckless" bill in order to appeal to voters next year.

### **Brady Announces Republican Tax Plan Will Preserve Itemized Property Tax Deduction.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/28, Brody) reports House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady said in a statement Saturday that the Republican tax plan will preserve the "itemized property tax deduction to help taxpayers with local tax burdens," after pressure from lawmakers. The move was aimed at resolving an impasse between leadership and

Republicans from high-tax states over state and local income tax deductions that “threatened the bill’s prospects in the House.”

**House Republicans Concerned About Tax Bill “Secrecy.”** [Politico](#) (10/28, Lorenzo, Kim) reports “House Republicans are increasingly alarmed by the secrecy” around the party’s tax bill, and the feeling “extends to their tax aides, who’ve been excluded from a recent series of hours-long member meetings.” According to Politico, the House approach “stands in stark contrast to the other end of the Capitol, where top Senate Republicans want to ensure all GOP senators feel they have buy-in from the start” in order to avoid problems the party experienced with attempting to pass Obamacare repeal earlier this year.

**WPost Analysis: Failure To Pass Tax Reform Could Be Paul Ryan’s Downfall.** In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Kane) suggests the upcoming tax reform bill is House Speaker Ryan’s “last, best chance” for a “signature achievement.” According to the Post, failure to pass the bill “would be crippling,” and could result in a “political bloodbath” during the 2018 midterms “that drops the GOP into the minority and boots Ryan off the dais.” The piece goes on to detail obstacles Ryan faces, noting that the party’s “moderate wing is a big part of Ryan’s challenge.”

**NYTimes Profiles Mnuchin Aide Justin Muzinich, “Central Player” In Tax Reform.** The [New York Times](#) (10/28, Rappeport) profiles Justin Muzinich, a top aide to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin that “has emerged as a central player in the Trump administration’s tax overhaul effort.” According to congressional aides, Muzinich “has the authority to speak on behalf of the secretary.” The piece goes on to detail his past work, which focused heavily on tax policy, and his “reputation for pragmatism over ideology.”

**NYTimes A1: Experts Divided On Impact Of Proposed 401(k) Contribution Cap.** In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (10/28, A1, Cohen) examines the controversy around a Republican proposal to cap 401(k) contributions. Despite concerns, both President Trump and Rep. Kevin Brady have said they do not want to undermine retirement savings. The Times explains the change may be critical in paying for the Republican tax plan, which must “have no impact on the budget at the end of 10 years” if passed via the reconciliation process. The move has drawn criticism from many, including former economic adviser to President George H.W. Bush William Gale, who calls it “an enormous budget gimmick” that uses “future revenues to pay for current tax cuts.” However, others say it “makes little difference whether they pay taxes on retirement savings now or in the future.” Similarly, James Choi, a finance professor at the Yale School of Management, found in a study that the “tax deduction was a pretty minor force” in impacting retirement savings.

### **National Association of Home Builders To Oppose GOP Tax Bill.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/28, Rubin) reports the National Association of Home Builders has announced it will oppose the House Republicans’ soon-to-be-released tax reform bill after GOP leadership decided not to replace mortgage interest and property tax deductions with a new tax credit and instead said they would include an itemized deduction for property taxes. However, the Journal acknowledges details of the legislation remain elusive.

### **Despite Paris Accord Withdrawal, US To Attend Global Climate Change Talks.**

[Reuters](#) (10/28, Doyle, Chestney) reports a US delegation led by Under Secretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon will attend next month’s climate talks in Germany centered on drafting a “rule book” for implementing the 2015 Paris climate accord. In June, President Trump withdrew the US from the agreement; however, the US “retains its place in the talks because the Paris pact stipulates” it cannot formally withdraw until 2020. The US presence comes “to the dismay of some nations that want Washington sidelined.” Many American allies, “including France, Canada and Britain, hope to coax Trump to end up staying in the pact,” although other delegates expect some US officials to “contribute to clear, enforceable rules that will be in U.S. interests whether it is in or out of the deal.” Reuters predicts the treatment if the US delegation “is likely to hinge on



whether Washington limits itself to technical details of the rule book or promotes Trump's pro-coal political agenda."

### **Gore: "Zero Chance" Trump And Pruitt Will Change Their Minds On Climate Change.**

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (10/29, Dudek) reports that during a Friday appearance at the Chicago Humanities Festival, former Vice President Al Gore said that he does not expect President Trump and EPA Administration Pruitt to change their positions on climate change. Gore said, "I tried to convince Donald Trump. I've had many conversations with him after the election, after he went into the White House, and I thought he would come to his senses, but I was wrong." Regarding Trump and Pruitt, Gore said, "There's zero chance, in my opinion, of changing their minds."

### **USA Today Weighs Administration's Approach To Clean Power Plan.**

[USA Today](#) (10/29) editorializes that the Trump Administration's recent focus on "gutting the Clean Power Plan...demonstrates sheer contempt for laws governing clean air and the benefits of environmental regulation." The editorial board describes the advances that the renewable energy industry has made recently, even in the wake of President Trump's decision to remove the US from the Paris climate agreement. USA Today asserts that, while the Clean Power Plan or something similar could still survive the attempted dismantling, it "might take years or bureaucratic and legal wrangling" while our planet continues to grow warmer.

Karen Harbert, CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute, asserts in [USA Today](#) (10/29) that the "fundamental flaw" of the Clean Power Plan "was that it would have intentionally raised the cost of energy without regard to the impact on families and businesses." Harbert opines that we should be seeking to make every form of energy more affordable and cleaner, rather than relying on mandates from Washington. Harbert does concede that "the US Chamber of Commerce believes that the climate is changing, and that man is contributing to these changes."

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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### **New York Times.**

**"Insect Armageddon."** The [New York Times](#) (10/29) editorializes that "the fate of the world's insects is inseparable from our own," and that "there is alarming new evidence that insect populations are in rapid decline." The Times describes a new study co-authored by the University of Sussex's Prof. Dave Goulson, which found that the biomass of insects collected in German nature preserves declined by 76 percent in 25 years. The Times opines that insects are necessary "for pollinating our food" and providing a source of food to other animals. Therefore, humanity must take steps immediately to stop their decline, including reducing pesticide and herbicide use and creating buffer zones surrounding single-crop fields.

**"Phil Murphy For Governor Of New Jersey."** The [New York Times](#) (10/29) editorializes that voters should choose Phil Murphy for governor of New Jersey because he "guarantees voters an end to the Chris Christie era." The Times asserts that "New Jersey can't afford another four years of Christie-inspired chaos," and that the Republican candidate in the election, Kim Guadagno, would offer an agenda that is too similar to that of the incumbent governor's. The Times opines that Murphy's experience at Goldman Sachs and within the Democratic Party makes up for concerns about his lack of "political experience in the state," and agrees with his campaign trail assertion that "he sees New Jersey as America's best opportunity for a turnaround."

**"Abandoned In Calais."** A [New York Times](#) (10/27) editorial recalls a now-shuttered refugee camp near Calais, dubbed the "Jungle," that became "a symbol of Europe's failure on migrants." The Times says French President Emmanuel Macron's government and local authorities "are making life as miserable as possible for migrants" to prevent another camp like the "Jungle" from erecting. "The result is inhumane conditions for the

some 700 migrants" that are so bad even the United Nations condemned them last week. The Times argues while "French authorities need to provide them with proper shelter now, along with better sanitation, food and medical care," Britain, which "has resettled less than half of the 480 unaccompanied child migrants it promised," can also greatly assist in the crisis.

### **Washington Post.**

**"Trump Needs To Say Something – And Do Something – About The Assault On The Rohingya."** The [Washington Post](#) (10/29) editorializes that the Burmese Rohingya community is being subjected to "the biggest and most ruthless campaign of ethnic cleansing the world has seen in years." The Post asserts that the Muslim Rohingya are a hated minority in majority-Buddhist Burma, and that individuals both in Burma and in the United States have offered insufficient support for members of the community in their time of crisis. The Post opines that the Trump Administration should use President Trump's upcoming trip to Asia to speak out against the crisis, and that the State Department should formally use the term "ethnic cleansing" to refer to the forced movement of the Rohingya from Burma to Bangladesh.

**"A Trump Tax Idea That Might Actually Do Some Good."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/29) expresses hope that National Economic Council Director Cohn's reported floating of a gas tax increase in a recent meeting with members of Congress could lead to this smart policy being enacted. The Post writes, "The tax has idled at 18.4 cents per gallon for a quarter-century. Faced with infrastructure spending needs, many states...have recently upped their state-level gas taxes. A reasonable Congress would share their rationality."

**"Chevy Chase Populism In Maryland."** The [Washington Post](#) (10/29) editorializes that Maryland gubernatorial candidate Ben Jealous' stated goal to provide "free tuition for Marylanders who attend public universities, colleges and community colleges" is a craven political strategy and will be a potentially reckless piece of legislation if it ever advances to that stage. The Post calls Jealous "irresponsible" for floating the idea when a similar bill to provide free community college for 40,000 Maryland students failed this year because it was considered to be unaffordable, even though Jealous' proposal would likely cost hundreds of millions of dollars more annually if it came to fruition. The Post goes on to assert that Jealous' proposal could "amount to a gigantic giveaway for thousands of well-off families" with children who attend one of the state's expensive four-year universities. The Post argues that the money that would be earmarked for this "giveaway" could be better spent on "K-12 schools, parks or mental-health care."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**"Game Of Healthcare Thrones."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29) says in an editorial that with the Affordable Care Act appearing to be here to stay, health sector firms are looking for new ways to be profitable in the face of stricter federal regulation. The Journal considers the possible CVS-Aetna deal as an example.

**"Toomey's 'Guidance' Repeal Guide."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29) editorializes that congressional Republicans should utilize the Congressional Review Act to reverse a lending guidance that the Obama Administration issued in 2013 that focused on leveraged lending. The Journal opines that policy grounds justify the overriding of the guidance because it has increased costs and cut off lending since it was issued.

**"How To Kill American Solar."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29) says that it opposes tariffs on foreign solar panels that could hurt the US solar sector. The tariffs are being sought by US solar-panel makers Suniva and Solar World, which argue that importation of panel parts are undercutting US business. But the Journal argues that the future of the US solar sector is in innovation, not in component manufacture, and that the tariffs would impede advances.

### **Big Picture**

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## Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Wall Street Journal:**

[GOP Plan For A Speedy Tax Overhaul Faces Uncertain Road](#)

[Mueller Set To Act On Charges](#)

[Why Are Markets Rising Everywhere? Investors Can't Stop Buying Every Dip](#)

[Foreign Companies In China Get A New Partner: The Communist Party](#)

### **New York Times:**

[Russia Uses Its Oil Giant, Rosneft, As A Foreign Policy Tool](#)

[Sexual Misconduct In California's Capitol Is Difficult To Escape](#)

[Five Years After Sandy, Are We Better Prepared?](#)

[2 Navy SEALs Under Suspicion In Strangling Of Green Beret In Mali](#)

['Bedlam Out Here In Arizona' After Jeff Flake Departs Senate Race](#)

[Trump Tries To Shift Focus As First Charges Reportedly Loom In Russia Case](#)

['I Don't Want An Independent Catalonia': Rally Backs Unified Spain](#)

### **Washington Post:**

[Puerto Rico Canceling Controversial Contract](#)

[Setback Clouds Tax Bill's Release](#)

[Facing Heat On Russia, Trump Hits At Clinton](#)

[Pelosi Stakes Hopeful Place At Center Of 2018 Fight](#)

[Nursing Home Death Prompts New Questions For UMC For Troubled United Medical Center](#)

### **Financial Times:**

[Spain Faces Test Of Authority In Catalonia Under Direct Rule](#)

[Powell Leading In Trump's Fed Chair Reality-TV Spectacle](#)

[Customs Teams In EU27 Unprepared For Hard Brexit](#)

### **Washington Times:**

[CBO Defends Powers Amid Republican Criticism Over Bad Budget Forecasts](#)

[Corker To Use Power, Alliance With Flake To Question Trump On Foreign Policy](#)

[Mueller Investigation Enters New Phase: Criminal Charges](#)

[Nunes' Investigating Digs Up Trove Of Democrat Connections To Russia Dossier](#)

[George Washington's Church To Tear Down Memorial Honoring First President](#)

### **Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Severe Weather; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Navy SEAL-Training Death Investigation; Afghanistan US Casualty; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; Spain-Catalonia Independence; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Halloween Costume Warning; Airline-Windshield Crack; Airline-Bird Strike; UK Royal Family-Possible Security Breach; Baseball World Series; Veteran Uncle.

**CBS:** Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Comment; Severe Weather; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; Hurricane Sandy Recovery; NFL-Kneeling Protests; Persian Gulf Diplomatic Crisis; Wild Horse Protection; James Madison Plantation.

**NBC:** Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Obamacare Impacts; Spain-Catalonia Independence; NFL News; Sexual Harassment Prevention; Virginia State Election Candidate; Airline-Bird Strike; Space Rock Flyby; High School Marching Band.

### **Network TV At A Glance:**

Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel – 9 minutes, 45 seconds

Severe Weather – 8 minutes, 5 seconds

Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy – 6 minutes, 45 seconds

### **Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Navy SEAL-Training Death Investigation; Student Loan Debt Policy; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy.

**CBS:** Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; Severe Weather; Baseball World Series; NFL-Kneeling Protests; Spain-Catalonia Independence.

**FOX:** Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; White House-Coming Agendas; Baseball World Series.

**NPR:** Tax Reform Plan; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; UK Royal Family-Possible Security Breach; Baseball World Series.

## **Washington Schedule**

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### **Today's Events In Washington.**

#### **White House:**

**PRESIDENT TRUMP** — Meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Attorney General Jeff Sessions; meets with Secretary of Defense James Mattis; will participate in Halloween at the White House.

**VICE PRESIDENT PENCE** — Joins the President for lunch with Attorney General Jeff Sessions; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for Steve King as U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

**US Senate:** 3:00 PM Senate votes on district judge nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Trevor McFadden to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, with agenda including confirmation vote \* Motion to invoke cloture on the nomination passed by 85 votes to 12 last week

Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

4:15 PM Sen. Coons 'Pen and Pad' session on AUMF, U.S. operations in Africa – U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will hold an on-the-record "Pen and Pad" session in the Senate Press Gallery to discuss both the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) hearing with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defense James Mattis and U.S. military operations in Africa.

Location: Senate Press Gallery (S-316) [coons.senate.gov](https://coons.senate.gov)

<https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

5:00 PM Secretaries Tillerson and Mattis testify to Senate Foreign Relations Committee on AUMFs – Hearing on 'The Authorizations for the Use of Military Force: Administration Perspective', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; and Secretary of Defense James Mattis

Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC

<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

5:30 PM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee votes on nominee for GSA head – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nomination of Emily Murphy to be General Services Administration Administrator

Location: U.S. Capitol, S-216, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

**US House:** 1:30 PM Field hearing on 'Examining Physical Security and Cybersecurity at Our Nation's Ports'

Location: Port of Los Angeles, 425 S Palos Verdes St, San Pedro, CA

[homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

**Other:** No relevant event scheduled.

## **Last Laughs**

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### **Late Night Political Humor.**



No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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## Conversation Contents

**DRAFT: Memo on EITI**

**Attachments:**

**/13. DRAFT: Memo on EITI/1.1 1004 EITI Comms Memo.docx**

**"Nachmany, Eli" <eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Nachmany, Eli" <eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed Oct 04 2017 16:03:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Mashburn, Lori" <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** DRAFT: Memo on EITI  
**Attachments:** 1004 EITI Comms Memo.docx

Hey Lori,

I just saw Natalie and she recommended I send the attached your way. Granted, it is a draft and Russ hasn't yet taken a look, so it's by no means final, but I've compiled a two-page footnoted memo on EITI background/recent developments/philosophy to eventually develop finalized talking points for Bureau comms folks.

I figured you may like to take a look at my first draft here for reference and information. My feeling is that this is Interior's TPP/Paris Climate Accord. Pulling the U.S. out of the EITI re-establishes American sovereignty, re-prioritizes American national security and financial success over global development, and puts us back on track for American energy dominance.

Thanks greatly!

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Sincerely,  
Eli Nachmany  
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Communications





## Conversation Contents

EITI

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Sep 19 2017 11:56:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** EITI

**Scott Cameron**

**- Falls under IOS**

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**Natalie Davis**  
**Special Assistant to the Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**202.208.4928**

# Conversation Contents

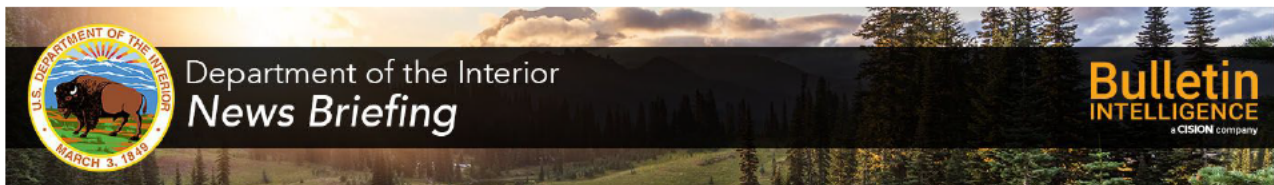
**U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday,  
September 6, 2017**

## **Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>**

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**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Sent:** Wed Sep 06 2017 05:00:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for  
Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



**DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 7:00 AM EDT**

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- The Hill: Week Ahead: Lawmakers To Consider Harvey Aid.
- Daily Caller: OIG Finds Millions In Possible DOI Fraud.
- Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette: Vince Bzdek: Don't Drain The Swamp; Move It From Washington, D.C., To Colorado.
- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Time To End Recreation Welfare On Public Lands.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- New Court Aims To Keep Native American Foster Kids Connected To Family, Culture.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Associated Press: North Dakota Minerals May Be Included In Oil Lease Sale.
- U.S. News & World Report: Burning Man Says US Tried To Stop Sunday Fire After Death.

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

- Gulf Refineries Start To Come Back Online.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Law360: Feds, Enviro Agrees To End ESA Suit Over Minn. Forest.
- Ronan Valley (MT) Journal: Comment Period Extended For Bison Range.
- U.S. News & World Report: Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: The Unlikely Latest Angle To Trump's



Border Wall Fight.

### **National Park Service**

- U.S. News & World Report: Washington Monument To Get \$10M Upgrades, Reopen Spring 2019.
- Fox News: Trump Fans And 'Juggalos' Will Share National Mall In DC On Sept.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Jackson To Welcome Six New U.S. Citizens.
- Associated Press: Idaho Racing To Combat Deadly Bat Fungus.
- U.S. News & World Report: Yosemite Ranger: Falling Tree Branch Injures 2 Park Visitors.

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### **Top National News**

- ABC: Administration Moves To Phase Out DACA As Trump Calls On Congress To "Legalize" It.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Tells GOP Leaders Tax Reform Will Create "Millions Of New Jobs."
- Washington Times: WTimes Analysis: Time Running Short For Republicans To Repeal ACA.
- Politico: McCarthy: GOP Won't Start Wall Fight Until "Later In The Year."
- Washington Post: WPost A1: Conservative Charities Fueled Trump's Exit From Climate Accord.
- Washington Free Beacon: DOJ Won't Appeal Ruling Against Obama-Era Overtime Rule.

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- Late Night Political Humor.

## **DOI In The News**

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### **National Monuments Could Benefit Rural Economies In The West.**

The [AP](#) (9/5, McPhillips) reports that experts say "the presence of national monuments – and their size – can help bolster" rural, local economies. In 2016, a group of more than 100 economists, including three Nobel laureates, urged then-President Obama to protect federal lands in the West's future economic interests. The group wrote a letter stating, "The rivers, lakes, canyons, and mountains found on public lands serve as a unique and compelling backdrop that has helped to transform the western economy from a dependence on resource extractive industries to growth from in-migration, tourism, and

modern economy sectors such as finance, engineering, software development, insurance, and health care." Headwaters Economics published a report analyzing 11 rural counties in western states, which showed that income per capita was \$436 more for every 10,000 acres of protected lands within their boundaries. Headwaters Economics Policy Director Chris Mehl said, "It's the story of the West: 90 percent, if not all, job creation is in services. Non-service jobs – manufacturing, construction and extraction like timber and mining – have remained flat, and service jobs – like accounting, law and hospitality – have grown."

***Trump's Monument Review Is As Secretive As Obama's Designations.*** For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (9/5, McKenna, Contributor), Kara McKenna, counsel at the Cause of Action Institute, writes that "it seemed like a positive step when President Trump in April issued an executive order seeking public input for a review of national monument designations over the last two decades." However, "it now appears that any hope for additional transparency may have been premature." McKenna criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for choosing "to submit only a draft report to the White House" instead of submitting a "publicly available report." According to McKenna, this adds "more fuel to one of the biggest criticisms of the Antiquities Act – a total lack of transparency in the process."

### **North Dakota's Congressional Delegation Expected To Attend Trump Speech.**

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/5, Dalrymple) reports that "North Dakota's Congressional delegation is expected to attend Wednesday as President Donald Trump gives a speech from the Mandan refinery." Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) said that Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin also are expected to attend. The Tribune adds, "Kathy Neset, a geologist and owner of Neset Consulting, said she was asked to be part of a small group to greet Trump at the refinery on behalf of the North Dakota Petroleum Council." A separate article by the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/5, Dalrymple) reports Trump is expected to say, "I want all of America to be inspired by the North Dakota example. ... This state is a reminder of what can happen when we promote American jobs instead of obstructing them." The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/5, Siciliano) reports Trump's address will be delivered "in the shadow of a large oil refinery owned by the company Andeavor, which recently went from being the fifth to the fourth largest refiner in the nation." The White House approached the company "about using the refinery for the speech last Thursday."

### **Western Wildfires Endanger Beloved Sites At National Parks.**

[NPR](#) (9/5, Wamsley) reports that "wildfires burning in the Western U.S. are threatening some of America's most treasured national parks." The article highlights fires in Glacier National Park and Yosemite National Park. Meanwhile, "a cold front moving through the Eastern U.S. is carrying smoke from the Western fires."

The [AP](#) (9/5, FLACCUS, GERANIOS) reports that "dozens of wildfires burning in western U.S. states" have "sent smoke into cities from Seattle to Denver — prompting health warnings and cancellations of outdoor activities for children by many school districts."

Additional coverage was provided by [Newsmax](#) (9/5, Krausz).

***Facing Another Catastrophic Wildfire Season, Congress Must Act.*** For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (9/5, Smith, Contributor), Nick Smith, the executive director of Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities, urges Congress "to turn its attention to reforming forest management policies." Smith argues that the practice of "fire borrowing" should be stopped "because it has an enormously disruptive effect on the agency and its ability to manage public lands." Smith argues urges Congress to pass the bipartisan Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017, which "shows that it's possible to expedite projects under existing federal environmental laws, while promoting collaboration among diverse stakeholders and resolving disputes without costly litigation." He concludes that "new policies are needed to promote science-based, active forest management that is

desperately needed on federal lands to protect our forests and communities.”

### **Week Ahead: Lawmakers To Consider Harvey Aid.**

[The Hill](#) (9/5, Henry, Cama) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will “hold a confirmation hearing for four Trump nominees on Thursday.” Notably, the committee will hear from Joseph Balash, “the nominee to be assistant Interior Secretary for Land and Mineral Management, and Ryan Nelson, the Interior Solicitor nominee.”

### **OIG Finds Millions In Possible DOI Fraud.**

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/5, Pearce) reports that “two GOP representatives are demanding answers from the Department of the Interior (DOI) after a report revealed the potential for widespread fraud in \$815 million worth of DOI grants awarded in 2014 and 2015, a Tuesday letter read.” Reps. Rob Bishop and Bruce Westerman “want documents detailing the procedures of a DOI program that awards grants to federal agencies for the purpose of purchasing land, according to the letter.” The lawmakers are “concerned unreported grant money from taxpayers may be used to repeat past abuses such as using grant money to build swimming pools and bars on federally protected land, the letter says.”

### **Vince Bzdek: Don’t Drain The Swamp; Move It From Washington, D.C., To Colorado.**

In his column for the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (9/5, Bzdek), Vince Bzdek supports moving “the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation out of Washington to Denver,” as proposed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Calling the move “logical,” and pushing for relocating other agencies in the federal bureaucracy, Bzdek argues that “if the federal government were less concentrated and more integrated into the population it governs, perhaps it would be seen as more equitable and in tune.” Bzdek concludes that “if we really believe in government of, by and for, now might be the best time to put that government out, around and among us all.”

### **Time To End Recreation Welfare On Public Lands.**

In an op-ed for the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (9/5, Anderson), Terry L. Anderson, a fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, dismisses arguments that the “outdoor economy depends on our federal lands.” Instead, citing a study by the Property and Environment Research Center, Anderson, claims that “the outdoor industry and its customers are heavily subsidized.” He also notes that “the same study showed that our federal lands take in almost \$20 for every dollar spent on mineral land management.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **New Court Aims To Keep Native American Foster Kids Connected To Family, Culture.**

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/5, Tollefson) reports that “in July, Montana’s 13th Judicial District began operating the nation’s fifth Indian Child Welfare Act court.” Officials are hoping the court will “improve outcomes for all Native American kids experiencing abuse or neglect.” According to the article, “those involved say poor communication and lack of relationships in the past stymied progress on the cases, but all that is changing.”

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **North Dakota Minerals May Be Included In Oil Lease Sale.**

The [AP](#) (9/5) reports that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) “officials are taking public input on whether to include” federally owned minerals in a March lease sale. The agency received an “expression of interest” to lease the federally owned minerals, a bureau



spokesman said. An environmental assessment will be publicly available starting on Sept. 30.

### **Burning Man Says US Tried To Stop Sunday Fire After Death.**

The [AP](#) (9/5) reports that "a co-founder of the Burning Man countercultural festival has said U.S. officials urged event organizers to cancel a Sunday burning ceremony or beef up security after a man died from a fire the night before." Burning Man co-founder Crimson Rose "said the Bureau of Land Management intervened in light of the death of Aaron Joel Mitchell, 41." Rose said the BLM "urged organizers to cancel the Sunday night burning of a temple but allowed the event on the condition that the festival set up a metal fence and deploy 350 security guards to prevent people from approaching the fire."

## **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

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### **Gulf Refineries Start To Come Back Online.**

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/5, Blum) reports Flint Hills Resources confirmed that its Corpus Christi refinery is fully back online, one day after Valero Energy said it resumed normal operations. Citgo's Corpus refinery is almost back to full capacity, as a spokeswoman said, "Corpus Christi Refinery personnel are now working diligently to restore operations to normal." The [Houston Business Journal](#) (9/5) reports Marathon's Galveston Bay refinery is operating at reduced capacity because of closures along the Houston Ship Channel. Phillips 66 has restarted operations at its terminals in Freeport, Beaumont and Pasadena, but it is still working to reopen its Sweeny refinery. The [AP](#) (9/5) reports Valero is also working to restart operations at its Port Arthur refinery. Total's Port Arthur plant remains shut-in. The [Daily Caller](#) (9/5) reports the Department of Energy said eight refineries, representing 11.4 percent of US refining capacity, are starting restart procedures.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/5) reports, refining should be the most affected subsector, as outages are widespread and supply concerns remain. Midstream companies with Gulf Coast exposure continue to have outages, "but structure damage appears to be mild." Output in the Gulf of Mexico was returning to normal over the weekend, and the BSEE said only 14 production platforms remained evacuated. Enterprise Products Partners said the Mont Belvieu complex resumed commercial operations. Enterprise said, "While a final assessment of certain locations is still underway, the company has not incurred significant physical damage to facilities. ... Operationally, the partnership continues to face challenges resulting from curtailments or allocations by some critical third-party service providers."

Additional coverage was provided by [Platts](#) (9/5, Magill).

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

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### **Feds, Enviros Agree To End ESA Suit Over Minn. Forest.**

[Law360](#) (9/5, Sieniuc) reports that "environmentalists and the federal government have agreed to withdraw from a suit accusing the U.S. Forest Service of violating the Endangered Species Act by using an outdated biological review to approve projects that could harm animals in Minnesota's Superior National Forest." U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan "ordered the case tossed on Friday after plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Earthworks and defendants including the Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service filed a stipulation of voluntary dismissal."

### **Comment Period Extended For Bison Range.**

The [Ronan Valley \(MT\) Journal](#) (9/5, Soptelea) reports that "the public comment period for a new comprehensive conservation plan for the National Bison Range, Ninepipe Wildlife Refuge and other area conservation lands in Lake and Flathead counties has been

extended." According to Bernardo Garza, a planning team leader with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, "a 30-day extension began Aug. 30."

### **Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: The Unlikely Latest Angle To Trump's Border Wall Fight.**

In a piece for [U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/5, Nesbit), Jeff Nesbit that "the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agency last week awarded contracts for the first four prototypes of The Wall along America's southern border, which Trump continues to place at the top of his domestic agenda in talks with budget leaders in Congress." But "the only thing now standing in the way of initial construction of those four prototypes for Trump's border wall near San Diego is an environmental and scientific review lawsuit brought by the Center for Biological Diversity that focuses largely on the plight of the Quino checkerspot butterfly and two other threatened species (the coastal California gnatcatcher and the San Diego fairy shrimp) that would be impacted by it."

### **National Park Service**

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#### **Washington Monument To Get \$10M Upgrades, Reopen Spring 2019.**

The [AP](#) (9/6) reports that the Washington Monument is "modernizing its elevator and a getting permanent area for safety checks and visitor screenings." The National Park Service "said Tuesday it awarded a contract for the more than \$10 million project to a Maryland construction company following a months-long process." According to officials, "the monument is expected to reopen in spring 2019 after reliability issues with the elevator caused it to close in August 2016."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Hedgpeth), the [Washington Business Journal](#) (9/5, Sernovitz), and [WRC-TV Washington](#) (9/5, Barnes).

#### **Trump Fans And 'Juggalos' Will Share National Mall In DC On Sept.**

16. [Fox News](#) (9/6, Mikelionis) reports that "the National Park Service staff in Washington, D.C., is bracing for a busy day Sept. 16." On that day, "supporters of President Trump will be sharing space on the National Mall with fans of the hip hop act Insane Clown Posse." NPS spokesman Mike Litterst "said the agency is prepared to ensure public safety despite multiple events on the same day – a liberal march and a wedding are also planned – and to protect free-speech rights on the federal property."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Stein).

#### **Jackson To Welcome Six New U.S. Citizens.**

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (9/5, Gross) reports that 43 new citizens will be naturalized on Wednesday at this year's annual ceremony at Yellowstone National Park, according to the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services. The National Park Service and United States Citizen and Immigration Services "first signed an agreement in 2006 to connect America's newest citizens to national parks and enhance the meaning and stature of citizenship ceremonies, according to a USCIS press release."

#### **Idaho Racing To Combat Deadly Bat Fungus.**

The [AP](#) (9/5) reports "officials are scrambling to slow a deadly fungal disease that has killed millions of bats before it eventually spreads to Idaho." The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is working with the "National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Power Co. and Idaho National Laboratory to monitor for the fungus." The fungus "kills bats during hibernation, when their energy reserves are critically low."

#### **Yosemite Ranger: Falling Tree Branch Injures 2 Park Visitors.**

The [AP](#) (9/5) reports that "officials at Yosemite National Park say two people were injured



when a tree branch broke loose during strong wind gusts and crashed down onto a family's car." Ranger Jamie Richards "said Tuesday that an adult and child were flown by a medical helicopter Sunday evening to a nearby hospital for treatment." According to Richards, "park officials immediately sent a work crew to the area to cut down dead trees along the roadside and remove other dangerous tree limbs."

## Office Of Insular Affairs

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### Trump Signals Willingness To Boost Arms Sales To Asia Allies.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (9/5, story 6, 1:45, Muir) reported President Trump, "after approving South Korea's request for more powerful warheads on its own missiles, signaled that more hardware is on the way to the region." The President [tweeted](#), "I am allowing Japan and South Korea to buy a substantially increased amount of highly sophisticated military equipment from the United States." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5, Cheng) reports that the Pentagon declined to provide specifics, but is unaware of any pending sales.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (9/5, story 6, 2:10, Holt), Richard Engel said, "South Korea today bearing its teeth at North Korea in live fire drills that are now almost daily. North Korea making threats, too, at the US, warning more 'gift packages' will be headed towards the United States." The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (9/5, story 7, 2:10, Mason) reported that a "top North Korean diplomat today described his country's recent missile and nuclear tests as 'gift packages' addressed to the US, and he warned more are on the way, even in the face of international condemnation." [USA Today](#) (9/5, Michaels) reports that despite the threats, North Korea "probably can't yet reach US cities with nuclear-tipped missiles, analysts say." There is, however, little debate that North Korea "is on a path to being able to reach US targets."

Meanwhile, [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (9/5, story 6, 1:45, Muir) reported Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the US on Tuesday "to tone down the rhetoric." Putin is "suggesting that belligerence won't work," and "urged dialogue to solve this crisis." [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (9/5, story 6, 2:10, Holt) said Putin is "expressing support for North Korea, saying Russia won't back new sanctions, instead blasting military hysteria, and saying North Korea would rather eat grass than give up its nuclear weapons." [USA Today](#) (9/5, Hjelmgaard) reports Putin warned that "ramping up military hysteria in such conditions is senseless" and called for a diplomatic solution.

[Reuters](#) (9/5, Nebhay, Kim) reports Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia also said Tuesday that a US bid for the Security Council to vote on Sept. 11 on new sanctions is "a little premature." Nebenzia told reporters, "I don't think we'll be able to rush it so fast."

An [AP](#) (9/5, Lederman) analysis of the US' options says Sunday's nuclear test and "recent missile tests suggest Kim is undeterred" by sanctions, and "there's strong reluctance from countries including China and Russia, both permanent Security Council members, to do more sanctioning."

The [New York Times](#) (9/5, Perlez) reports the Trump Administration has "bet on China to stop North Korea's nuclear program...but in doing so, the White House may be misreading the complexity of China's relationship with North Korea, one that successive generations of Chinese leaders have struggled to manage." The Times says "there is growing resentment against Mr. Kim inside China, both in the general public and the policy establishment."

Another [New York Times](#) (9/5, Perlez) piece says that the Trump Administration is "expected to press China to impose an oil embargo on the North," which the US has called for before, but "Beijing has almost always refused." However, "no previous American administration has pressed the case as an implicit choice between cutting off the fuel and potential military action. That puts President Xi Jinping of China in a particularly difficult position."

Sen. Ben Cardin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) 📺 (9/5), "China is the country that



can change the equation in North Korea's calculation. I understand that China may have a different agenda than the United States. China wants to make sure that there is a communist North Korea. The United States wants to make sure that North Korea doesn't develop a nuclear capacity that could endanger the United States. Both China and the United States would like this done without a military option. We got to find a common agenda working with China, and maybe Russia, that can tone down this crisis."

Sen. Ed Markey said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/5), "We have to basically deal with China, say we do not want to collapse the North Korean regime. That's their greatest fear, that there will be an influx of refugees from North Korea, and ultimately, the Korean Peninsula will be united and there will be a democracy on the Chinese border. We have to tell them that's not our goal, that if they cooperate...then we have a chance to really put pressure on this North Korean government. But we have to go to the table with the North Koreans, as the Chinese have been insisting that we do."

A [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Fifield) analysis, meanwhile, examines "why is Kim Jong Un so hell-bent on joining the nuclear club?" The Post concludes that since the Korean War, North Korea has existed "in a state of insecurity, with the totalitarian regime telling the population that the United States is out to destroy them – again," and "it is in this context that...the Kim regime has sought" nuclear weapons.

The [AP](#) (9/5, Klapper, Burns, Pennington) reports that "as worrying as North Korea's nuclear advance is for America," it "might be even more unnerving for South Korea and Japan," who are "ponder[ing] if they'll one day need atomic arsenals of their own." South Korean Defense Minister Yoon Young-kwan on Monday "suggested bringing back the US nuclear weapons was worth consideration," and Japan's "defense planners are weighing if they need an offensive, conventional missile strike capability to respond to a North Korean attack."

[USA Today](#) (9/5, Maresca) reports that as tensions rise with North Korea, "many analysts believe information — rather than military force — can be the key to bring about change in North Korean society from the inside." While the regime's nuclear and military threat "must be taken seriously, an overly confrontational approach by Trump plays into dictator Kim's hands, said Sokeel Park, country director of Liberty in North Korea, an organization that helps rescue and resettle refugees." Kim Seung Chul, a defector who came to South Korea in 1994, "also believes that information is key to changing his homeland."

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/5) column, "Is Kim's position a charade? Let's find out. No new US-South Korean exercises are scheduled until next March. That offers a six-month window to push Pyongyang to explore options. As history shows, the consequences of making a mistake in war are calamitous."

[Washington Post](#) (9/5) columnist Kathleen Parker writes that the "can-kicking strategy (i.e., containment and diplomacy) seems a not-irrational substitute for mutual annihilation," and a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) editorial argues that antimissile defense systems can protect the US from the threat posed by North Korea.

## Top National News

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### Administration Moves To Phase Out DACA As Trump Calls On Congress To "Legalize" It.

To condemnation from Democrats, immigration activists and CEOs, among others, the Administration announced yesterday that it has begun phasing out the Obama-era DACA program – even as it asked Congress to pass legislation addressing the fate of the 800,000 affected migrants. A number of media analyses, however, cast doubt on Congress' ability to fulfill President Trump's mandate. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/5, story 5, 1:40, Bruce), for example, pointed out that "lawmakers have already tried and failed more than 10 times to act on this issue," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, story 2, 2:10, Cordes) that "congressional inaction was what led President Obama to resort to DACA in the first place." Moreover, the [New York Times](#) (9/5, Shear, Davis) notes White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "would not say whether the president

would support a stand-alone bill," and indicated instead that he "would support legislation to protect" the "young immigrants...as part of a broader immigration overhaul to strengthen the border, protect American jobs and enhance enforcement." [McClatchy](#) (9/5, Kumar, Ordoñez) also says "the White House...is willing to trade protections of Dreamers for money that would fund a wall on the southern border."

Another [New York Times](#) (9/5, Alcindor, Stolberg) story also reports that "Republican leaders indicated" yesterday that in order to pass DACA, "they will need sweeteners" such as "funding for a border wall," but the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, O'Keefe, Weigel) reports that "senior Democratic aides said" they "will oppose any attempt to spend federal dollars" on the wall, and will also "oppose the RAISE Act." [Politico](#) (9/5, Kim, Bade, Caygle) notes Sens. Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham yesterday "urged Congress to take up a DACA fix this month," but "the Senate's second-ranking Senate Republican quickly dismissed that possibility." Said Majority Whip John Cornyn, "There's no way. ... We will take that up. I'm confident. But there's no way that it will stand alone." Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley "concurred, saying he doesn't believe a standalone bill granting legal status to Dreamers can pass Congress by itself."

In the President's words, as noted by [USA Today](#) (9/5, Jackson, Johnson, Gomez), "the legislative branch, not the executive branch, writes these laws." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/5, Bennett, Tanfani) notes that Trump also said in a White House statement, "I do not favor punishing children, most of whom are now adults, for the actions of their parents." [Reuters](#) (9/5, Holland), meanwhile, indicates that Trump "denounced Obama's program as an 'amnesty-first approach' toward illegal immigrants and pressed his nationalist 'America First' message."

Trump had taken to Twitter earlier in the morning to address the issue, [writing](#), "Congress, get ready to do your job – DACA!" The President [added](#), "Make no mistake, we are going to put the interest of AMERICAN CITIZENS FIRST! The forgotten men & women will no longer be forgotten." He later [tweeted](#), "I look forward to working w/ D's + R's in Congress to address immigration reform in a way that puts hardworking citizens of our country 1st." [Breitbart](#) (9/5, Munro) runs a story on Trump's remarks titled "Donald Trump: 'Young Americans Have Dreams Too.'" The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/5, Quinn) says the President "further defended his decision to rescind DACA during his remarks Tuesday afternoon and said lawmakers he's spoken to are eager to draft legislation addressing DACA beneficiaries." Said Trump, "I can tell you, speaking to members of Congress, they want to be able to do something and do it right. ... And really we have no choice, we have to be able to do something, and I think it's going to work out very well, and long-term it's going to be the right solution."

Finally, in the evening, Trump [tweeted](#), "Congress now has 6 months to legalize DACA (something the Obama Administration was unable to do). If they can't, I will revisit this issue!" [Breitbart](#) (9/5, Pollak) calls that last tweet "a rare negotiating blunder" by the President, who "may have backed himself into signing whatever form of DACA Congress passes," while [Axios](#) (9/6, Lawler) says "hinting at a way out would seem to undermine Trump's efforts to pressure Congress to act."

Beyond the grim forecast on a potential legislative solution, media coverage of Trump's decision was overwhelmingly unfavorable. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, lead story, 2:50, Mason) opened its broadcast stating, "A promise kept by...Trump is a dream lost for thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children." To [USA Today](#) (9/5, Korte), Trump faced a "stark choice: Seek consensus and move to the middle, or...side with his economic nationalist base." To the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Nakamura), Trump's decision "comes as the president...seeks to rally his conservative base." Philip Bump, meanwhile, titles his online analysis – also for the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Bump) – "With DACA, Trump Again Prioritizes His Base Over What's Politically Popular." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/5, story 4, 2:25, Holt), on the other hand, Kristen Welker said Trump's "base is accusing" him "of punting on a core campaign promise."

Chris Cillizza headlined its piece for [CNN](#) (9/5) "DACA Decision Confirms It: Trump



Has Killed The Bush Version Of The GOP," and says the Administration's "view – that the rule of law trumps (ahem) all else when it comes to the nation's immigration problems – is a massive reversal from views espoused by George W. Bush in his two terms as president and in the autopsy document produced by the Republican National Committee in the wake of the party's disastrous 2012 presidential election loss." Jason Sattler warns Republicans in [USA Today](#) (9/5) that "when we need a shortcut to explain why it's a bad long-term strategy to scapegoat immigrants for short-term gain, we point to California – where the GOP has become a sloppy karaoke version of its old self, a larger third-party that may not even field a candidate for governor in next year's general election." To Sattler, the GOP's demise began with its support of Prop. 187 in 1994.

Writing for [National Review](#) (9/5, Bauer), Fred Bauer argues that politically, the Administration is engaging in "a huge gamble. If the Republican caucus tries to pass a stand-alone fix along the lines of the DREAM Act (which would give full legal status to those covered by DACA), it could be in a lose-lose situation: Either it will succeed and infuriate the GOP base, or it will fail, as numerous attempts to pass the DREAM Act have in the past." But if "the caucus unifies around a deal trading the DREAM Act for center-right immigration reforms, it could advance conservative policy goals and strengthen its political hand."

The [AP](#) (9/5, Colvin, Gurman) reports "Trump's announcement came the same day as a deadline set by a group of Republican state officials who said they would challenge DACA in court unless the Trump administration rescinded the program." The AP adds that Sanders "said the president had been given a choice between the 'likely sudden cancellation of the program by a judge' or 'an orderly wind-down that preserved the rule of law,' and made the best decision in light of those options." Likewise, the [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Dinan, Noble) reports, DHS "portrayed the decision as the lesser of two evils, saying that the program's legality was so tenuous that a judge could have ended the program instantly, throwing hundreds of thousands of Dreamers into immediate chaos."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/5) that he is withdrawing the threat of litigation against the Administration. Paxton added, "We are pleased with the result. We are grateful that he rescinded this and that we are now under a President that is actually following the Constitution and acting within the scope of his authority." Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/5), "DACA violates the United States Constitution in two different ways. It also violates three different federal statutes and it's not just my opinion. You've had lower federal courts already say that. So it is illegal and should end now. We shouldn't say we recognize it is illegal and we recognize it is violating our constitution but let's keep on violating the constitution for six months or however long. We need to end it and we need to start looking after United States citizens first."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/5, Bennett, Tanfani) reports, meanwhile, that "notably," the President "left it to" Attorney General Sessions "to make the announcement, not himself," and the [New York Times](#) (9/5, Apuzzo, Ruiz) that the AG "not only served as the administration's spokesman, he also spoke directly to Mr. Trump's base in a blunt, uncompromising way that the president himself was uncomfortable doing."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Nakamura) notes that "in announcing the decision at the Justice Department," Sessions "said that former president Barack Obama, who started the program in 2012 through executive action, 'sought to achieve specifically what the legislative branch refused to do.'" Sessions referred to Obama's move as an "open-ended circumvention of immigration law through unconstitutional authority by the executive branch," and "said the program was unlikely to withstand court scrutiny."

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/4, Talev, Olorunnipa, Edgerton) reports that "rejecting calls to show compassion for the young immigrants covered by the program," Sessions said, "The compassionate thing to do is end the lawlessness, and enforce our laws and if Congress chooses to make changes to those laws, to do so through the process enforced by our founders in a way that advances the interests of the American people." Sanders "echoed the point," telling reporters, "It's not cold-hearted for the president to uphold the law."



To Sessions, [Roll Call](#) (9/5, Bennett) reported, "the immigration program 'contributed to a surge of minors' coming across America's southern border," sparking "'terrible' consequences across the country." Sessions also "contended the Obama program put the country at greater risk of 'crime, violence and terrorism.'" The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (9/5, Sweet), the [New York Post](#) (9/5, Schultz), [Townhall](#) (9/5, O'Brien), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5, Meckler), among other news outlets, also report the announcement along similar lines. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/5, story 4, 3:20, Vega), meanwhile, reported that in a "memo obtained by ABC News, the Trump Administration urges members of Congress to say Dreamers should prepare to self-deport, saying, they should prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States, including proactively seeking travel documentation." The "backlash" was "immediate."

[McClatchy](#) (9/5, Ordoñez, Kumar) recounts that Sessions "walked into the White House two weeks ago with a blunt message for his boss: The Obama-era program that keeps hundreds of thousands of people safe from deportation is unconstitutional. And setting aside any sentimentality, the attorney general told the president he would not defend the program in court." And "that was when Donald Trump decided he had no choice." A "source familiar with the conversation" tells McClatchy, "Once Sessions told Trump he would not defend DACA in court, he left Trump without any other legal options."

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (9/5, A1, Jordan) profiles several successful Dreamers. For example, the Times reports that "as Mr. Sessions spoke, Marcela Zhou, a Dreamer and third-year medical student at the University of California, Los Angeles, paused between patients she was seeing at a clinic to watch the announcement."

In a blog post for the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Capehart), Jonathan Capehart wrote that "listening to Sessions prattle on about respect for the rule of law after his boss ignored it last month to pardon a racist former sheriff is World Series-level gall." The move "fits with the reprehensible zeitgeist that has always enveloped Sessions since before he took the helm of the justice department." Rep. Maxine Waters "was as unsparing in her assessment of him as she has been on the president during an interview on my podcast 'Cape Up' in May." Said Waters, "I think he's a racist, and I think that he absolutely believes that it's his job to keep minorities in their place."

[USA Today](#) (9/5, Jackson, Johnson, Gomez) reports DHS "will immediately stop accepting applications to the DACA program – but current recipients would not be affected until March 5 of next year." This "gives Congress time to find a legislative solution to replace the program, which currently shields some 800,000 young immigrants from deportation." According to [The Hill](#) (9/5, Lillis, Bernal, Savransky), "the new guidelines still allow for DACA enrollees to remain in the program and retain work permits well beyond that date, in some cases." The Hill added that "for those whose eligibility is set to expire within the next six months, DHS is accepting renewal applications until Oct. 5 – creating the potential for enrollees to remain in the program almost two years after the so-called phaseout." The [New York Post](#) (9/5, Moore, Schultz) outlines a similar timeline in its report.

Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/5) that the "destroy Trump establishment media" is "predictably" in "freak out mode about the President's decision," but, "what they won't tell you is that DACA was, in fact, unconstitutional. The President is right to let Congress decide on the issue of immigration laws in this country. That's how a system of checks and balances is supposed to work. The executive branch can't usurp power from the legislative branch. You remember how President Obama himself admitted this many, many times before ever signing this executive order on DACA. He admitted it was unconstitutional, for him to change immigration laws all on his own."

Jonah Goldberg of National Review said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/5), "I think on the constitutional or civic merits...Trump made exactly the right decision. I don't think – even the Obama administration said it was supposed to be temporary program. The title 'D' in DACA is 'deferred.' It was always supposed to be followed up by real legislation. Presidents aren't supposed to make law. ... On the other hand, politically, I

think this is a hot mess. I think that Donald Trump is setting up Congress for potentially disastrous failure and at the same time – he wants to punt this so that he doesn't have to make this very hard decision that puts him either on the wrong side of the base or on the wrong side of everybody else."

Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5), "I am told by a senior White House official it was like a tug-of-war in the West Wing of the White House. All these advisers and outside advisers who the President listens to were largely telling him different things, but business leaders and others were urging him not to do anything draconian here. We're told he's not happy necessarily with this decision but was trying to find a spot in the middle."

Cotton said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/5), "Trump was put in this situation by...Obama," who "created this program without congressional approval five years ago even though he himself said he didn't have the legal authority. I think...Trump struck a sensible middle ground and said that in six months he's going to stop renewing these work permits for illegal immigrants in their 20s and 30s who were brought here through no fault of their own. That should give Congress time to pass legislation that would not only perhaps codify that program but also address some of the consequences of the action like encouraging future illegal immigration or allowing those people who might get legal status to also make their parents, the people who created the situation, citizens as well."

Rep. Mark Meadows said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5), "Obviously I support the President's decision. One of the things that's perhaps is not getting reported a whole lot is the jurisprudence that is out there would suggest this was going to go away, anyway. So it is incumbent upon Congress to act. So, the President took a decisive action. He did it in a way that gave Congress six months to deal with it. You saw Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham working together already trying to try to look at some legislative fix. But more importantly, any solution is going to have to start, really, with securing our southern borders."

Rep. Paul Gosar writes in [USA Today](#) (9/5), "I applaud the president's work in upholding the rule of law and his decision to cease the Obama administration's unconstitutional amnesty program."

Meanwhile, notes [USA Today](#) (9/5, Shesgreen, King), "Rep. Mike Coffman, a Colorado Republican who represents suburban Denver, plans to make an end-run around House GOP leaders by filing a 'discharge petition' on the Bridge Act, a bipartisan bill that would grant DREAMers legal status for three years."

*Trump Evangelical Advisers Claim Credit For Six-Month Delay.* The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Sellers) reports "members of the president's Evangelical Advisory Board claimed credit" for Trump's decision on DACA including "a built-in six-month delay." Said Tony Suarez, executive vice president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, "We are responsible for this extension [the president] is offering. That's our work." Suarez "said he and NHCLC President Samuel Rodriguez have worked on behalf of the so-called 'dreamers' since the advisory board was formed during the campaign last summer and stepped up pressure on the White House last week, making calls and delivering letters signed by Hispanic pastors to the president. Then, on Friday, a handful of the evangelical pastors met with Trump," and "at that Oval Office meeting, which neither Rodriguez nor Suarez was able to attend, Jentezen Franklin, a white pastor from a multi-ethnic church near Atlanta, made a personal plea to the president on behalf of the dreamers."

*Decision Sparks Protests.* The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, story 3, 2:00, Blackstone) reported that "the decision to end DACA sparked protests across the country," with "thousands" gathering "near the White House and outside Trump Tower in New York." High school students, moreover, "staged a walkout in downtown Denver, and in Los Angeles." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/5, story 4, 2:25, Holt) referred to "protests erupting nationwide," and (Welker) to "sound and fury with protesters storming major cities all across the country."

The [Bergen \(NJ\) Record](#) (9/5, Alvarado) reports "nearly a dozen people were



arrested during an immigration demonstration outside Trump Tower," and the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Sacchetti, Stein) that "undocumented immigrants and their supporters yelled, 'Shame!' in front of the White House and got arrested in front of Trump Tower in New York City."

**Obama: Trump Move "Cruel," "Self-Defeating," "Wrong."** [Reuters](#) (9/5) reports Obama said on [Facebook](#) yesterday that "the Trump administration's decision to rescind a program Obama instituted to protect from deportation illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children was 'cruel,' 'self-defeating' and 'wrong.'" The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Johnson) quotes Obama as writing, "Ultimately, this is about basic decency." [USA Today](#) (9/5, Estepa) notes that Obama also said that "now that the issue has been punted back to Congress" lawmakers should "protect these young people and our future." The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Boyer), the [New York Post](#) (9/5, Moore), [McClatchy](#) (9/5, Welsh), the [AP](#) (9/5, Holland), [Politico](#) (9/5, Dove), [The Hill](#) (9/5, Thomsen), and [Breitbart](#) (9/5, Spiering), among other news outlets, also report Obama's post.

In an analysis piece, [Politico](#) (9/5, Dove) says Obama is "purposefully keeping quiet – even as his team was already quietly consulting on steps forward Tuesday with activists and strategists." Yesterday's "statement – written in his Washington office on Tuesday and so much in Obama's voice that it even includes his 'let's be clear' tic – there's nothing about what to put in a bill, only the principles at stake and the need to do something." While he "sees protecting Dreamers as a major part of his legacy, but doesn't want Republicans to back away from a bill because they're supporting something that their base's favorite bogeyman wants."

[Vox](#) (9/5, Stein) noted, meanwhile, that former Vice President Biden also "condemned the Trump administration's decision," writing on [Facebook](#), "These people are all Americans. ... So let's be clear: throwing them out is cruel. It is inhumane. And it is not America."

**In Apparent Break With Party, Feinstein Says DACA Was "On Shaky Legal Ground."** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/5, Mehta) reports Sen. Dianne Feinstein "signaled Tuesday that she believes...Obama's executive order to protect young immigrants who were brought into the US as minors was on shaky legal ground, and said that is why Congress must act." The senator told MSNBC, "DACA was executive order. Legal is the law of passage of something. ... You know there are 10 attorneys general that are prepared to sue. I don't want to get into that. The point is DACA is here and we've got 800,000 young people who depend on this." Chuck Todd "said that Feinstein's answer implied that the program was 'on shaky legal ground,'" to which Feinstein replied, "It is. ... That's why we need to pass a law, and we should do it." The Times adds that "Feinstein's remarks are likely to fuel criticism among the most liberal members of her party."

**Gutierrez: Trump Moving Toward "Full-Throated Endorsement Of White Supremacy," Kelly "Has No Honor."** The [Chicago Tribune](#) (9/5, Skiba) reports that "Rep. Luis Gutierrez, a Chicago Democrat and longtime advocate on immigration issues, were among the most pointed," yesterday "accused the Trump administration of being on a 'very dangerous trajectory towards the full-throated endorsement of white supremacy – the likes of which we haven't seen in the open from a sitting president for a century.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Weigel) notes Gutierrez also said, "General Kelly is a hypocrite who is a disgrace to the uniform he used to wear. ... He has no honor and should be drummed out of the White House along with the white supremacists and those enabling the president's actions by 'just following orders.'"

**Emanuel To Incoming High School Students: Chicago Schools A "Trump-Free" Zone.** The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Chasmar) reports Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel yesterday "assured incoming high schoolers that they need not to worry about...Trump ending the 'Dreamers' program, saying Chicago Public Schools are a 'Trump-free' sanctuary for young illegal immigrants." Said the mayor, "Chicago, our schools, our neighborhoods, our city, as it relates to what President Trump said, will be a Trump-free zone. You have nothing to worry about."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (9/5, Dudek, Fitzpatrick) reports, "It was no accident that the mayor, who's been courting Hispanic voters as his popularity has flagged among the



African-Americans who elected him, chose Solorio Academy High School to ring in the new school year because nearly a third of Solorio's students are undocumented immigrants."

**Mexico "Profoundly Laments" Trump Decision.** The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Partlow) reports the Mexican government "said Tuesday that it 'profoundly laments' the decision by the Trump administration to phase out the program that protects hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation." The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Dinan) notes that in a statement, Mexico also "said it will take back the hundreds of thousands of its citizens currently living in the US without permission." Said the government, "Mexico will receive Dreamers who return to our country with open arms. ... In accordance with instructions from President Enrique Peña Nieto, the agencies of the federal government are strengthening their efforts to offer them the greatest support, take advantage of their talents and skills, and fully integrate them into our society and national economy."

**WPost, NYTimes, USA Today Blast Trump; WSJournal Blames Both Parties.** The [Washington Post](#) (9/5) writes in an editorial that Trump "ducked, dodged and shunted the issue to Congress." His "order is an assault on economic logic," and "unless Congress acts, the United States will suffer along with the dreamers."

The [New York Times](#) (9/5) editorializes that "Trump didn't even have the guts to do the job himself. Instead, he hid in the shadows and sent his attorney general...to do the dirty work." Adds the Times, "Contrast that with President Obama's willingness to defend a policy that has always had detractors."

**USA Today** (9/5) editorializes that "in six months...the president is likely to find himself right where he is today. He could inflict real damage on himself, his party and his country by letting the deportations go into effect. He could institute another delay. Or he could try to negotiate some face-saving deal with Democrats and Republican pragmatists to pass a DACA law." But "in the meantime" he "is playing right into the hands of Democrats, who might otherwise be troubled by their internal divisions and inability to win elections between the two coasts."

On its editorial page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) criticizes Trump's campaign rhetoric threatening to end DACA, but argues that Obama should not have moved unilaterally in establishing it – and that the former president acted cynically in a bid to score political points and put Republicans in a bind. The Journal goes on to criticize both parties' handling of the issue, and suggests a deal could be made whereby Congress approves the program in exchange for added border security.

**More Condemnation Of Administration.** [Bloomberg News](#) (9/5, Bass) reports "companies from a broad range of industries, including technology, finance and retail, swiftly condemned the Trump administration's decision to end a program preventing the deportation of immigrants illegally brought to the US as children." Wrote Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg, "It is particularly cruel to offer young people the American Dream, encourage them to come out of the shadows and trust our government, and then punish them for it." [Politico](#) (9/5, Overly) also says "Trump's decision to end the Dreamers program is inflaming his rift with America's corporate leaders – a group he once touted as a key ally for his business-friendly administration." Politico adds "a slew of top CEOs and business groups slammed the move – warning of the human toll and its impact on the nation's economy."

**USA Today** (9/5, Guynn) reports, "Don't mess with DACA. That was the message from major technology companies." Apple and Microsoft, "two of the companies to come out swinging against the president's decision to dump Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, pledged to shield employees who could face legal troubles or deportation."

**Townhall** (9/5, O'Brien) indicated "Trump just lost his CEO for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce after his decision." Javier Palomarez, "who announced his resignation Tuesday, explained" that "Sessions's DACA announcement was the last straw," saying, "This disgraceful action goes against not only the values of this country, but also against the promise of this administration to focus homeland security resources towards individuals who have committed violent crimes and pose a threat to communities

across the country."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Balingit) says "education leaders Tuesday swiftly condemned...Trump's decision...warning the move will disrupt the lives of hundreds of thousands of students."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Persons), meanwhile, notes "US Conference of Bishops President Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston blasted...Trump's plan to remove protections from children brought to the US illegally as 'reprehensible.'"

Rep. John Garamendi said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5) that this is a "quid pro quo. It's a deal. The President has structured a deal putting 800,000 young men and women, young Dreamers, on the line in exchange for his border wall. That's what this is all about. He is putting at risk those 800,000 people."

Maggie Haberman of the New York Times said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/5) that Trump "had very few good options here given what he was facing, given what he had promised. You could argue he shouldn't have campaigned on a platform that included ending DACA. But he was all over the map in terms of what he wanted to do with this program. I do believe he was genuinely conflicted about this. I don't think that changes the feelings on what they're doing. I think that punting it over to Congress – he knows full well that Congress could not do a healthcare repeal. ... This is basically pushing the blame off to someone else, and I don't know how well that flies when his whole thing during the campaign was, I alone can fix this broken system."

Political commentator Paul Begala said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/5), "Who knows...what happens in that desperately mangled brain of his, and I think the only way to read it, 'I love these young people, and I have heart, but I'm going to kick them all out of the country – 800,000 of them who have done nothing wrong.' It's incoherent. I think politically he couldn't have hurt himself more. Even the Trump voters, most Trump voters don't want to kick these young people out of the country. And he notion that Ken Paxton, the Attorney General of Texas...is pushing Donald Trump around is pretty appalling."

Rep. Ruben Gallego said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5), "You're basically destabilizing their lives. These young men and women have started families, bought homes, started businesses, some of them are police officers, firefighters, some have joined the military and are now veterans and we're going to cruelly take them away from this life." Gallego added that if Congress does not "act to stop the President," Dreamers "will be deported. The way ICE is operating right now, they don't care who they are nabbing and grabbing. They'd rather go for the easiest targets. They're going to go for people that they know are good citizens. They know they have steady routines. They're going to...start taking these young men and women and their families, anyone they encounter. At the end of the day all they want to do is hit their quotas and that's what's going to happen."

Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5), "I think the real story here is the President was faced with a real problem. He had been on the campaign trail consistently saying that he wanted to end DACA, and then he had also said since he came into office, he spoke to President Obama about it, he spoke to others about it and he said that he really cared about the dreamers. Well, how do you square those two things? It's very difficult. So, what he did was he said, 'Okay, I'm going to pass the buck. I'm going to pass the buck here to Congress and let's see if Congress can resolve it.'"

***Dreamer Killed Trying To Rescue Harvey Victims.*** The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, story 6, 2:25, Villafranca) reported that Harvey's death toll "includes a 31-year-old undocumented immigrant who could have faced deportation next year. Instead, he died a hero." CBS (Villafranca) added that Alonso Guillen "came to the US from Mexico when he was 15 to live with his dad, a permanent resident. He signed up for DACA, and as a Dreamer was working towards citizenship." He "and a friend drove 120 miles from Lufkin, Texas to Houston, to rescue people stuck in an apartment. They were in a boat that hit a bridge and capsized." His body was found downstream four days later.

***Daily Caller Says Most Dreamers Are Adults; NYTimes Says "Typical" Dreamer Came To US At Age Six.*** The [Daily Caller](#) (9/5) reported that "CNN and MSNBC are repeating the



false claim that DACA recipients are 'children' or 'kids,' while actually most are adults." DACA "recipients were illegally brought to the United States by their parents when they were children," but "the minimum age to apply for the program is 15 years old," and "in fact, the majority of the applicants were over the age of 20 based on 2014 data from the US government. Some have estimated that the average age of dreamers is 25 or 26 years old – hardly children." [USA Today](#) (9/5, Gomez), meanwhile, reports "those affected were brought illegally to the United States as children. Now, at an average of 25, many know no other country than the US."

The [New York Times](#) (9/5, Parlapiano, Yourish), meanwhile, analyzes the program in a story headlined "A Typical 'Dreamer' Lives In Los Angeles, Is From Mexico And Came To The US At 6 Years Old."

*Poll: 58% Support Allowing Dreamers To Stay, 15% Want Them Removed.* [Politico](#) (9/5, Shepard) reports that according to a POLITICO/Morning Consult poll, "voters overwhelmingly support allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to stay in the country." Fifty-eight percent "think these undocumented immigrants...should be allowed to stay and become citizens if they meet certain requirements – a sentiment which goes well beyond the existing DACA program." Meanwhile, "another 18 percent think they should be allowed to stay and become legal residents, but not citizens," and "only 15 percent of voters think these undocumented immigrants should be removed or deported from the country." Politico adds that "support for allowing these immigrants to remain in the U.S. spans across party lines: 84 percent of Democrats, 74 percent of independents and 69 percent of Republicans think they should stay."

*Newsweek: Melania Trump's Immigration Attorney A Supporter Of DACA.* Writing on the website of [Newsweek](#) (9/5), Melina Delkic said that first lady Melania Trump's attorney, Michael Wildes, "who once vouched for the former model regarding her immigration status, is 'prayerful' that President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration program won't be dismantled by the Trump administration and Congress. He says he works to help DACA beneficiaries, whom he calls 'good souls.'" Delkic added that Wildes' "father, Leon Wildes, planted the seeds of DACA when he represented the musician John Lennon in his deportation trial and clarified the meaning of deferred action in a court of law."

*After Having Opposed DREAM Act, Tester Criticizes Trump Over DACA Repeal.* The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/5, Griswold) reported that Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), who was among "the five Democratic senators who joined Republicans to defeat the DREAM Act," on Tuesday chided Trump "for revoking similar protections of so-called 'Dreamers.' In 2010," the Montana Democrat "voted against the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which would have granted legal residency status to illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as minors. Tester voted against a similar bill in 2007." In a Tuesday statement, Tester said of Trump's decision to revoke DACA protections, "America's immigration system is badly broken and needs fixing, but breaking a promise to these children-who are here through no fault of their own-is not the solution." Tester faces reelection next year.

### **Trump Tells GOP Leaders Tax Reform Will Create "Millions Of New Jobs."**

During a White House meeting Tuesday with "the so-called Big Six tax negotiators – National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and the leaders of the congressional tax-writing committees," President Trump "promoted a tax overhaul as essential to boosting economic growth," [Bloomberg News](#) (9/5, Sink) reports. [Politico](#) (9/5, Conway) quotes Trump as saying, "We're going to reduce taxes for companies, and those companies are going to produce jobs. ... Tax reform that follows these principles will create millions of new jobs and ensure that more products are stamped with the very beautiful letters and words, 'Made in the U.S.A.'" Trump added, "It's time to lower our taxes, bring back our wealth and make America the jobs magnet that it can become, and pretty quickly."



[Politico](#) (9/5, White, Cook) describes Trump as “increasingly fixated on slashing the top corporate tax rate to 15 percent,” which “pretty much no one else working on the issue in the White House or Congress thinks is workable.” During Tuesday’s meeting, Trump “again expressed his strong desire to hit the 15 percent target, from today’s 35 percent.” However, “a senior official working on tax reform,” said, “You can’t get to 15 percent and anyone who has a back of an envelope can make that calculation. ... And he may not like that truth, but it’s the truth. It’s just math.”

[Roll Call](#) (9/5, Bennett) reports that “Trump and top aides say they want any eventual tax measure to receive some Democratic support,” but adds that “the effort will be an uphill fight even if it becomes a Republican-only push” due to divisions “among GOP members and the president about where to set individual and corporate rates; if and how any rate cuts would be paid for; and whether the plan could be permanent or would require an expiration date,” as well as “differences about how it might affect the deficit.”

In a story posted before Tuesday’s meeting, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5, Rubin) said that with Republicans eyeing completion of tax reform before year’s end, the “Big Six” have little time to tackle a number of difficult decisions concerning the details of the plan. The Journal adds that if they fail to get the measure through Congress, it will be a political defeat.

*Heitkamp To Fly To North Dakota With Trump Today On Air Force One.* On its website, [CNN](#) (9/5, Diamond) reported that Trump “is giving his efforts to wrangle red state Democrat support for his tax reform push the Air Force One treatment.” CNN added that Heitkamp, “the first Democrat to join Trump on the presidential jet, will travel with him Wednesday for the flight to her state of North Dakota, where Trump will continue his push to drive up public support for tax reform. ‘Pending any critical votes in the US Senate, Sen. Heitkamp plans to join President Trump for his visit to North Dakota. She also plans to travel with the President on Air Force One,’ Heitkamp spokeswoman Julia Krieger said.” [Politico](#) (9/5, Everett) reported that the President is offering “Heitkamp far warmer treatment than he gave” Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) during his visit to Missouri last week. Politico said the fact that Heitkamp will join the President on Air Fore One suggests “Trump won’t attack the vulnerable Heitkamp as he did similarly imperiled McCaskill.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Rucker) reports that the White House is touting Heitkamp’s planned travel with Trump on Air Force One “as the first indication of bipartisan support for overhauling the tax code. Trump will be touting his tax plan at the Andeavor oil refinery in Heitkamp’s hometown of Mandan.” The Post adds, “In his speech Wednesday, Trump intends to pressure Heitkamp to support his tax-reform agenda – in part by reminding North Dakotans that the last time Congress passed meaningful tax reform, in 1986, during Ronald Reagan’s presidency, their Democratic senator voted yea,” according to excerpts of the President’s planned remarks.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Miller) reports that according to “prepared remarks provided by the White House,” Trump will say in today’s speech, “Both of the Reagan tax cuts passed by a Democratic majority in the House, a Democratic speaker and the vast majority of Democrats in the Senate, including a Democratic senator from the great state of North Dakota.” Trump will further say, “If Democrats continue their obstruction, if they don’t want to bring back your jobs, raise your pay and help America win, voters should deliver a clear message: Do your job to deliver for America or find a new job.”

[Reuters](#) (9/5, Rampton, Holland) reports that in Heitkamp, Trump “has found at least one Democrat willing to entertain his tax reform pitch.” Reuters adds that Heitkamp on Friday “said both parties need to work together on tax reform, which she views as critical for businesses and families in her state.” [USA Today](#) (9/6, Jackson) reports that Trump “won 63% of the vote in North Dakota in November, and Heitkamp’s bid for re-election next year is rated a tossup by the nonpartisan Inside Elections.”

### **WTimes Analysis: Time Running Short For Republicans To Repeal ACA.**

The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Howell) reports that congressional Republicans are facing “a swiftly closing window to repeal Obamacare using GOP votes alone.” While Republican

leaders began the year by passing a budget written with the purpose repealing the ACA “while avoiding a Democratic filibuster,” according to the Senate parliamentarian their ability to do so “will expire when the fiscal year ends Sept. 30, meaning it’s time for the GOP to use it or lose it.” The Times says it appears “the clock will run out on their efforts, as bipartisan leaders pivot toward a short-term bill to shore up the markets before sign-ups begin this fall.”

### **McCarthy: GOP Won’t Start Wall Fight Until “Later In The Year.”**

[Politico](#) (9/5, Conway) reports that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said Tuesday on [Fox Business Mornings with Maria](#) that House Republicans plan to pass a three-month continuing resolution to fund the government in September and “will push any fight over President Donald Trump’s border wall until later this year.” McCarthy also “said Republicans still intend to pass a budget this month because ‘it allows us to go to reconciliation to start tax reform.’”

### **WPost A1: Conservative Charities Fueled Trump’s Exit From Climate Accord.**

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, A1, O’Harrow) reports on its front page that “for nearly two decades...the Cooler Heads Coalition, an umbrella group of tax-exempt public charities and other nonprofit organizations,” led efforts to “cast doubt on the gravity of climate change and thwart government efforts to address it.” Their efforts were “part of a wave that crested with [President] Trump’s rejection on June 1 of the Paris agreement.” The Coalition’s leader, Myron Ebell, told the Post, “He made the decision. We helped create the circumstances. When you are persistent, good things can happen.” The Post says the “story behind the coalition illuminates the influential, little-known role that tax-exempt public charities play in modern campaigns to sway lawmakers and shape policy in the nation’s capital, while claiming to be nonpartisan educational organizations.”

### **DOJ Won’t Appeal Ruling Against Obama-Era Overtime Rule.**

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/5, McMorris) reports that, ending “one of the most controversial regulatory decisions from the Obama era,” the Justice Department will not appeal Judge Amos Mazzant’s decision striking down the Obama Labor Department’s move to increase the salary threshold of white collars and administrative workers who have to be paid overtime from the current below \$23,660 to \$47,476. Mazzant held the rule was “unlawful” because classes of workers Congress exempted from overtime considerations would have received benefits.

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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### **New York Times.**

**“Donald Trump’s Cowardice On ‘Dreamers.’”** Regarding President Trump’s decision on DACA, The [New York Times](#) (9/5) editorializes that “Trump didn’t even have the guts to do the job himself. Instead, he hid in the shadows and sent his attorney general...to do the dirty work.” Adds the Times, “Contrast that with President Obama’s willingness to defend a policy that has always had detractors.”

**“An Incoherent Strategy On North Korea.”** A [New York Times](#) (9/6, Board) editorial warns President Trump’s approach so far to North Korea “have not only produced zero positive results but they have also sowed confusion about his intentions,” as Trump “and his team seem unable or unwilling to put together a realistic and coherent strategy that goes beyond pressure tactics and harsh rhetoric to include a serious effort to engage the North Koreans.” The Times points to “some inexplicable errors along the way,” and says while Kim Jong-un has not signaled whether he “is interested in talking,” the President “needs to test the possibility before design or miscalculation leads to war.”

**“Myanmar Intensifies Its Abuse Of Rohingya.”** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/5) writes that Burma’s government has intensified violence against the Muslim Rohingya minority in its Rakhine State – killing nearly 400 people and causing tens of



thousands of Rohingya to flee the state since the government began its most recent operation on August 25. The Post condemns the government's actions as "a colossal moral failure" and argues that Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi must give her people their rights.

*"City To The News: Hang In."* In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/5) expresses hope that the New York Daily News, recently acquired by Tronc, will continue to retain its "New York-ness" and "brashness" as a tabloid newspaper that for "nearly a century" has offered blunt assessments of politics and current events.

### **Washington Post.**

*"Trump's Heartless Decision."* The [Washington Post](#) (9/5) writes in an editorial that President Trump "ducked, dodged and shunted the issue to Congress." His order on DACA "is an assault on economic logic," and "unless Congress acts, the United States will suffer along with the dreamers."

*"A Welcome Change Of Course From The Trump Administration."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/5) applauds the Administration for announcing new rules in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to rein in what the Post describes as a "dubious" and "non-transparent" program that diverts resources "from less affluent first-time home buyers to seniors who already own homes" – the Federal Housing Administration's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program, more commonly known as the "reverse mortgage."

*"Montgomery County Should Approach Council Changes With Care."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/5) writes that Montgomery County's Charter Review Commission – which is considering proposals to reshape the nine-member Montgomery County Council by reducing or eliminating the four at-large members whom some see as carrying unequal voting advantage – should consider any council changes carefully, given that it has been 27 years since the last change and that any changes would require a referendum.

### **Wall Street Journal.**

*"The Dreamer Debacle."* On its editorial page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) criticizes President Trump's campaign rhetoric threatening to end DACA, but argues that Obama should not have moved unilaterally in establishing it – and that the former president acted cynically in a bid to score political points and put Republicans in a bind. The Journal goes on to criticize both parties' handling of the issue, and suggests a deal could be made whereby Congress approves the program in exchange for added border security.

*"The Godfather Of Missile Defense."* A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) editorial argues that antimissile defense systems can protect the US from the threat posed by North Korea.

*"Making Canada Great Again."* A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) editorial writes that according to the Globe and Mail, Canadian NAFTA negotiators spent Sunday's talks trying to persuade their US counterparts to pass a federal law negating right-to-work laws, which they argue are stealing job through lower-cost labor. The Journal notes that this is the same argument President Trump makes against Mexico.

## **Big Picture**

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### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Array Of Threats Stir Up Markets](#)

[Trump Rescinds Protections For DACA Immigrants](#)

[Automation Kills Jobs In Retail—And Replaces Them With Better Ones](#)

[Lego Hits Brick Wall With Sales, Sheds 8% Of Workforce](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Trump Moves To End DACA And Calls On Congress To Act](#)

[After 16 Futile Years, Congress Will Try Again To Legalize 'Dreamers'](#)  
[Worried And Frustrated, 'Dreamers' Say They Won't Give Up](#)  
[North Korea's Nuclear Arsenal Threatens China's Path To Power](#)  
[Crisis Is Over At Texas Plant, But Chemical Safety Flaws Remain](#)  
[Red Sox Used Apple Watches To Help Steal Signs Against Yankees](#)

***Washington Post:***

[Trump Orders DACA's End, Challenges Congress](#)  
['This Is Our Country,' Program's Beneficiaries Say, Promising A Fight](#)  
[Syrians Break An ISIS Siege In A Victory For Assad](#)  
[Fla. Areas Evacuate As Irma Strengthens](#)  
['A Disaster On Top Of A Disaster'](#)  
[How Charities' Long Fight Fueled Climate-Pact Exit](#)

***Financial Times:***

[Trump Ends 'Dreamers' Immigration Program](#)  
[Putin Says Sanctions Drive Against North Korea Is Pointless](#)  
[UTC And Rockwell Eye Economies Of Scale From \\$30bn Deal](#)  
[Lego Suffers First Drop In Revenues In A Decade](#)

***Washington Times:***

[Trump Phaseout Of DACA Gives Congress Six Months To Devise Solution For Dreamers](#)  
[Congressional Path To Dreamer Protections Unclear](#)  
[Al Franken Will Use Senate Blue-Slip Tradition To Block Trump Judiciary Nominee](#)  
[U.S. Poised To Sell Military Weapons To Pacific Allies In Response To North Korean Nuclear Tests](#)  
[Democrat Heitkamp To Appear With Trump Wednesday](#)

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Florida Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Puerto Rico Preparation; DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Congress; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Harvey-Vehicle Damages; West Coast-Wildfires; Tokyo-NYC Flight Bird Strike; North Carolina-Cold Medicine Murder; Drunk Driving-Social Media Post; Elderly-Children Community Connection.

**CBS:** DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Congress; DACA Repeal-Reactions; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Preparation; Hurricane Harvey-Dreamer; North Korea Threats; British Royal-Paparazzi Ruling; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Berry Gordy Jr Mansion On Sale; Elderly Sailor.

**NBC:** Hurricane Irma-Florida Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Puerto Rico Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Reactions; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; North Carolina-Cold Medicine Murder; West Coast-Wildfires; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Surviving WW2 Veterans.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

DACA Repeal – 16 minutes  
Hurricane Irma – 15 minutes, 5 seconds  
North Korea Threats – 6 minutes, 5 seconds  
Hurricane Harvey – 5 minutes, 30 seconds  
West Coast-Wildfires – 55 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Hurricane Irma; DACA Repeal; Arizona-F15 Crash.

**CBS:** Hurricane Irma; DACA Repeal; NAFTA Renegotiation; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price.

**FOX:** DACA Repeal; Hurricane Irma.

**NPR:** DACA Repeal; Hurricane Irma; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; North Korea Threats.



## Washington Schedule

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### Today's Events In Washington.

#### White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks with President Xi Jinping of China; participates in a tax reform event with workers from the energy sector.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to meet with congressional leadership; joins Director of the National Security Agency (NSA) Michael Rogers to tour the agency and participate in a series of briefings.

**US Senate:** 10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider the nominations of Gilbert Kaplan to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Matthew Bassett to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Robert Charrow to be Department of Health and Human Services General Counsel Location: 215 Dirksen, U.S. Capitol <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce Committee hearing on the FCC Lifeline program – Hearing on 'Addressing the Risk of Waste, Fraud and Abuse in the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline Program', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Forensic Audits & Investigative Service Director of Audit Services Seto Bagdoyan; South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Commissioner Chris Nelson; Citizens Against Government Waste Director of Technology and Telecommunications Policy Deborah Collier; George Mason University School of Law Adjunct Professor Dr Jeffrey Eisenach; and Free Press Deputy Director and Senior Counsel Jessica Gonzalez Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Amy Coney Barrett to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit; Joan Louise Larsen to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; Eric Dreiband to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division; William Campbell Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee; and Thomas Lee Robinson Parker to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the individual health insurance market for 2018 – Hearing on 'Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Insurance Commissioners', with testimony from Oklahoma Department of Insurance Commissioner John Doak; Washington State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler; Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Commissioner Julie Mix McPeak; Insurance Commissioner of Pennsylvania Theresa Miller; and Alaska Division of Insurance Director Lori Wing-Heier Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the U.S. health care system – Hearing on 'The History and Current Reality of the U.S. Health Care System', with testimony from Miami University Department of Economics Professor and Director of Graduate Studies Dr Melissa Thomasson; University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Dean Dr Katherine Baicker; and Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center on Health Insurance Reforms Research Professor Sabrina Corlette Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the U.S.-Turkey relationship – Hearing on 'Priorities and Challenges in the U.S.-Turkey Relationship', with testimony from Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies Dr Steven Cook; and Harvard Kennedy School Democracy in Hard Places Initiative Fellow Dr Amanda Sloat Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on

Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:00 PM State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

**US House:** 10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the future of FEMA – POSTPONED: Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of FEMA: The Administrator's Perspective' Location: CVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC [homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 2661, State Mineral Revenue Protection Act', 'H.R. 2907, Planning for American Energy Act', and 'H.R. 3565, Federal Land Freedom Act', with testimony from Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association Vice President of Regulatory Affairs A.J. Ferate; Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission Executive Director Mike Smith; Petroleum Association of Wyoming Vice Chairman Paul Ulrich; University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law Associate Professor John Ruple Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on challenges facing the SSA over disability benefits – Social Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Determining Eligibility for Disability Benefits: Challenges Facing the Social Security Administration' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2020, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittees joint hearing on EPA's IRIS Program – Environment Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Examining the Scientific and Operational Integrity of EPA's IRIS Program', with testimony from Ramboll Environ principal Dr Kenneth Mundt; Exponent senior managing scientist Dr James Bus; and Johns Hopkins University's Dr Thomas Burke Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Energy Committee hearing on the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act – Hearing on 'Powering America: Reevaluating PURPA's Objectives and its Effects on Today's Consumers', with testimony from Kent County, MI, Department of Public Works Director Darwin Baas; Solar Energy Industries Association counsel Todd Glass; Alliant Energy Vice President for Iowa Operations Terry Kouba; Xcel Energy Vice President for Policy and Federal Affairs Frank Prager; Idaho Public Utilities Commission Commissioner Kristine Raper; and Domtar Paper Company Senior Manager for Energy Contracts Stephen Thomas Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Sharing Economy: Creating Opportunities for Innovation and Flexibility' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:15 AM Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'EPA Oversight: Unimplemented Inspector General and GAO Recommendations' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on streamlining federal permitting – Hearing on 'Expediting Economic Growth: How Streamlining Federal Permitting Can Cut Red Tape for Small Businesses', with testimony from Covington & Burling Senior Counsel Philip Howard; Springfield Underground President Louis Griesemer (on behalf of National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association); Missoula Electric Cooperative General Manager Mark Hayden; and U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce CEO Margot Dorfman Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

2:00 PM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on declining employment among working-age men – Human Resources Subcommittee hearing on 'Missing from the



Labor Force: Examining Declining Employment among Working-Age Men' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on combating the financing of small terrorist attacks – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on 'Low Cost, High Impact: Combating the Financing of Lone-Wolf and Small-Scale Terrorist Attacks', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Dr Matthew Levitt; Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft partner Joseph Moreno; George Washington University Program on Extremism Deputy Director Seamus Hughes; and Barclays Global Head of Financial Crime Frederick Reynolds Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

**Other:** 9:00 AM CSIS discussion on 'How to Organize Military Space' – 'How to Organize Military Space' Center for Strategic and International Studies Aerospace Security Project symposium, exploring 'how military space enterprise should be organized with the increasing importance of space as a warfighting domain'. Speakers include Republican Rep. Mike Rogers, Lockheed Martin Space Security Vice President Marc Berkowitz, former Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, former U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Air Force Space Command Commander Gen. (Ret.) C. Robert Kehler, and Senate Committee on Armed Services Professional Staff Member Daniel Lerner Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

12:00 PM House votes on Hurricane Harvey relief funding package – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. X – Making supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017' – funding to deliver relief in the wake of the impacts of Hurricane Harvey on Texas and nearby states – under suspension of the rules \* Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin has said he and President Donald Trump believe that Congress should combine any vote on a \$7.9 billion disaster relief package with a vote on extending the debt limit – having previously said that the nation would exhaust emergency borrowing measures around 29 Sep (with the statutory borrowing limit having been reached in March), Secretary Mnuchin recently said the costs of Hurricane Harvey have brought that deadline forward and that funding rebuilding could be difficult without extending the limit. The House relief package, however, is a standalone measure Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

## Last Laughs

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### Late Night Political Humor.

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "I hope you had a good Labor Day. In case you don't know history, Labor Day was established all the way back in 1894 as a way to give Americans an extra day to dread going back to work after the weekend. And it's been very successful. ... When we left, we were busy reliving the Civil War. Now we're back with the good old-fashioned Korean War."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "It seems like [President Trump's] main agenda is just to undo everything Obama did. I hope he doesn't bring Bin Laden back to life."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "The President's spokesperson said it was a difficult decision, the President's been debating it for months, but ultimately Donald Trump believes that if these kids want to be American, they have to do it the right way, by marrying Donald Trump."

**Stephen Colbert:** "According to reporters on the scene, 'the President didn't meet a single storm victim, see an inch of rain, or get near a flooded street.' It was surprising. He's been closer to a flood in a Russian hotel room."

**James Corden:** "This morning, Donald Trump decided to end DACA, a program that protects young undocumented immigrants from being deported. So, now, this means a lot of immigrants may get sent back to their native countries. When she heard this, Melania said, 'I volunteer as tribute.'"

**James Corden:** "The immigrants who have benefited from DACA are called dreamers. [Attorney General Jeff] Sessions explained that the kids will still be 'dreamers,' but more of a 'Nightmare On Elm Street' sort of way."

**James Corden:** "'Not my bride.' Of course, Putin and Trump aren't married. Trump would never marry someone who is only seven years younger than him."

**Trevor Noah:** [Referring to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' announcement of DACA repeal] "Very smart, President Trump. How do you soften the blow when telling the kids the bad news? You get one of Santa's elves to do it. Nicely played."

**Trevor Noah:** "Even the big tech companies are strongly against sending these kids back to their birth countries. I'm telling you this, if Amazon says you can't return something, then you know you're doing something wrong."

**Trevor Noah:** "You know, if you really love someone, putting their fate in the hands of Congress is a pretty weird way to show it. I wouldn't even trust Congress to water my plants while I'm away. Mitch McConnell would be giving excuses, like, 'We intended to water the plants, but the plant watering initiative included 'Planned Parenthood,' so we had to let it die.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "It was announced today that President Trump is ending the DACA program, and may deport immigrants who came to the US decades ago. Many people are outraged, while Melania was like, 'Well, rules are rules. So, see ya. Take care.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "But first, Trump wants the end the DACA program, but only after a six-month delay. You know, because by then, it will be President Pence's problem."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "In fact, President Obama called Trump's decision to end DACA wrong and cruel, but if Obama really wants to save DACA, he should say he hates it. Then Trump will say, 'In that case, I love it.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "Former President Obama today criticized President Trump's decision to end the DACA program. Of course, the only reason Trump wants to end it is because he thinks DACA is Obama's middle name."

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## Conversation Contents

**K.M. Achievements**

**Attachments:**

**/17. K.M. Achievements/1.1 KM Achievements.docx**  
**/17. K.M. Achievements/1.2 Regulatory Reform.pdf**

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Sep 05 2017 09:57:27 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** K.M. Achievements  
**Attachments:** KM Achievements.docx Regulatory Reform.pdf

**See attached. I also added another attachment for more info on regulatory reform. Make sure to go through it all though. I put down things that I figured KM was involved with- you'll know more on her involvement.**

**Thanks!**  
**Nat**

--

**Natalie Davis**  
**Special Assistant to the Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**202.208.4928**

## Conversation Contents

John Crayon

**Attachments:**

/18. John Crayon/1.1 Craynon, John.pdf  
/18. John Crayon/4.1 Craynon, John (1).pdf

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 11:28:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Gareth Rees <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Cathy Alatorre <calatorre@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** John Crayon  
**Attachments:** Craynon, John.pdf

Hi Gareth/Cathy,

This Friday from 11:00-11:30, John Crayon is available to meet with David and Jim. I believe Lori had mentioned him to you earlier.

Attached is his resume.

Can you send him a calendar invite?

Thanks!  
Natalie

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**"Alatorre, Cathy" <calatorre@usbr.gov>**

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**From:** "Alatorre, Cathy" <calatorre@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 11:45:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

Good morning Natalie,



**Did you mean to send this to me? What is Lori's last name?**

**Respectfully,**

**Cathy Alatorre  
Technical Writer/Editor  
Folsom Dam**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 10:28 AM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**  
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Natalie**

**--**

**Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928**

**--**

**Cathy Alatorre  
Technical Writer - Editor  
CCAO - Folsom Dam  
916-537-7233**

**"Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>**

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**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 11:47:08 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Alatorre, Cathy" <[calatorre@usbr.gov](mailto:calatorre@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

**I am so sorry!! I meant to send that to someone else. My apologies!!**

**Thank you and have a great day.**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:45 PM, Alatorre, Cathy <[calatorre@usbr.gov](mailto:calatorre@usbr.gov)> wrote:**  
**Good morning Natalie,**

**Did you mean to send this to me? What is Lori's last name?**

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Folsom Dam

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Cathy Alatorre  
Technical Writer - Editor  
CCAO - Folsom Dam  
916-537-7233

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Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**"Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 11:48:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Gareth Rees <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)>, Catherine Gulac <[catherine\\_gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon  
**Attachments:** Craynon, John (1).pdf



**Whoops sorry- added wrong Cathy in earlier message**

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**Hi Gareth/Cathy,**

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**Thanks!**

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**Thanks!**  
**Natalie**

--

**Natalie Davis**  
**Special Assistant to the Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**202.208.4928**

--

**Natalie Davis**  
**Special Assistant to the Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**202.208.4928**

**"Alatorre, Cathy" <[calatorre@usbr.gov](mailto:calatorre@usbr.gov)>**

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**From:** "Alatorre, Cathy" <[calatorre@usbr.gov](mailto:calatorre@usbr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 11:59:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

**No problem. Have a great day.**

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 10:47 AM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
I am so sorry!! I meant to send that to someone else. My apologies!!

Thank you and have a great day.

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Good morning Natalie,

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Technical Writer/Editor  
Folsom Dam

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Natalie

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Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

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Cathy Alatorre  
Technical Writer - Editor  
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Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928



--

Cathy Alatorre  
Technical Writer - Editor  
CCAO - Folsom Dam  
916-537-7233

**"Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 12:38:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** Catherine Gulac <catherine\_gulac@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

Done

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:48 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Whoops sorry- added wrong Cathy in earlier message

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Thanks!  
Natalie

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Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

--

**Natalie Davis**  
**Special Assistant to the Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**202.208.4928**

--

**Gareth C. Rees**  
**Office to the Deputy Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Tel: 202-208-6291**  
**Fax: 202-208-1873**  
**Cell: 202-957-8299**

**"Gulac, Catherine" <catherine\_gulac@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Gulac, Catherine" <catherine\_gulac@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 12:50:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

**Jim will be out on annual leave this Friday.**

*Catherine Gulac*  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Deputy Secretary  
1849 C St, NW, MS-7328  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
202-208-6291 Office / 202-208-1739 Direct / 202-208-1873 Fax  
[Catherine\\_Gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Catherine_Gulac@ios.doi.gov)

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:38 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**  
**Done**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:48 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**

**Whoops sorry- added wrong Cathy in earlier message**

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202.208.4928**

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928**

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**Gareth C. Rees**

**Office to the Deputy Secretary**

**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Tel: 202-208-6291**

**Fax: 202-208-1873**

**Cell: 202-957-8299**

**"Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 12:52:40 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gulac, Catherine" <catherine\_gulac@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

**If this is the combined interview with David and Jim, it should be next week**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:50 PM, Gulac, Catherine <[catherine\\_gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**

**Jim will be out on annual leave this Friday.**

*Catherine Gulac*  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Deputy Secretary  
1849 C St, NW, MS-7328  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
202-208-6291 Office / 202-208-1739 Direct / 202-208-1873 Fax  
[Catherine\\_Gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Catherine_Gulac@ios.doi.gov)

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:38 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**  
**Done**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:48 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**

**Whoops sorry- added wrong Cathy in earlier message**

-----  
-----,

**Hi Gareth/Cathy,**

**This Friday from 11:00-11:30, John Crayon is available to meet with David and Jim. I believe Lori had mentioned him to you earlier.**

**Attached is his resume.**

**Can you send him a calendar invite?**

**Thanks!**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:28 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**

**Hi Gareth/Cathy,**

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**Attached is his resume.**

**Can you send him a calendar invite?**

**Thanks!**  
**Natalie**

--

**Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928**

--

**Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928**

--

**Gareth C. Rees  
Office to the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Tel: 202-208-6291  
Fax: 202-208-1873  
Cell: 202-957-8299**

--

**Gareth C. Rees  
Office to the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Tel: 202-208-6291  
Fax: 202-208-1873  
Cell: 202-957-8299**



**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 12:58:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

**Whoops- mistake on our end. It will be next Friday. I will confirm with John and get back to you.**

**Thanks!**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:52 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**  
**If this is the combined interview with David and Jim, it should be next week**

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*Catherine Gulac*  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Deputy Secretary  
1849 C St, NW, MS-7328  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
202-208-6291 Office / 202-208-1739 Direct / 202-208-1873 Fax  
[Catherine\\_Gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Catherine_Gulac@ios.doi.gov)

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:38 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**  
**Done**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:48 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**

**Whoops sorry- added wrong Cathy in earlier message**

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**Hi Gareth/Cathy,**

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**Can you send him a calendar invite?**

**Thanks!**

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**Hi Gareth/Cathy,**

**This Friday from 11:00-11:30, John Crayon is available to meet with David and Jim. I believe Lori had mentioned him to you earlier.**

**Attached is his resume.**

**Can you send him a calendar invite?**

**Thanks!**  
**Natalie**

--

**Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928**

--

**Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928**

--

**Gareth C. Rees  
Office to the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Tel: 202-208-6291  
Fax: 202-208-1873  
Cell: 202-957-8299**

--

**Gareth C. Rees  
Office to the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Tel: 202-208-6291  
Fax: 202-208-1873  
Cell: 202-957-8299**

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 14:10:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

Good to go. You can send a calendar invite to John for 11:00 am. Lori said that the meeting may last until 11:45 since both will be in attendance.

Thanks!

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:58 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Whoops- mistake on our end. It will be next Friday. I will confirm with John and get back to you.

Thanks!

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:52 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
If this is the combined interview with David and Jim, it should be next week

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:50 PM, Gulac, Catherine  
<[catherine\\_gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Jim will be out on annual leave this Friday.

*Catherine Gulac*  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Deputy Secretary  
1849 C St, NW, MS-7328  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
202-208-6291 Office / 202-208-1739 Direct / 202-208-1873 Fax  
[Catherine\\_Gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Catherine_Gulac@ios.doi.gov)

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:38 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)>  
wrote:  
Done

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:48 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
wrote:

Whoops sorry- added wrong Cathy in earlier message

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-----,

Hi Gareth/Cathy,

This Friday from 11:00-11:30, John Crayon is available to meet with David and Jim.  
I believe Lori had mentioned him to you earlier.

Attached is his resume.



Can you send him a calendar invite?

Thanks!

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 1:28 PM, Davis, Natalie  
<[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Gareth/Cathy,

This Friday from 11:00-11:30, John Crayon is available to meet with David and Jim. I believe Lori had mentioned him to you earlier.

Attached is his resume.

Can you send him a calendar invite?

Thanks!  
Natalie

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

--

Gareth C. Rees  
Office to the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Tel: 202-208-6291  
Fax: 202-208-1873  
Cell: 202-957-8299

--

**Gareth C. Rees**  
**Office to the Deputy Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Tel: 202-208-6291**  
**Fax: 202-208-1873**  
**Cell: 202-957-8299**

--

**Natalie Davis**  
**Special Assistant to the Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**202.208.4928**

--

**Natalie Davis**  
**Special Assistant to the Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**202.208.4928**

**"Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 29 2017 14:18:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: John Crayon

**Great. Invite sent for 9/8 at 11am**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 4:10 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**  
**Good to go. You can send a calendar invite to John for 11:00 am. Lori said that the meeting may last until 11:45 since both will be in attendance.**

**Thanks!**

**On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:58 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:**

**Whoops- mistake on our end. It will be next Friday. I will confirm with John and**

get back to you.

Thanks!

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:52 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
If this is the combined interview with David and Jim, it should be next week

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 2:50 PM, Gulac, Catherine  
<[catherine\\_gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Jim will be out on annual leave this Friday.

*Catherine Gulac*  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Deputy Secretary  
1849 C St, NW, MS-7328  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
202-208-6291 Office / 202-208-1739 Direct / 202-208-1873 Fax  
[Catherine\\_Gulac@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Catherine_Gulac@ios.doi.gov)

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wrote:

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<[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
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Hi Gareth/Cathy,

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Can you send him a calendar invite?

Thanks!

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<[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Gareth/Cathy,

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Attached is his resume.

Can you send him a calendar invite?

Thanks!  
Natalie

--  
Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928



--

**Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928**

--

**Gareth C. Rees  
Office to the Deputy Secretary  
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--

**Gareth C. Rees  
Office to the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
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--

**Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928**

--

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202.208.4928**

--

**Gareth C. Rees**

**Office to the Deputy Secretary**

**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Tel: 202-208-6291**

**Fax: 202-208-1873**

**Cell: 202-957-8299**

## **Label: "FOIA/OS-2018-00350"**

**Created by:natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov**

Total Messages in label:103 (48 conversations)

Created: 01-18-2018 at 08:46 AM



# Conversation Contents

**Fwd: John Craynon Resume**

**Attachments:**

/32. Fwd: John Craynon Resume/1.1 John R Craynon Resume.8-17.pdf

**Lori Mashburn <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)>**

---

**From:** Lori Mashburn <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Aug 11 2017 05:43:07 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Natalie Davis <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: John Craynon Resume  
**Attachments:** John R Craynon Resume.8-17.pdf

Would you schedule an interview for the week I'm back and add to the DB?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Davis, Landon" <[landon\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:landon_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** August 10, 2017 at 6:16:55 PM EDT  
**To:** "Mashburn, Lori" <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** John Craynon Resume

I wanted to pass this along to you. Dr. Craynon is highly respected in the mining industry and is solidly aligned with our policy agenda. Having spent 15 years as the regulatory division chief at OSM. Kate and I believe he would be a welcomed addition to the DOI/OSM team.

--

Tucker Davis  
Department of the Interior  
202.706.9403

# Conversation Contents

## FACA Vacancies

### Attachments:

/34. FACA Vacancies/1.1 2017 Vacancy Report for WHL, 07 19 17.docx  
/34. FACA Vacancies/1.2 BLM FACA Vacancy Report thru March 2017, 01 19 17.docx  
/34. FACA Vacancies/1.3 BOR Vacancy Report thru MARCH 2017.doc  
/34. FACA Vacancies/1.4 USEITI Committee Vacancy Report Through MARCH 2017.docx  
/34. FACA Vacancies/1.5 FWS FACA Quarterly Vacancy Report thru March 2017.doc  
/34. FACA Vacancies/1.6 USGS FACA Vacancy Report thru March 2017.docx

**"Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 08 2017 15:01:26 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** FACA Vacancies  
2017 Vacancy Report for WHL, 07 19 17.docx BLM FACA Vacancy Report thru March 2017, 01 19 17.docx BOR Vacancy Report thru MARCH 2017.doc USEITI Committee Vacancy Report Through MARCH 2017.docx FWS FACA Quarterly Vacancy Report thru March 2017.doc USGS FACA Vacancy Report thru March 2017.docx

**Attachments:**

Hi Natalie,

Here are the FACA vacancies broken down by Bureau.

I can be reached on my cell phone at (202) 674-2067 if you have any questions. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Tim Feeney will be able to assist you with anything while I'm away. His telephone number is 208-6701 and he's in Room 7326.

Thanks,  
Margaret

--

Margaret Triebisch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 08 2017 15:10:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: FACA Vacancies

Thank you so much Margaret!

Have a great time!!

On Tue, Aug 8, 2017 at 5:01 PM, Triebisch, Margaret <[margaret\\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebisch@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Natalie,

Here are the FACA vacancies broken down by Bureau.

I can be reached on my cell phone at (202) 674-2067 if you have any questions. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Tim Feeney will be able to assist you with anything while I'm away. His telephone number is 208-6701 and he's in Room 7326.

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Margaret

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Margaret Triebisch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928



**"Tribsch, Margaret" <margaret\_tribsch@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Tribsch, Margaret" <margaret\_tribsch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 08 2017 15:20:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: FACA Vacancies

Thank you, Natalie.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Margaret

On Tue, Aug 8, 2017 at 5:10 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Thank you so much Margaret!

Have a great time!!

On Tue, Aug 8, 2017 at 5:01 PM, Tribsch, Margaret <[margaret\\_tribsch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_tribsch@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Natalie,

Here are the FACA vacancies broken down by Bureau.

I can be reached on my cell phone at (202) 674-2067 if you have any questions. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Margaret Tribsch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

--

Margaret Triebsch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

# Conversation Contents

## FACA Vacancies

### Attachments:

/35. FACA Vacancies/1.1 2017 Vacancy Report for WHL, 07 19 17.docx  
/35. FACA Vacancies/1.2 BLM FACA Vacancy Report thru March 2017, 01 19 17.docx  
/35. FACA Vacancies/1.3 BOR Vacancy Report thru MARCH 2017.doc  
/35. FACA Vacancies/1.4 USEITI Committee Vacancy Report Through MARCH 2017.docx  
/35. FACA Vacancies/1.5 FWS FACA Quarterly Vacancy Report thru March 2017.doc  
/35. FACA Vacancies/1.6 USGS FACA Vacancy Report thru March 2017.docx

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 08 2017 15:10:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** FACA Vacancies  
2017 Vacancy Report for WHL, 07 19 17.docx BLM FACA  
Vacancy Report thru March 2017, 01 19 17.docx BOR Vacancy  
Report thru MARCH 2017.doc USEITI Committee Vacancy Report  
Through MARCH 2017.docx FWS FACA Quarterly Vacancy  
Report thru March 2017.doc USGS FACA Vacancy Report thru  
March 2017.docx

### Attachments:

See attached.

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928



# Conversation Contents

## US Extractive Industries Board

### Attachments:

/36. US Extractive Industries Board/2.1 2017 U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee.docx  
/36. US Extractive Industries Board/2.2 2017 U.S. EITI Membership.pdf  
/36. US Extractive Industries Board/2.3 2016 FILED Charter, US EITI Advisory Committee, 08 15 16.pdf

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon Jul 17 2017 16:03:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Margaret Triebsch <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** US Extractive Industries Board

Hi Margaret,

I see that this board falls under OS, but when I tried to find info from board data call I could not find it in the folders sent to me, do you have the cover sheet or info sent from this board?

Thank you!

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**"Triebsch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Triebsch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Jul 18 2017 07:37:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: US Extractive Industries Board  
2017 U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee.docx 2017 U.S. EITI Membership.pdf 2016 FILED Charter, US EITI Advisory Committee, 08 15 16.pdf

**Attachments:**

Hi Natalie,

Here's the information on the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,  
Margaret

<https://www.doi.gov/eiti>

On Mon, Jul 17, 2017 at 6:03 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Margaret,

I see that this board falls under OS, but when I tried to find info from board data call I could not find it in the folders sent to me, do you have the cover sheet or info sent from this board?

Thank you!

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

--

Margaret Triebsch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

# Conversation Contents

## Non-FACA Board and Commissions report from ONRR

### Attachments:

/37. Non-FACA Board and Commissions report from ONRR/1.1 Committee Summary Final.xlsx  
/37. Non-FACA Board and Commissions report from ONRR/3.1 Committee Summary Final.xlsx

**"Gidner, Jerold" <jerold.gidner@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** "Gidner, Jerold" <jerold.gidner@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue May 30 2017 09:02:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** Margaret Triebsch <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley <amy\_holley@ios.doi.gov>, Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Non-FACA Board and Commissions report from ONRR  
**Attachments:** Committee Summary Final.xlsx

Ms Davis - attached please find the non-FACA Boards and Commissions report from ONRR. It is a spreadsheet, with the various charters and other documents embedded within in.

If you have any questions, please contact me at this email or at 703-508-2655.

Jerry Gidner  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue

and

Tribal Liaison Officer  
Office of Policy, Management, and Budget  
5136 MIB  
703-508-2655

Be sure to visit <http://onrrresource/> for employee news, resources, and events.

And visit <https://useiti.doi.gov/> for the US Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative data portal

**Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue May 30 2017 11:11:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gidner, Jerold" <jerold.gidner@onrr.gov>



**CC:** Margaret Triebsch <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley <amy\_holley@ios.doi.gov>, Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Non-FACA Board and Commissions report from ONRR

Thank you so much!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2017, at 8:02 AM, Gidner, Jerold <[jerold.gidner@onrr.gov](mailto:jerold.gidner@onrr.gov)> wrote:

Ms Davis - attached please find the non-FACA Boards and Commissions report from ONRR. It is a spreadsheet, with the various charters and other documents embedded within in.

If you have any questions, please contact me at this email or at 703-508-2655.

Jerry Gidner  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue

and

Tribal Liaison Officer  
Office of Policy, Management, and Budget  
5136 MIB  
703-508-2655

Be sure to visit <http://onrrresource/> for employee news, resources, and events.  
And visit <https://useiti.doi.gov/> for the US Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative data portal

<Committee Summary Final.xlsx>

---

**"Triebsch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>**

**From:** "Triebsch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue May 30 2017 11:15:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Non-FACA Board and Commissions report from ONRR  
**Attachments:** Committee Summary Final.xlsx

Here you go...

Hope you had a great weekend!

Margaret

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gidner, Jerold** <[jerold.gidner@onrr.gov](mailto:jerold.gidner@onrr.gov)>

Date: Tue, May 30, 2017 at 11:02 AM

Subject: Non-FACA Board and Commissions report from ONRR

To: Natalie Davis <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
Cc: Margaret Triebsch <[margaret\\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebsch@ios.doi.gov)>, Amy Holley  
<[amy\\_holley@ios.doi.gov](mailto:amy_holley@ios.doi.gov)>, Greg Gould <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>

Ms Davis - attached please find the non-FACA Boards and Commissions report from ONRR. It is a spreadsheet, with the various charters and other documents embedded within in.

If you have any questions, please contact me at this email or at 703-508-2655.

Jerry Gidner  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue

and

Tribal Liaison Officer  
Office of Policy, Management, and Budget  
5136 MIB  
703-508-2655

Be sure to visit <http://onrrsource/> for employee news, resources, and events.  
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--

Margaret Triebsch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

**Natalie Davis <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>**

---

**From:** Natalie Davis <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue May 30 2017 11:59:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Triebsch, Margaret" <[margaret\\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebsch@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Non-FACA Board and Commissions report from ONRR

Thank you! Sent from my iPhone > On May 30, 2017, at 10:15 AM, Triebsch, Margaret  
<[margaret\\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebsch@ios.doi.gov)> wrote: > > Here you go... > > Hope you had a great weekend!  
> > Margaret > ----- Forwarded message ----- > From: Gidner, Jerold  
<[jerold.gidner@onrr.gov](mailto:jerold.gidner@onrr.gov)> > Date: Tue, May 30, 2017 at 11:02 AM > Subject: Non-FACA Board

and Commissions report from ONRR > To: Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov> > Cc: Margaret Triebsch <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley <amy\_holley@ios.doi.gov>, Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov> > > Ms Davis - attached please find the non-FACA Boards and Commissions report > from ONRR. It is a spreadsheet, with the various charters and other > documents embedded within in. > > If you have any questions, please contact me at this email or at > 703-508-2655. > > > Jerry Gidner > Senior Policy Advisor > Office of Natural Resources Revenue > > and > > Tribal Liaison Officer > Office of Policy, Management, and Budget > 5136 MIB > 703-508-2655 > > Be sure to visit <http://onrrresource/> for employee news, resources, and > events. > And visit <https://useiti.doi.gov/> for the US Extractive Industries > Transparency Initiative data portal > > > -- > Margaret Triebsch > U.S. Department of the Interior > 1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313 > Washington, DC 20240 > (202) 208-4524 > (202) 219-2100 - FAX > (202) 674-2067 - Cell > <https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca> >



# Conversation Contents

## ONRR FACA submission

### Attachments:

/38. ONRR FACA submission/1.1 RPC and USEITI FACA Justifications\_05-11-17.docx  
/38. ONRR FACA submission/1.2 2016 SIGNED Charter, US EITI, 08 03 16.pdf  
/38. ONRR FACA submission/1.3 List of Members\_05-11-17.pdf  
/38. ONRR FACA submission/1.4 2017 SIGNED Charter, Royalty Policy Committee, 03 29 17 (2).pdf

**"Gidner, Jerold" <jerold.gidner@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** "Gidner, Jerold" <jerold.gidner@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon May 22 2017 12:37:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
Margaret Triebsch <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley  
<amy\_holley@ios.doi.gov>, Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>,  
**CC:** Judith Wilson <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>, Kimiko Oliver  
<kimiko.oliver@onrr.gov>, Jennifer Malcolm  
<jennifer.malcolm@onrr.gov>, Rosita Compton Christian  
<rosita.comptonchristian@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** ONRR FACA submission  
RPC and USEITI FACA Justifications\_05-11-17.docx 2016  
**Attachments:** SIGNED Charter, US EITI, 08 03 16.pdf List of Members\_05-11-  
17.pdf 2017 SIGNED Charter, Royalty Policy Committee, 03 29 17  
(2).pdf

Ms. Davis - attached please find the submission from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) regarding our FACA committees: the USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group, and the Royalty Policy Committee.

We will submit information regarding our non-FACA committees by Tuesday, May 30.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Jerry Gidner  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue

and

Tribal Liaison Officer  
Office of Policy, Management, and Budget  
5136 MIB  
703-508-2655

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**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon May 22 2017 14:43:10 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gidner, Jerold" <jerold.gidner@onrr.gov>  
Margaret Triebsch <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley <amy\_holley@ios.doi.gov>, Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>, Judith Wilson <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>, Kimiko Oliver <kimiko.oliver@onrr.gov>, Jennifer Malcolm <jennifer.malcolm@onrr.gov>, Rosita Compton Christian <rosita.comptonchristian@onrr.gov>  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Re: ONRR FACA submission

Great. Thank you!

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 2:37 PM, Gidner, Jerold <[jerold.gidner@onrr.gov](mailto:jerold.gidner@onrr.gov)> wrote:  
Ms. Davis - attached please find the submission from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) regarding our FACA committees: the USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group, and the Royalty Policy Committee.

We will submit information regarding our non-FACA committees by Tuesday, May 30.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Jerry Gidner  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue

and

Tribal Liaison Officer  
Office of Policy, Management, and Budget  
5136 MIB  
703-508-2655

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And visit <https://useiti.doi.gov/> for the US Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative data portal

--  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

# Conversation Contents

## Excel Spreadsheets

### Attachments:

/39. Excel Spreadsheets/1.1 2017 FACA Committee and Meeting Requirements, 04 19 17.xlsx  
/39. Excel Spreadsheets/1.2 Charter Renewal Spreadsheet, 04 10 17.xlsx  
/39. Excel Spreadsheets/3.1 FR Meeting Notice Report, 04 18 17.xlsx

**"Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 10:17:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Excel Spreadsheets  
**Attachments:** 2017 FACA Committee and Meeting Requirements, 04 19 17.xlsx  
Charter Renewal Spreadsheet, 04 10 17.xlsx

Hi Natalie,

Here are the spreadsheets you requested.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,  
Margaret

--

Margaret Triebisch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 10:22:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)



**To:** "Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Excel Spreadsheets

Thank you! Do you have the "FACA Meeting Notices in OES" spreadsheet too?

Thanks again!

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 12:17 PM, Triebisch, Margaret <[margaret\\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebisch@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Natalie,

Here are the spreadsheets you requested.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,  
Margaret

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Margaret Triebisch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
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<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

---

**"Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>**

**From:** "Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 10:25:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Excel Spreadsheets  
**Attachments:** FR Meeting Notice Report, 04 18 17.xlsx

Sorry. Here it is.

M

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 12:22 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Thank you! Do you have the "FACA Meeting Notices in OES" spreadsheet too?

Thanks again!

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 12:17 PM, Triebsch, Margaret <[margaret\\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebsch@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Natalie,

Here are the spreadsheets you requested.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,  
Margaret

--

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
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(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 10:33:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Excel Spreadsheets

Thanks!

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 12:25 PM, Triebisch, Margaret <[margaret\\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebisch@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Sorry. Here it is.

M

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 12:22 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Thank you! Do you have the "FACA Meeting Notices in OES" spreadsheet too?

Thanks again!

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 12:17 PM, Triebisch, Margaret <[margaret\\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebisch@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Natalie,

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Margaret

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Margaret Triebisch  
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Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928



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Washington, DC 20240  
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<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

# Conversation Contents

Tomorrow

**Attachments:**

/40. Tomorrow/1.1 Boards Under Review.docx

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Thu May 11 2017 16:13:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Margaret Triebsch <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Tomorrow  
**Attachments:** Boards Under Review.docx

Hi Margaret,

I was asked to pull together a list of boards as examples of why we are reviewing boards.

I was asked to find boards that have either have several vacancies, haven't met in a years, or/and haven't had significant member turnover.

Attached are just some notes of mine that I am working on to provide sufficient examples and I was hoping you would be able to cross-reference my findings to see if they are indeed accurate. I was just working off of spreadsheets you had provided to me over the past few months.

Do you mind taking a look at them and determine if these findings are accurate? We can go over the information tomorrow, just wanted to give you a heads up.

I can start creating a spreadsheet list if you find the notes to be true. I will probably add more along the way- but just wanted your input. Thank you so much!

Thanks! See you tomorrow.

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 12 2017 07:46:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)

EarthRights International v. US Department of Interior, 22-cv-01503-CKK00004897

**To:** Margaret Triebsch <margaret\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Tomorrow

Hi Margaret,

Also, if you know of any Secretary Boards that have not met in a long time, can you send that information my way? I know the America's Great Outdoors hasn't- but if there are more boards I can use as an example, that would be great!

Thank you!

On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 6:13 PM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Margaret,

I was asked to pull together a list of boards as examples of why we are reviewing boards.

I was asked to find boards that have either have several vacancies, haven't met in a years, or/and haven't had significant member turnover.

Attached are just some notes of mine that I am working on to provide sufficient examples and I was hoping you would be able to cross-reference my findings to see if they are indeed accurate. I was just working off of spreadsheets you had provided to me over the past few months.

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I can start creating a spreadsheet list if you find the notes to be true. I will probably add more along the way- but just wanted your input. Thank you so much!

Thanks! See you tomorrow.

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Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928



# Conversation Contents

**Fwd: CNN**

**Attachments:**

/41. Fwd: CNN/2.1 Boards List.xlsx

**"Bloomgren, Megan" <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue May 09 2017 14:43:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas  
**CC:** <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather"  
<heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: CNN

Do we have a list that we could release? It will likely be FOIAed.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, May 9, 2017 at 3:17 PM  
**Subject:** Re: CNN  
**To:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Ross, Paul" <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "Interior Press@ios.doi.gov" <[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)>

Hello,

CNN would like a list of the 200+ advisory boards that are under review.

Can Interior provide?

Best,

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2017 at 4:53 PM  
**To:** "[RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM](mailto:RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM)" <[Rene.Marsh@turner.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@turner.com)>  
**Cc:** Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)" <[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN

Hi Rene - most are advisory boards for specific feedback (from communities, veterans et al) on recreational, natural resource or conservation related activities on or surrounding federal lands. Scientific wouldn't be accurate. Thanks.

On Mon, May 8, 2017 at 4:27 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Adding the press office for clarity

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "[RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM](mailto:RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM)" <[Rene.Marsh@turner.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@turner.com)>  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2017 at 4:19 PM  
**To:** Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN

Paul,

Thank you. How can we characterize these boards? Safe to say they are scientific in nature?

— René Marsh

CNN

**Correspondent**

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "Ross, Paul" <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2017 at 3:14 PM  
**To:** "[RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM](mailto:RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM)" <[Rene.Marsh@turner.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@turner.com)>  
**Cc:** "[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)" <[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN

Hi René-

Here is the Department's statement in response to your query:

"The Secretary is committed to restoring trust in the Department's decision-making and that begins with institutionalizing state and local input and ongoing collaboration, particularly in communities surrounding public lands.

The Department currently has more than 200 boards, committees, and other internal and external advisory functions that are authorized to solicit input and meet periodically.

To maximize feedback from these boards and ensure their compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the President's recent executive orders, the Department is currently reviewing the charter and charge of each Board/Advisory Committee. This review process necessitates the temporary postponement of advisory committee meetings.

As the Department concludes its review in the weeks ahead, agencies will notice future meetings to ensure that the Department continues to get the benefit of the views of local communities in all decision-making on public land management."

Thanks.

**Paul R. Ross**

Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office: (202) 501-4633 | Cell: (202) 507-1689



On Mon, May 8, 2017 at 2:20 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press  
<[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hello,

CNN has learned the Interior Dept. postponed all meetings of outside advisory boards/committees that advise the Interior dept. CNN is look for confirmation from Interior and we are seeking to get a better understanding of why this has been done and for how long?

I understand this would impact 38 of BLM's advisory boards among other boards. Looking for a full list of advisory boards that are frozen.

Thank you.

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**"Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>**

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue May 09 2017 15:08:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)>  
Lori Mashburn <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)>, Laura Rigas  
**CC:** <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>, "Swift, Heather"  
<[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN  
**Attachments:** Boards List.xlsx

Here is the most current list of the board names and what category they fall under (FACA/Sec Board/Operating Commissions).

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Nat

On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 4:43 PM, Bloomgren, Megan <[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Do we have a list that we could release? It will likely be FOIAed.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press** <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>  
Date: Tue, May 9, 2017 at 3:17 PM  
Subject: Re: CNN  
To: "Bloomgren, Megan" <[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)>  
Cc: "Ross, Paul" <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "[Interior Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)"  
<[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)>

Hello,

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Best,

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

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**From:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2017 at 4:53 PM  
**To:** "[RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM](mailto:RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM)" <[Rene.Marsh@turner.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@turner.com)>  
**Cc:** Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "[Interior Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)"  
<[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN

Hi Rene - most are advisory boards for specific feedback (from communities, veterans et al) on recreational, natural resource or conservation related activities on or surrounding federal lands. Scientific wouldn't be accurate. Thanks.

On Mon, May 8, 2017 at 4:27 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press

<[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Adding the press office for clarity

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "RENE.MARSH@TURNER.COM" <[Rene.Marsh@turner.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@turner.com)>  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2017 at 4:19 PM  
**To:** Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN

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**Paul R. Ross**

Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Communications  
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Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

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**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed May 10 2017 08:08:12 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN

FYI: CNN still said that a spokesperson said about one-third of all the boards are "scientific". May not be a big deal, but I noticed in this email chain you specifically said that it would be inaccurate to label the boards "scientific in nature".

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/08/politics/interior-department-ryan-zinke-science/index.html>

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928



# Conversation Contents

## Committee List

### Attachments:

/42. Committee List/1.1 2017 DOI Committee List, 02 15 17.docx

/42. Committee List/4.1 Federal Register Meeting Notice DTS Report, 04 19 17.xlsx

**"Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Apr 25 2017 06:47:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Committee List  
**Attachments:** 2017 DOI Committee List, 02 15 17.docx

Hi Natalie,

Here's the list that you requested.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,  
Margaret

--

Margaret Triebisch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Apr 25 2017 07:22:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Triebisch, Margaret" <margaret\_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Committee List

Oh I'm sorry- I didn't mean to ask you to do the work in highlighting FACA board list. I was talking about the one FACA board list with up coming meeting dates/showing discretionary/non-discretionary/etc. list. The one we went over with Lori the last two meetings and Ms. Lillie was wanting completed last week. I was going to put it in an electronic file.

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**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue Apr 25 2017 07:24:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Triebsch, Margaret" <[margaret\\_triebsch@ios.doi.gov](mailto:margaret_triebsch@ios.doi.gov)>  
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**Sent:** Tue Apr 25 2017 07:42:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Committee List  
**Attachments:** Federal Register Meeting Notice DTS Report, 04 19 17.xlsx

No worries. It's not a problem at all. :)



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(202) 208-4524  
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(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

--

Margaret Triebsch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-4524  
(202) 219-2100 - FAX  
(202) 674-2067 - Cell  
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928



# Conversation Contents

## Draft Email

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 21 2017 09:34:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Draft Email

Hi All,

I want to inform you of upcoming FACA Board meetings that have been published in the Federal Register. We need to decide if cancellation notices will be sent out for the following Boards:

*Northern California District Resource Advisory Council (BLM)*  
*Date: 4/26/17*

*Albuquerque District Resource Advisory Council, New Mexico (BLM)*  
*Date: 5/1/17*

*Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Advisory Council (BLM)*  
*Date: 5/3/17*

*John Day - Snake Resource Advisory Council, Oregon (BLM)*  
*Dates: 5/18/17- 5/19/17*

*Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (BLM)*  
*Dates: 6/1/17, 8/24/17, 12/7/17*

*U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (ONRR)*  
*Dates: 6/7/17- 6/8/17, 11/15/17- 11/16/17*

Please note that some meeting are happening within the next couple weeks. We will need to let Exec Sect know of our decision today.

Thanks,  
Lori

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**"Mashburn, Lori" <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Mashburn, Lori" <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 21 2017 09:45:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
James Cason <james\_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel  
<scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey"  
<downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech  
**To:** <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani  
<daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Megan Bloomgren  
<megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Draft Email

Hello All,

In light of our discussions about postponing board meetings while we review, I wanted to let you know that there are several FACA boards that already published all of their meetings for the year in the Federal Register. If we do nothing, these meetings will proceed. Guidance would be appreciated on next steps from here. Please see below the list of boards and meeting dates. There is one scheduled for next week.

*Northern California District Resource Advisory Council (BLM)*

*Date: 4/26/17*

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*Date: 5/1/17*

*Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Advisory Council (BLM)*

*Date: 5/3/17*

*John Day - Snake Resource Advisory Council, Oregon (BLM)*

*Dates: 5/18/17- 5/19/17*

*Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (BLM)*

*Dates: 6/1/17, 8/24/17, 12/7/17*

*U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (ONRR)*

*Dates: 6/7/17- 6/8/17, 11/15/17- 11/16/17*

Thanks,  
Lori

**"Bloomgren, Megan" <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Fri Apr 21 2017 10:34:27 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Mashburn, Lori" <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
James Cason <james\_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel  
<scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey"  
<downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech  
**CC:** <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani  
<daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis  
<natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Email

Thanks for flagging, Lori. I'd suggest that we understand from Kate and Kathy (since most are in BLM) which of these are noteworthy (given potential agenda items) and worth postponing and plan FR notices to do so. I'd say that the last one (ONRR) is at least worth rescheduling. If others agree with this path forward, I can reach out to Kate and Kathy to offer their input soonest.

Thanks,  
Meg

On Fri, Apr 21, 2017 at 11:45 AM, Mashburn, Lori <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Hello All,

In light of our discussions about postponing board meetings while we review, I wanted to let you know that there are several FACA boards that already published all of their meetings for the year in the Federal Register. If we do nothing, these meetings will proceed. Guidance would be appreciated on next steps from here. Please see below the list of boards and meeting dates. There is one scheduled for next week.

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*Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (BLM)*  
*Dates: 6/1/17, 8/24/17, 12/7/17*

*U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (ONRR)*  
*Dates: 6/7/17- 6/8/17, 11/15/17- 11/16/17*

Thanks,  
Lori

---

**Downey Magallanes <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>**



**From:** Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 21 2017 10:36:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Mashburn, Lori" <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
James Cason <james\_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel  
<scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech  
**CC:** <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani  
<daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Megan Bloomgren  
<megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis  
<natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Email

Lori- I will come chat with you about this

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 21, 2017, at 11:46 AM, Mashburn, Lori <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hello All,

In light of our discussions about postponing board meetings while we review, I wanted to let you know that there are several FACA boards that already published all of their meetings for the year in the Federal Register. If we do nothing, these meetings will proceed. Guidance would be appreciated on next steps from here. Please see below the list of boards and meeting dates. There is one scheduled for next week.

*Northern California District Resource Advisory Council (BLM)*  
*Date: 4/26/17*

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*Date: 5/1/17*

*Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Advisory Council (BLM)*  
*Date: 5/3/17*

*John Day - Snake Resource Advisory Council, Oregon (BLM)*  
*Dates: 5/18/17- 5/19/17*

*Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (BLM)*  
*Dates: 6/1/17, 8/24/17, 12/7/17*

*U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (ONRR)*  
*Dates: 6/7/17- 6/8/17, 11/15/17- 11/16/17*

Thanks,  
Lori

---

**Downey Magallanes <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>**

**From:** Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 21 2017 11:07:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>  
"Mashburn, Lori" <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason  
<james\_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel  
**CC:** <scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech  
<douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani  
<daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis  
<natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Email

I have discussed with Kate a few days ago I am sorry to now fill the group in will come chat

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 21, 2017, at 12:35 PM, Bloomgren, Megan <[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for flagging, Lori. I'd suggest that we understand from Kate and Kathy (since most are in BLM) which of these are noteworthy (given potential agenda items) and worth postponing and plan FR notices to do so. I'd say that the last one (ONRR) is at least worth rescheduling. If others agree with this path forward, I can reach out to Kate and Kathy to offer their input soonest.

Thanks,  
Meg

On Fri, Apr 21, 2017 at 11:45 AM, Mashburn, Lori <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hello All,

In light of our discussions about postponing board meetings while we review, I wanted to let you know that there are several FACA boards that already published all of their meetings for the year in the Federal Register. If we do nothing, these meetings will proceed. Guidance would be appreciated on next steps from here. Please see below the list of boards and meeting dates. There is one scheduled for next week.

*Northern California District Resource Advisory Council (BLM)*  
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*Date: 5/1/17*

*Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Advisory Council (BLM)*  
*Date: 5/3/17*

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*Dates: 6/1/17, 8/24/17, 12/7/17*

*U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (ONRR)*  
*Dates: 6/7/17- 6/8/17, 11/15/17- 11/16/17*

Thanks,  
Lori



# Conversation Contents

**Boards List**

**Attachments:**

/45. Boards List/1.1 Boards and Commissions (all).doc

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed Apr 12 2017 14:34:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Boards List  
**Attachments:** Boards and Commissions (all).doc

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

# Conversation Contents

## Materials for Thursday Valuation Rule Meeting

### Attachments:

/46. Materials for Thursday Valuation Rule Meeting/1.1 INFORMATION Memo Evolution of USEITI final.docx  
/46. Materials for Thursday Valuation Rule Meeting/1.2  
InfoBriefing\_Secretary\_StayRule.docx  
/46. Materials for Thursday Valuation Rule Meeting/1.3 INFORMATION Briefing RPC Comparison.docx

**"Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 22 2017 11:52:24 GMT-0700 (MST)  
Daniel Jorjani <daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Katharine Macgregor <katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kathleen\_benedetto@ios.doi.gov>, Matthew McKeown <matthew.mckeown@sol.doi.gov>, Megan Bloomgren <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>, Melissa Simpson <melissa\_simpson@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, "Michael D. Nedd" <mnedd@blm.gov>, Nancy Guiden <nancy\_guiden@ios.doi.gov>, Ruthie Jefferson <rjefferson@blm.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Kaster <amanda\_kaster@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Materials for Thursday Valuation Rule Meeting  
INFORMATION Memo Evolution of USEITI final.docx  
**Attachments:** InfoBriefing\_Secretary\_StayRule.docx INFORMATION Briefing RPC Comparison.docx

All,

Please find attached materials from Gary Frazer for the Valuation Rule Meeting on Thursday at 9am.

Thanks

Gareth

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Tel: 202-208-6291  
Fax: 202-208-1873  
Cell: 202-957-8299

**"Jefferson, Ruthie" <rjefferson@blm.gov>**

---

**From:** "Jefferson, Ruthie" <rjefferson@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 22 2017 12:10:28 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>  
Daniel Jorjani <daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Katharine Macgregor <katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kathleen\_benedetto@ios.doi.gov>, Matthew McKeown <matthew.mckeown@sol.doi.gov>, Megan Bloomgren <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>, Melissa Simpson <melissa\_simpson@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, "Michael D. Nedd" <mnedd@blm.gov>, Nancy Guiden <nancy\_guiden@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Kaster <amanda\_kaster@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Re: Materials for Thursday Valuation Rule Meeting

Thank you.

On Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 1:52 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

All,

Please find attached materials from Gary Frazer for the Valuation Rule Meeting on Thursday at 9am.

Thanks

Gareth

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Tel: 202-208-6291

Fax: 202-208-1873

Cell: 202-957-8299

--

**Ruthie M. Jefferson**  
**Executive Assistant**  
**Energy, Minerals & Realty Management (WO-300)**  
**1849 C Street, NW Room 5625**  
**Washington, DC 20240**  
**Office: 202-208-4201**  
**Cellphone: 202-725-7457**  
**Fax: 202-208-4800**  
**Email: [rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)**

**"Guiden, Nancy" <[nancy\\_guiden@ios.doi.gov](mailto:nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov)>**

---

**From:** "Guiden, Nancy" <[nancy\\_guiden@ios.doi.gov](mailto:nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 22 2017 13:06:53 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Jefferson, Ruthie" <[rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)>  
"Rees, Gareth" <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)>, Daniel Jorjani  
<[daniel\\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov](mailto:daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov)>, Douglas Domenech  
<[douglas\\_domenech@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov)>, Downey Magallanes  
<[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>, Katharine Macgregor  
<[katharine\\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov](mailto:katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov)>, Kathleen Benedetto  
<[kathleen\\_benedetto@ios.doi.gov](mailto:kathleen_benedetto@ios.doi.gov)>, Matthew McKeown  
**CC:** <[matthew.mckeown@sol.doi.gov](mailto:matthew.mckeown@sol.doi.gov)>, Megan Bloomgren  
<[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)>, Melissa Simpson  
<[melissa\\_simpson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_simpson@ios.doi.gov)>, Micah Chambers  
<[micah\\_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov)>, "Michael D. Nedd"  
<[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)>, Scott Hommel <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>,  
Amanda Kaster <[amanda\\_kaster@ios.doi.gov](mailto:amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov)>, Lori Mashburn  
<[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)>, Natalie Davis  
<[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Materials for Thursday Valuation Rule Meeting

Hi Ruthie,  
There were no documents attached to my email. Would you mind sending them again? Thanks  
so much.

Vr,

Nancy Guiden  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Immediate Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-6087

On Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 2:10 PM, Jefferson, Ruthie <[rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)> wrote:  
Thank you.

On Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 1:52 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
All,

Please find attached materials from Gary Frazer for the Valuation Rule Meeting on Thursday at 9am.

Thanks

Gareth

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202-208-6291

Fax: 202-208-1873

Cell: 202-957-8299

--

**Ruthie M. Jefferson**  
**Executive Assistant**  
**Energy, Minerals & Realty Management (WO-300)**  
**1849 C Street, NW Room 5625**  
**Washington, DC 20240**  
**Office: 202-208-4201**  
**Cellphone: 202-725-7457**  
**Fax: 202-208-4800**  
**Email: [rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)**

---

**"Jefferson, Ruthie" <[rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)>**

**From:** "Jefferson, Ruthie" <[rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 22 2017 13:33:24 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Guiden, Nancy" <[nancy\\_guiden@ios.doi.gov](mailto:nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov)>

**CC:**

"Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Katharine Macgregor <katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kathleen\_benedetto@ios.doi.gov>, Matthew McKeown <matthew.mckeown@sol.doi.gov>, Megan Bloomgren <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>, Melissa Simpson <melissa\_simpson@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, "Michael D. Nedd" <mnedd@blm.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Kaster <amanda\_kaster@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:**

Re: Materials for Thursday Valuation Rule Meeting

Nancy

I did not send out those documents. Gareth Rees is the POC.

RJ

On Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 3:06 PM, Guiden, Nancy <[nancy\\_guiden@ios.doi.gov](mailto:nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Ruthie,

There were no documents attached to my email. Would you mind sending them again?

Thanks so much.

Vr,

Nancy Guiden  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-6087

On Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 2:10 PM, Jefferson, Ruthie <[rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)> wrote:

Thank you.

On Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 1:52 PM, Rees, Gareth <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

All,

Please find attached materials from Gary Frazer for the Valuation Rule Meeting on Thursday at 9am.

Thanks

Gareth

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary



U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202-208-6291

Fax: 202-208-1873

Cell: 202-957-8299

--

**Ruthie M. Jefferson**  
**Executive Assistant**  
**Energy, Minerals & Realty Management (WO-300)**  
**1849 C Street, NW Room 5625**  
**Washington, DC 20240**  
**Office: 202-208-4201**  
**Cellphone: 202-725-7457**  
**Fax: 202-208-4800**  
**Email: [rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)**

--

**Ruthie M. Jefferson**  
**Executive Assistant**  
**Energy, Minerals & Realty Management (WO-300)**  
**1849 C Street, NW Room 5625**  
**Washington, DC 20240**  
**Office: 202-208-4201**  
**Cellphone: 202-725-7457**  
**Fax: 202-208-4800**  
**Email: [rjefferson@blm.gov](mailto:rjefferson@blm.gov)**

# Conversation Contents

**Boards**

**Attachments:**

/47. Boards/1.1 FACA.pdf

**"Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon Feb 06 2017 09:02:42 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** Melissa Simpson <melissa\_simpson@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Boards  
**Attachments:** FACA.pdf

See Attached- FACA and Secretarial Boards and Commissions

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Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**Melissa Simpson <melissa\_simpson@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** Melissa Simpson <melissa\_simpson@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon Feb 06 2017 09:13:14 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Boards

Many thanks.

Melissa

Melissa Simpson  
Intergovernmental and External Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW Room 6211  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 706 4983 cell  
[melissa\\_simpson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_simpson@ios.doi.gov)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 6, 2017, at 11:02 AM, Davis, Natalie <[natalie\\_davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

See Attached- FACA and Secretarial Boards and Commissions

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Natalie Davis, Special Assistant  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

<FACA.pdf>



## **TWO PAGE MEMO: TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WITHDRAWAL FROM EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (EITI)**

### **I. Background**

Under Prime Minister Tony Blair, the United Kingdom founded the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2003.<sup>1</sup> The EITI works to encourage companies in oil, gas, and mining to publicly and fully disclose payments made to governments.<sup>2</sup> When it began, EITI aimed to better track the path of extractable resource revenues in countries where the revenues can sometimes be diverted away from economic growth and poverty reduction due to mismanagement and corruption.

In 2014, under President Barack Obama, the United States became the first G8 country to join the EITI. Then-Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell was quoted as saying, “U.S. EITI implementation underscores President Obama’s continued and unwavering commitment to leading by example in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance, both domestically and globally.”<sup>2</sup> In so doing, the U.S. committed itself to being fully transparent with its extractive revenue figures on both onshore and offshore federal lands.

A Reuters article on the issue from March 2017 notes the following: “The EITI initiative was primarily aimed at developing nations and most of its members are in Africa. But [along with the U.S.,] Britain, Germany and Norway also joined, while France and Australia have also expressed interest.”<sup>3</sup>

### **II. Recent Developments**

Earlier in 2017, President Trump and Congress rescinded a Securities and Exchange Commission rule requiring U.S. resource extraction companies to disclose payments to international governments.<sup>4</sup> The Economist was one of the first publications to report on the Trump Administration’s consideration of withdrawal from EITI, in February 2017 – their report gives substantive detail on the consequences of withdrawal and is a recommended read.<sup>5</sup> The New Yorker ran two pieces on it, one in April 2017<sup>6</sup> and the other in August 2017.<sup>4</sup>

### **III. Talking Points and Philosophy**

- President Trump is committed to putting America first. The previous administration prioritized economic development in foreign nations over the

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<sup>1</sup> [EITI London Conference, 17 June 2003 Statement of Principles and Agreed Actions](#) – U.K. Government website

<sup>2</sup> [United States Joins EITI to Further Transparency in the Extractive Industries](#) – World Bank website

<sup>3</sup> [U.S. sticks to global transparency initiative after Congress repeal](#) – Reuters

<sup>4</sup> [The Trump Administration rolls back anti-corruption efforts in the oil industry](#) – New Yorker

<sup>5</sup> [Donald Trump signs a law repealing a disclosure rule for oil companies](#) – The Economist

<sup>6</sup> [Did the U.S. just pull out of a global anti-corruption group?](#) – New Yorker

financial competitiveness of U.S. entities on the world stage. The Trump Administration seeks to achieve American energy dominance.

- The EITI was designed to hold developing nations, prone to corruption, to account. A German study from 2016 notes that just three of the 34 OECD nations (one of them being the United States) have implemented the EITI.<sup>7</sup> In addition, countries like Russia, Iran, and China, among many other non-OECD nations who compete against the United States, are not party to EITI.
- Under previous administrations, the United States entered into many multinational agreements where U.S. economic interests were little represented and American business' competitiveness were undermined. Implementing a set of anticompetitive standards for your own nation's businesses, while a fair amount of foreign companies don't have to comply, is unfair to American business and bad for American national security.
- Global development media platform Devex ran a piece in May 2013 criticizing the application of the EITI, entitled "A little more transparency at EITI can go a long way." The piece uses the following line, which is a relevant talking point: **"[EITI] creates an uneven playing field in which law-abiding international investors may be put at a disadvantage to potentially unscrupulous companies that can cut special deals with host governments that will never be exposed to the light of day."**<sup>8</sup>
- Many of the President's criticisms of the Trans Pacific Partnership and Paris Climate Accords are applicable here. Just as the President stated he was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris, he was elected to first represent the interests of citizens of the United States, not developing nations. The U.S. will vigorously defend its sovereignty under President Trump.
- On the President's rescission of the SEC rule that relates to the EITI, then-White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer noted the following at a press briefing on February 14, 2017: **"Misguided federal regulations, such as the SEC rule addressed by HJR 41, inflict real cost on the American people and put our businesses, especially small businesses, at a significant disadvantage."**<sup>9</sup>
- House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy had the following to say about the SEC rule on January 25, 2017: **"The House will also take the ax to the Securities and Exchange Commission's disclosure rule for resource extraction, which adds an unreasonable compliance burden on American energy companies that isn't applied to their foreign competitors. This rule, which closely mimics a regulation already struck down by the courts, would put American businesses at a competitive disadvantage."**<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> [Implementation of the EITI in G7, EU and OECD countries](#) – Deutschland - EITI

<sup>8</sup> [A little more transparency at EITI can go a long way](#) – Devex

<sup>9</sup> [Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sean Spicer, 2/14/2017, #12](#) – The White House

<sup>10</sup> [Leader McCarthy's WSJ Op-Ed: How the House Will Roll Back Washington's Rule by Bureaucrat](#) – Majority Leader

# U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

## Advisory Committee

### FACA Committee Description Sheet

Committee	U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee													
DFO	Greg Gould, (202) 208-4113													
Chairperson	Danielle Brian & Veronika Kohler													
Year Created	2012													
Authorization	Discretionary - Agency													
Charter (if any) or alternate organizing document	August 15, 2016 – August 15, 2018 (Copy Attached)  <a href="https://www.doi.gov/eiti">https://www.doi.gov/eiti</a>													
Description of committee, board, council, etc.	<p>In September 2011, the U.S. announced that it would begin the multi-year process of becoming an EITI compliant country. The U.S. intends to implement EITI to provide accessible and useful information about public resources and their associated revenues. Doing so better informs public policy and strengthens public trust. With this effort in participatory government and collaborative decision making, public financial management will be enhanced and citizens will have easier and more understandable access to information about public resources which the government manages on their behalf.</p> <p>In December 2012, following a comprehensive stakeholder assessment and call for nominations, the Secretary of the Interior formed the <b>USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)</b> Federal Advisory Committee, also known as the MSG. The MSG is comprised of 21 members and 20 alternates who represent a variety of stakeholders (government, states, tribes, industry, and civil society). The USEITI MSG has been meeting regularly since February 2013 to oversee USEITI implementation, define the scope and materiality for initial reporting, prepare an application for EITI candidacy, and meet the requirements contained in the EITI Standard.</p> <p>In December 2013, the Secretary of the Interior submitted the application for candidacy and in March 19, 2014, the U.S. became an EITI candidate country. The U.S. published its first USEITI Report in December 2015 and its second Report in November 2016.</p> <p>The 2017 Report will be submitted to the EITI International Board for validation in April of 2018. If approved, the U.S. will be fully EITI Compliant.</p>													
FY 2016 Costs	<div><div>\$2,130,065/5.63 Federal Staff Support</div><table><tr><th colspan="3">Costs</th></tr><tr><th colspan="3">Current figures for this Fiscal Year</th></tr><tr><td colspan="3">(These are updated throughout the year.)</td></tr><tr><td>Payments to Non-Federal Members:</td><td>\$0</td><td>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies given by the Government to any advisory committee member who is not a Federal employee and who is not a consultant, where the</td></tr></table></div>		Costs			Current figures for this Fiscal Year			(These are updated throughout the year.)			Payments to Non-Federal Members:	\$0	This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies given by the Government to any advisory committee member who is not a Federal employee and who is not a consultant, where the
Costs														
Current figures for this Fiscal Year														
(These are updated throughout the year.)														
Payments to Non-Federal Members:	\$0	This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies given by the Government to any advisory committee member who is not a Federal employee and who is not a consultant, where the												



			monies are not reimbursement for travel expenses.
	Payments to Federal Members:	\$120,045	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies paid by the Government to any advisory committee member who is a Federal employee. The amount may simply be their salaries (including benefits) for the days they attended committee meetings or otherwise worked on committee activity. In the rare situation where the Federal member is on leave from their Federal responsibility to work on advisory committee activity, the amount reported should be the combination of their salary (including benefits) and any additional monies paid by the office sponsoring the advisory committee, where the monies are not reimbursement for travel expenses.</i>
	Payments to Federal Staff:	\$876,412	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies paid to any Federal employees who are not committee members but whose work supports the activity of the committee. This includes the DFO if he or she is not an appointed member. <b>Here's an example of costs attributable to a committee.</b> A GS-11 with a salary level including locality pay of \$53,000 per year is spending 10% of his/her duty time working as an assistant staff director for a committee. The total cost of the GS-11 for committee activity is salary plus benefits (figure 17% for benefits) times 10% or \$6,202. In this case the dollar amount of <b>6201</b> should be included in <b>Payments to Federal Staff</b>. Cost for Federal members and Federal staff should always include benefits costs. To compute benefits, you can multiply salary by the benefit percentage generally used by your agency (normally between 14% to 18%) or by the Government average of 16%.</i>
	Payments to Consultants:	\$1,023,494	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies paid to consultants to the committee. These consultants are not appointed members, nor are they Federal employees, and the payments are not reimbursement for travel expenses.</i>
	Reimbur. for Travel: Non-Federal Members:	\$42,384	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and should include all travel and per diem costs incurred by committee activity and authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703 and paid to <b>Non-Federal members</b>.</i>
	Reimbursement for Travel: Federal Members:	\$15,725	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and should include all travel and per diem costs incurred by committee activity and authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703 and paid to <b>Federal members</b>.</i>

	Reimbursement for Travel: Federal Staff:	\$27,303	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and should include all travel and per diem costs incurred by committee activity and paid to <b>Federal Staff</b>.</i>
	Reimbursement for Travel: Consultants:	\$17,384	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and should include all travel and per diem costs incurred by committee activity and authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703 and paid to <b>Consultants</b>.</i>
	Other:	\$7,318	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category. This field includes all administrative costs not attributable either to personnel payments or to travel and per diem. This may include the costs of meeting rooms, transcripts, maintenance of a committee web site, etc.</i>
	Total:	\$2,130,065	<i>This item is required and the program computes and inserts the totals when the user clicks <b>Save Changes</b>. This field cannot be edited. Changes are made to this value by entering data in the correct boxes above and clicking <b>Save Changes</b>. Please be careful to enter your figures in the correct fields and do not leave any fields blank. <b>NOTE:</b> In calculating personnel payments and other costs associated with Federal advisory committee activities under FACA, only those discrete costs directly related to the committee's scope and duties should be reported. Agencies must assure that only those incremental costs necessary to directly support the committee are captured for purposes of this Current FY Annual Comprehensive Review. As a general rule, agencies should not include expenses which: (1) are part of ongoing program activities; (2) are incurred as part of efforts not directly related to the committee's functions; or (3) were programmed for other purposes prior to the establishment of the committee. Each agency should follow any additional internal guidance developed or derived from either statutory or other administrative authorities which are peculiar to that agency. Any questions concerning a specific agency's advisory committee cost reporting for this Current FY Annual Comprehensive Review, or regarding the guidance provided in these instructions, should be directed to the Committee Management Secretariat.</i>
	Federal Staff Support:	5.63	<i>This item is required and is the total of the Federal FTE count supporting the committee's activities, to the nearest tenth, e.g., <b>4.3</b>. There should be a direct comparable relationship in fiscal value between item <b>Federal Staff Support</b> and <b>Payments to Federal Staff</b>. In the example for <b>Payments to Federal Staff</b> above (10% of his/her duty time) <b>Federal</b></i>

			<i>Staff Support should show .1 FTE for the Federal staff member working as an assistant staff director on the committee's work.</i>
FY 2016 Recommendations	0		
Total Recommendations for Life of the Committee	2		
Subcommittees	Candidacy Application Communications Implementation Outreach State and Tribal Opt-in		
Meeting Dates	Location		
2/1-2/2017	Washington, DC - Federal Register Meeting Notice published on December 29, 2016		
6/7-8/2017	Washington, DC - Meeting Postponed - Federal Register Meeting Notice published on December 29, 2016		
11/15-16/2017	Washington, DC - Federal Register Meeting Notice published on December 29, 2016		

Members/Alternates		
Name	Interest or Organization Represented	Term Limit
See Attached		



**United States Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary**

**United States Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative  
Advisory Committee**

**Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** United States Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI) Advisory Committee (Committee).
2. **Authority.** The Committee is in the public interest in connection with the responsibilities of the Department of the Interior and other agencies of the Federal Government. The Department of the Interior (Department) is renewing this Committee and ensuring that the Federal Government's interests are considered and represented in the work of this Committee. Authority for this Committee is under the:
  - Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2;
  - U.S. National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership;
  - Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. § 1331-56a), including provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. § 15801);
  - Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996 (30 U.S.C. § 1701-02);
  - Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. § 1001-28);
  - Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. § 181-96);
  - Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. § 351-60);
  - Mineral Leasing Laws for Indian Land (30 U.S.C. § 1791-2); and other related authorities.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a global initiative that seeks to promote transparency and accountability of natural resources revenues by reconciling industry payments and government revenues and publicly disclosing that information in accessible and comprehensible EITI reports. The EITI standard requires implementing countries to ensure an effective, functional and inclusive Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) comprised of representatives from government, industry, and civil society to oversee the implementation of USEITI. The standard also requires the MSG to develop and maintain a fully-costed work plan aligned with the reporting and validation deadlines established by the EITI Board. The Committee will fulfill the EITI Standard requirements by serving as the MSG, including providing collaborative and consensus-based oversight of USEITI implementation, and by acting as a forum for consultation among the stakeholders. The Committee's advice to the Secretary will be made available to all other interested parties and the public.
4. **Description of Duties.** The Committee will serve as the MSG and its duties will include consideration and fulfillment of the tasks required to achieve and maintain EITI compliant status. In that capacity, the Committee will:

- Oversee the USEITI implementation process and communicate the findings of the USEITI Report, and make recommendations to promote the integration of EITI into broader natural resources revenue transparency efforts.
  - Develop and recommend to the Secretary a fully-costed annual work plan, containing measurable targets and a timetable for implementation, and incorporating an assessment of capacity constraints. This plan shall be developed in consultation with key EITI stakeholders and published upon completion.
  - Advise the Secretary and post for consideration by other stakeholders, proposals for conducting long-term oversight and other activities necessary to achieve and maintain EITI compliant status based on the EITI Standard issued on February 23, 2016.
  - Provide opportunities for collaboration and consultation among stakeholders.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee will report to the Secretary through the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget.
  6. **Support.** Support for activities of the Committee will be provided by the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Natural Resources Revenue Management and the USEITI Secretariat, with funding and administrative support provided by the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.
  7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee's functions, including all direct and indirect expenses, are estimated to be \$1,510,000 plus the support of approximately 4.5 equivalent full-time employees.
  8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget who is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO, or designee, will approve or call all of the Committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
  9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Committee will meet approximately four times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
  10. **Duration.** Continuing.
  11. **Termination.** The Committee will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the FACA. The Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. **Membership and Designation.** The Committee will consist of approximately 24 members, but will not exceed 27 members. The Secretary may appoint members selected from, but not limited to:

- Up to 9 members representing the extractive industry, including oil, gas, and mining companies, and industry-related trade associations.
- Up to 9 members representing civil society organizations, including organizations with interest in the extractive industry, transparency, and government oversight and members of the public, as well as public and/or private investors.
- Up to 9 members representing the Federal, State, and/or local government interests, Tribal governments and individual Indian mineral owners.

Members are appointed to serve 3-year terms.

Alternate members may be appointed to the Committee. Alternate members must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending meetings as representatives. Alternate members shall have experience and/or expertise similar to that of the primary member.

Non-Federal members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee or subcommittee members engaged in Committee or subcommittee business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Federal Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

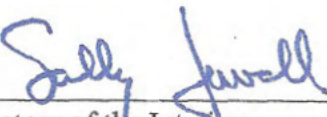
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The Secretary will appoint the Committee Chair. Co-chairs will be appointed pursuant to USEITI MSG Terms of Reference.

13. **Ethics Responsibility.** No Committee or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.



15. **Recordkeeping.** The records of the Committee, and formally and informally established subcommittees, shall be handled in accordance with the General Records Schedule 6.2, and other Agency approved records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Interior

AUG 03 2016

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

AUG 15 2016

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Filed

**United States Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary**

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**Charter**

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  10. **Duration.** Continuing.
  11. **Termination.** The Committee will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the FACA. The Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.



- 12. Membership and Designation.** The Committee will consist of approximately 24 members, but will not exceed 27 members. The Secretary may appoint members selected from, but not limited to:

- Up to 9 members representing the extractive industry, including oil, gas, and mining companies, and industry-related trade associations.
- Up to 9 members representing civil society organizations, including organizations with interest in the extractive industry, transparency, and government oversight and members of the public, as well as public and/or private investors.
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Members are appointed to serve 3-year terms.

Alternate members may be appointed to the Committee. Alternate members must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending meetings as representatives. Alternate members shall have experience and/or expertise similar to that of the primary member.

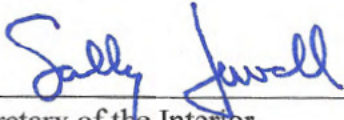
Non-Federal members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee or subcommittee members engaged in Committee or subcommittee business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Federal Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

Any vacancy on the Committee will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. All members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

The Secretary will appoint the Committee Chair. Co-chairs will be appointed pursuant to USEITI MSG Terms of Reference.

- 13. Ethics Responsibility.** No Committee or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
- 14. Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **Recordkeeping.** The records of the Committee, and formally and informally established subcommittees, shall be handled in accordance with the General Records Schedule 6.2, and other Agency approved records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

AUG 03 2016

Date

Date Filed

# Multi-Stakeholder Group

## List of Members

### CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR

Name	Appt. Type	Organization	Contact Details
Danielle Brian	Primary Co-Chair	Project on Government Oversight	202-347-1122 <a href="mailto:dbrian@pogo.org">dbrian@pogo.org</a>
Rebecca Adamson	Primary	First Peoples Worldwide	540-899-6545 <a href="mailto:radamson@firstpeoples.org">radamson@firstpeoples.org</a>
Paul Bugala	Primary	American University	202-558-8165 <a href="mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com">(b) (6)@gmail.com</a>
Lynda Farrell	Primary	Pipeline Safety Coalition	484-340-0648 <a href="mailto:lynda@pscoalition.org">lynda@pscoalition.org</a>
Michael LeVine	Primary	Oceana	907-586-4050 <a href="mailto:mlevine@oceana.org">mlevine@oceana.org</a>
Keith Romig, Jr.	Primary	United Steelworkers	412-562-2511 <a href="mailto:kromig@usw.org">kromig@usw.org</a>
Michael Ross	Primary	Natural Resources Governance Institute	646-929-9750 <a href="mailto:mlross@polisci.ucla.edu">mlross@polisci.ucla.edu</a>
VACANCY	Primary		
Betsy Taylor	Primary	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	859-229-2404 <a href="mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com">(b) (6)@gmail.com</a>
Neil Brown	Alternate	Lugar Center	515-850-0030 <a href="mailto:neil@neilrobertbrown.com">neil@neilrobertbrown.com</a>
David Chambers	Alternate	Center for Science in Public Participation	406-585-9854 <a href="mailto:dchambers@csp2.org">dchambers@csp2.org</a>
Daniel Dudis	Alternate	Public Citizen	202-454-5103 <a href="mailto:ddudis@citizen.org">ddudis@citizen.org</a>
Jennifer Krill	Alternate	Earthworks	202-887-1872 <a href="mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com">(b) (6)@gmail.com</a>
Zorka Milin	Alternate	Global Witness	607-262-0364 <a href="mailto:zmilin@globalwitness.org">zmilin@globalwitness.org</a>
Jana Morgan	Alternate	Publish What You Pay	202-496-1189 <a href="mailto:jmorgan@pwypusa.org">jmorgan@pwypusa.org</a>
Isabel Munilla	Alternate	Oxfam America	202-496-1179 <a href="mailto:imunilla@oxfamamerica.org">imunilla@oxfamamerica.org</a>
Brian Sanson	Alternate	United Mine Workers of America	703-291-2420 <a href="mailto:bsanson@umwa.org">bsanson@umwa.org</a>
VACANCY	Alternate		

Updated as of 05/11/2017



## INDUSTRY SECTOR

Name	Appt. Type	Organization	Contact Details
Veronika Kohler	Primary Co-Chair	National Mining Association	202-463-2600 <a href="mailto:vkohler@nma.org">vkohler@nma.org</a>
Stella Alvarado	Primary	Anadarko Petroleum	832-636-7581 <a href="mailto:Stella.alvarado@anadarko.com">Stella.alvarado@anadarko.com</a>
Phil Denning	Primary	Shell Oil Company	832-337-0399 <a href="mailto:phillip.denning@shell.com">phillip.denning@shell.com</a>
Michael Gardner	Primary	Rio Tinto	801-204-2508 <a href="mailto:Michael.Gardner@riotinto.com">Michael.Gardner@riotinto.com</a>
Susan Ginsberg	Primary	Independent Petroleum Association of America	202-857-4728 <a href="mailto:sginsberg@ipaa.org">sginsberg@ipaa.org</a>
Johanna Nesseth	Primary	Chevron	202-408-5806 <a href="mailto:johanna.nesseth@chevron.com">johanna.nesseth@chevron.com</a>
Michael Blank	Primary	Peabody Energy	314-588-2739 <a href="mailto:mblank@peabodyenergy.com">mblank@peabodyenergy.com</a>
VACANCY	Primary		
VACANCY	Primary		
Chris Chambers	Alternate	Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.	602-366-7625 <a href="mailto:Christopher_chambers@fmi.com">Christopher_chambers@fmi.com</a>
Nicholas Cotts	Alternate	Newmont Mining	720-207-4002 <a href="mailto:nicholas.cotts@newmont.com">nicholas.cotts@newmont.com</a>
Edwin Mongan	Alternate	BHP Billiton Petroleum	713-297-7207 <a href="mailto:edwin.mongan@bhpbilliton.com">edwin.mongan@bhpbilliton.com</a>
Aaron Padilla	Alternate	American Petroleum Institute	202-682-8468 <a href="mailto:padillaa@api.org">padillaa@api.org</a>
David Romig	Alternate	Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas	713-579-6074 <a href="mailto:david_romig@fmi.com">david_romig@fmi.com</a>
Nick Welch	Alternate	Noble Energy Inc.	202-263-5170 <a href="mailto:nick.welch@nblenergy.com">nick.welch@nblenergy.com</a>
VACANCY	Alternate		
VACANCY	Alternate		
VACANCY	Alternate		

# GOVERNMENT SECTOR

Name	Appt. Type	Organization	Contact Details
Greg Gould	Primary Co-Chair	Department of the Interior	202-208-3096 <a href="mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov">greg.gould@onrr.gov</a>
Curtis Carlson	Primary	Department of the Treasury	202-622-0130 <a href="mailto:curtis.carlson@treasury.gov">curtis.carlson@treasury.gov</a>
Julie Lenoir	Primary	Blackfeet Nation	406-338-5545 ext 2325 <a href="mailto:jlenoir@blackfeetnation.com">jlenoir@blackfeetnation.com</a>
Mike Matthews	Primary	State of Wyoming - Department of Audit	307-777-7547 <a href="mailto:mike.matthews@wyo.gov">mike.matthews@wyo.gov</a>
Mike Smith	Primary	Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission	405-525-3556 <a href="mailto:mike.smith@iogcc.state.ok.us">mike.smith@iogcc.state.ok.us</a>
Claire Ware	Primary	Eastern Shoshone & Northern Arapaho Tribes	307- 332-7835 <b>(b) (6)</b> <a href="mailto:@yahoo.com">@yahoo.com</a>
VACANCY	Primary		
VACANCY	Primary		
VACANCY	Primary		
Bruce Barnett	Alternate	Choctaw Nation	580-924-8280 ext 2186 <a href="mailto:bbarnett@choctawnation.com">bbarnett@choctawnation.com</a>
Jim Steward	Alternate	Department of the Interior	303-231-3715 <a href="mailto:jim.steward@onrr.gov">jim.steward@onrr.gov</a>
Marina Voskanian	Alternate	California State Lands Commission	562-590-5291 <a href="mailto:marina.voskanian@slc.ca.gov">marina.voskanian@slc.ca.gov</a>
VACANCY	Alternate		
VACANCY	Alternate		
VACANCY	Alternate		
VACANCY	Alternate		
VACANCY	Alternate		
VACANCY	Alternate		

# U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

## Advisory Committee

### FACA Committee Description Sheet

Committee	U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee													
DFO	Greg Gould, (202) 208-4113													
Chairperson	Danielle Brian & Veronika Kohler													
Year Created	2012													
Authorization	Discretionary - Agency													
Charter (if any) or alternate organizing document	August 15, 2016 – August 15, 2018 (Copy Attached)  <a href="https://www.doi.gov/eiti">https://www.doi.gov/eiti</a>													
Description of committee, board, council, etc.	<p>In September 2011, the U.S. announced that it would begin the multi-year process of becoming an EITI compliant country. The U.S. intends to implement EITI to provide accessible and useful information about public resources and their associated revenues. Doing so better informs public policy and strengthens public trust. With this effort in participatory government and collaborative decision making, public financial management will be enhanced and citizens will have easier and more understandable access to information about public resources which the government manages on their behalf.</p> <p>In December 2012, following a comprehensive stakeholder assessment and call for nominations, the Secretary of the Interior formed the <b>USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)</b> Federal Advisory Committee, also known as the MSG. The MSG is comprised of 21 members and 20 alternates who represent a variety of stakeholders (government, states, tribes, industry, and civil society). The USEITI MSG has been meeting regularly since February 2013 to oversee USEITI implementation, define the scope and materiality for initial reporting, prepare an application for EITI candidacy, and meet the requirements contained in the EITI Standard.</p> <p>In December 2013, the Secretary of the Interior submitted the application for candidacy and in March 19, 2014, the U.S. became an EITI candidate country. The U.S. published its first USEITI Report in December 2015 and its second Report in November 2016.</p> <p>The 2017 Report will be submitted to the EITI International Board for validation in April of 2018. If approved, the U.S. will be fully EITI Compliant.</p>													
FY 2016 Costs	<div><div>\$2,130,065/5.63 Federal Staff Support</div><table><tr><th colspan="3">Costs</th></tr><tr><th colspan="3">Current figures for this Fiscal Year</th></tr><tr><td colspan="3">(These are updated throughout the year.)</td></tr><tr><td>Payments to Non-Federal Members:</td><td>\$0</td><td><i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies given by the Government to any advisory committee member who is not a Federal employee and who is not a consultant, where the</i></td></tr></table></div>		Costs			Current figures for this Fiscal Year			(These are updated throughout the year.)			Payments to Non-Federal Members:	\$0	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies given by the Government to any advisory committee member who is not a Federal employee and who is not a consultant, where the</i>
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			monies are not reimbursement for travel expenses.
	Payments to Federal Members:	\$120,045	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies paid by the Government to any advisory committee member who is a Federal employee. The amount may simply be their salaries (including benefits) for the days they attended committee meetings or otherwise worked on committee activity. In the rare situation where the Federal member is on leave from their Federal responsibility to work on advisory committee activity, the amount reported should be the combination of their salary (including benefits) and any additional monies paid by the office sponsoring the advisory committee, where the monies are not reimbursement for travel expenses.</i>
	Payments to Federal Staff:	\$876,412	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies paid to any Federal employees who are not committee members but whose work supports the activity of the committee. This includes the DFO if he or she is not an appointed member. <b>Here's an example of costs attributable to a committee.</b> A GS-11 with a salary level including locality pay of \$53,000 per year is spending 10% of his/her duty time working as an assistant staff director for a committee. The total cost of the GS-11 for committee activity is salary plus benefits (figure 17% for benefits) times 10% or \$6,202. In this case the dollar amount of <b>6201</b> should be included in <b>Payments to Federal Staff</b>. Cost for Federal members and Federal staff should always include benefits costs. To compute benefits, you can multiply salary by the benefit percentage generally used by your agency (normally between 14% to 18%) or by the Government average of 16%.</i>
	Payments to Consultants:	\$1,023,494	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and represents the value of any monies paid to consultants to the committee. These consultants are not appointed members, nor are they Federal employees, and the payments are not reimbursement for travel expenses.</i>
	Reimbur. for Travel: Non-Federal Members:	\$42,384	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and should include all travel and per diem costs incurred by committee activity and authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703 and paid to <b>Non-Federal members</b>.</i>
	Reimbursement for Travel: Federal Members:	\$15,725	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and should include all travel and per diem costs incurred by committee activity and authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703 and paid to <b>Federal members</b>.</i>

	Reimbursement for Travel: Federal Staff:	\$27,303	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category and should include all travel and per diem costs incurred by committee activity and paid to <b>Federal Staff</b>.</i>
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	Other:	\$7,318	<i>This item is required if funds are spent in this category. This field includes all administrative costs not attributable either to personnel payments or to travel and per diem. This may include the costs of meeting rooms, transcripts, maintenance of a committee web site, etc.</i>
	Total:	\$2,130,065	<i>This item is required and the program computes and inserts the totals when the user clicks <b>Save Changes</b>. This field cannot be edited. Changes are made to this value by entering data in the correct boxes above and clicking <b>Save Changes</b>. Please be careful to enter your figures in the correct fields and do not leave any fields blank. <b>NOTE:</b> In calculating personnel payments and other costs associated with Federal advisory committee activities under FACA, only those discrete costs directly related to the committee's scope and duties should be reported. Agencies must assure that only those incremental costs necessary to directly support the committee are captured for purposes of this Current FY Annual Comprehensive Review. As a general rule, agencies should not include expenses which: (1) are part of ongoing program activities; (2) are incurred as part of efforts not directly related to the committee's functions; or (3) were programmed for other purposes prior to the establishment of the committee. Each agency should follow any additional internal guidance developed or derived from either statutory or other administrative authorities which are peculiar to that agency. Any questions concerning a specific agency's advisory committee cost reporting for this Current FY Annual Comprehensive Review, or regarding the guidance provided in these instructions, should be directed to the Committee Management Secretariat.</i>
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			<i>Staff Support should show .1 FTE for the Federal staff member working as an assistant staff director on the committee's work.</i>
FY 2016 Recommendations	0		
Total Recommendations for Life of the Committee	2		
Subcommittees	Candidacy Application Communications Implementation Outreach State and Tribal Opt-in		
Meeting Dates	Location		
2/1-2/2017	Washington, DC - Federal Register Meeting Notice published on December 29, 2016		
6/7-8/2017	Washington, DC - Meeting Postponed - Federal Register Meeting Notice published on December 29, 2016		
11/15-16/2017	Washington, DC - Federal Register Meeting Notice published on December 29, 2016		

Members/Alternates		
Name	Interest or Organization Represented	Term Limit
See Attached		

# U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

## Advisory Committee

### FACA Committee Description Sheet

Committee	U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee													
DFO	Greg Gould, (202) 208-4113													
Chairperson	Danielle Brian & Veronika Kohler													
Year Created	2012													
Authorization	Discretionary - Agency													
Charter (if any) or alternate organizing document	August 15, 2016 – August 15, 2018 (Copy Attached)  <a href="https://www.doi.gov/eiti">https://www.doi.gov/eiti</a>													
Description of committee, board, council, etc.	<p>In September 2011, the U.S. announced that it would begin the multi-year process of becoming an EITI compliant country. The U.S. intends to implement EITI to provide accessible and useful information about public resources and their associated revenues. Doing so better informs public policy and strengthens public trust. With this effort in participatory government and collaborative decision making, public financial management will be enhanced and citizens will have easier and more understandable access to information about public resources which the government manages on their behalf.</p> <p>In December 2012, following a comprehensive stakeholder assessment and call for nominations, the Secretary of the Interior formed the <b>USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)</b> Federal Advisory Committee, also known as the MSG. The MSG is comprised of 21 members and 20 alternates who represent a variety of stakeholders (government, states, tribes, industry, and civil society). The USEITI MSG has been meeting regularly since February 2013 to oversee USEITI implementation, define the scope and materiality for initial reporting, prepare an application for EITI candidacy, and meet the requirements contained in the EITI Standard.</p> <p>In December 2013, the Secretary of the Interior submitted the application for candidacy and in March 19, 2014, the U.S. became an EITI candidate country. The U.S. published its first USEITI Report in December 2015 and its second Report in November 2016.</p> <p>The 2017 Report will be submitted to the EITI International Board for validation in April of 2018. If approved, the U.S. will be fully EITI Compliant.</p>													
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Subcommittees	Candidacy Application Communications Implementation Outreach State and Tribal Opt-in	
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11/15-16/2017	Washington, DC - Federal Register Meeting Notice published on December 29, 2016	

Members/Alternates		
Name	Interest or Organization Represented	Term Limit
See Attached		

# **Label: "ONRR/FOIA Request EITI/FOIA Request, OS-2018-00350"**

**Created by:judith.wilson@onrr.gov**

Total Messages in label:106 (11 conversations)

Created: 01-30-2018 at 15:18 PM



# Conversation Contents

## Comms Plan for US EITI

### Attachments:

/3. Comms Plan for US EITI/1.1 DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17.docx  
/3. Comms Plan for US EITI/4.1 DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17.docx  
/3. Comms Plan for US EITI/9.1 DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17jw rev.docx

## "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>

---

**From:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 09:55:12 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Comms Plan for US EITI  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17.docx

Hi Judy,

If you have time today, could you please look over the attached, DRAFT Comms Plan for the US EITI, before I send to Frank Quimby? Greg asked me yesterday to send this to Frank Quimby for review, before he reviews; and offering you a chance to review first, if you have time today? I pulled the Q & A's and Talking Points from your email, yesterday. You should be able to review it pretty quickly? Let me know when you would like me to send to Frank for review.

Thanks for all your help!

**Heidi Badaracco**  
Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination  
P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C  
Denver, Co 80225

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

## "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>

---

**From:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 10:00:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>

**Subject:**

Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

Thanks Heidi. The only thing I would add is a bullet or two on the DOI OIG report and a link to the report. I think Judy has a bullet or two summarizing the OIG report that includes the link.

Happy Friday!

Greg

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director*

*Office of Natural Resources Revenue*

*U.S. Department of the Interior*

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On Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 9:55 AM, Badaracco, Heidi <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)> wrote:

Hi Judy,

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**Heidi Badaracco**  
**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

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**"Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>**

**From:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 10:03:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>  
**CC:** "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

OK, I will add that in and re-send to Judy. Thanks for the quick look-over!

**Heidi Badaracco**  
**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

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**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

**"Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 11:21:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comms Plan for US EITI  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17.docx

Judy:

Please see attached DRAFT Comms Plan, to include a couple of bullets on the OIG and link to Report. For your review --

**Heidi Badaracco**  
**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gould, Greg** <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>  
Date: Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM  
Subject: Re: Comms Plan for US EITI  
To: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
Cc: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>

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EarthRights International v. US Department of Interior, 22-cv-01503-CKK00004967



US EITI, before I send to Frank Quimby? Greg asked me yesterday to send this to Frank Quimby for review, before he reviews; and offering you a chance to review first, if you have time today? I pulled the Q & A's and Talking Points from your email, yesterday. You should be able to review it pretty quickly? Let me know when you would like me to send to Frank for review.

Thanks for all your help!

**Heidi Badaracco**  
**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

**Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>**

---

**From:** Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 13:21:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
**CC:** "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Comms Plan for US EITI

I just landed. Give me a couple hours.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
Date: 10/13/17 11:55 AM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
Cc: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
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**From:** Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 13:22:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
**CC:** John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Comms Plan for US EITI

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From: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>  
Date: 10/13/17 12:01 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
Cc: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
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Happy Friday!

Greg

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue  
U.S. Department of the Interior*

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**Phone: 303-231-3434**

**"Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 13:24:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Judith Wilson <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

Thank you!

*Gregory J. Gould*

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*Director  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue  
U.S. Department of the Interior*

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Cc: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>

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**From:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 13:37:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

I added and sent you attachment a second time.

Thank you!!

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P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C  
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----- Original message -----

From: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>

Date: 10/13/17 12:01 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>

Cc: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>

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**Phone: 303-231-3434**

**"Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 15:41:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17jw rev.docx

Hi all. I reviewed and commented/revised (in track changes) the Comms plan. I do not agree that we send the comms plan /Q&As or TPs to the STRAC before we ever send the letter to the International Board.

On Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 3:24 PM, Gould, Greg <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)> wrote:  
Thank you!

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director  
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**Judy Wilson**  
**Program Manager USEITI Secretariat**  
**Office of Natural Resources Revenue**  
[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)  
**202-208-4410**

**Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 16:35:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

Agreed.

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director*  
*Office of Natural Resources Revenue*  
*U.S. Department of the Interior*

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<DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17jw rev.docx>

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE  
(ONRR)

**PRE-DECISIONAL and DELIBERATIVE**  
**Please do not distribute.**

**U.S. EITI Withdrawal  
Communication Plan**

*(This announcement is internal and not intended as a press release)*

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**As of October 16, 2017**

## BACKGROUND

The U.S. EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) Federal Advisory Committee was established in August 2012. The Committee's purpose was to serve as the initial EITI Multi-stakeholder Group (MSG), and its duties included consideration and fulfillment of the tasks required to achieve candidate and compliant status in the EITI. The Committee's Charter was renewed in 2014, and again in 2016. The MSG each year developed and recommended to the Secretary a fully-costed work plan, containing measurable targets and a timetable for implementation, and an assessment of capacity constraints. Each year the MSG developed and recommended to the Secretary an Annual Activity Report documenting the decisions, accomplishments and progress in meeting the EITI International Standard. The MSG advised the Secretary on long-term oversight and other activities necessary to achieve EITI candidate and compliant status.

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



(b) (5)

(b) (5)



## COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES

- The purpose of this Communication Plan is to inform the Department and U.S. EITI

stakeholders that the U.S. EITI Multi-stakeholder group has fulfilled its responsibilities to the Secretary as documented in the Charter. The U.S. met 8 of the 9 elements of the EITI Standard, but will not be deemed in full compliance with the Standard, due to laws prohibiting certain data disclosures by companies in regard to taxes. As a result, the U.S. EITI plans to withdraw from the EITI Standard by November 6, 2017. The U.S. will continue to maintain the U.S. EITI Data Portal and implement within our domestic statutory and regulatory context.

- ***This Communication Plan is not intended as a public Press Release.***

## **KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND AUDIENCES**

### Internal Stakeholders:

- Executive Office of the President –
  - National Security Council
  - Office of Science and Technology Policy
- DOI Bureaus and Offices
  - OS, BLM, BOEM, BSEE, OSMRE, BIA, OST
- Other Federal Agencies
  - State, Treasury
- ONRR Employees
- ONRR's State and Tribal Royalty Audit Committee (STRAC)

### External Stakeholders:

- Members of the U.S. EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group
- Congressional Officials (OCL)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Civil Society Stakeholders
- State Officials

## **KEY MESSAGES/TALKING POINTS**

### U.S. Commitment and USEITI:

- The United States remains committed to the EITI and transparency and good governance of the extractive sectors.
- The United States has led the global initiative in providing revenue related data and information in an interactive, open-source data portal and by regularly engaging with other implementing countries to share our best practices.
- USEITI's second report demonstrated for the second year in a row the government's robust audit and assurance practices within the United States finding zero unresolved discrepancies, but also spotlighted the challenge posed by voluntary company reporting.
- The United States will mainstream transparency of non-tax revenue data through the work already underway within the Office of Natural Resource Revenue including on the data portal.



- The Department of the Interior Inspector General report issued on May 18 demonstrates the United States’ “significant progress” towards implementation including meeting eight of the nine implementation indicators and partially meeting the requirement on company reporting.
- The United States has over the past decade been one of the strongest supporters of this initiative, providing over \$32 million to World Bank and mission-level assistance to EITI implementation, serving on the International Board, and this year considering for the first time a direct financial contribution to the Secretariat.
- However, the challenges facing United States implementation, as detailed in the Implementation Progress Report, are very significant. We have not taken those difficulties lightly. We have worked deliberately through a process to identify a path to feasibly implement the Standard. We have not found a solution that is feasible or practical. We expect to announce a final decision on EITI implementation within the next two weeks.
- It is important to note that we willingly took on a very ambitious task and have not asked to change the rules or move the goalposts in order to accommodate the American system, which is highly transparent and efficient but which does not permit the kinds of disclosure required by the Standard.
- IF PRESSED ON DODD-FRANK 1504: Section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act remains U.S. law and the Securities and Exchange Commission is responsible for promulgating an implementing rule. The Administration supported the passage of House Joint Resolution 41, which vacated the previous rule, as a necessary rulemaking action to increase American competitiveness. We cannot comment on any pending or future legislative action regarding transparency in the extractive industries.

## **U.S. EITI QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### What is the EITI?

EITI is a voluntary, international standard for transparency in reporting revenues paid and received for natural resource extraction. The design of each EITI framework is country-specific, and is developed through a multi-year, consensus-based process by a multi-stakeholder group (MSG) composed of representatives from government, industry and civil society. The main product of the USEITI will be annual reports.

### What is an EITI Report?

To comply with the EITI Standard, an EITI country must publish annual reports, produced by an Independent Administrator and approved by the MSG. The EITI Report documents the parallel reporting and reconciliation of revenues paid by the extractives industry to government and the revenues received and disbursed by the government. The EITI Report is also a compilation of publicly available contextual, legal, and current fiscal information about the extractives industries.

### Where are the USEITI Reports and what did they actually disclose?

DOI published the 2015 and 2016 USEITI Annual Reports on an open source, open code interactive web-based data portal (<https://useiti.doi.gov>). On this portal, the Department of the

Interior unilaterally discloses 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 revenues by company, commodity, and revenue type as well as production data across all commodities. The Annual Reports provide clarity and transparency of the revenues generated by energy development on public lands and waters—a significant source of financial support for local communities, States, Tribes, and the Federal Government.

Will the Department of the Interior continue to issue USEITI reports?

The Department of the Interior will continue to disclose revenues by company, commodity, and revenue type as well as production data across all commodities on the data portal. The content on the Data Portal will reflect the Office of Natural Resources Revenue's activities for 2017 undertaken as a part of the United States' involvement in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Unlike previous years, the content has not been approved by the full USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group., given the MSG did not meet following the February session. However, the content provided here and included in the online report has been informed by MSG feedback and the MSG had an opportunity to review all additional content.

What is a Data Portal?

The Data Portal is a web-based resource for data and information about U.S. extractive industries on Federal land and waters. It provides interactive visualizations that can be readily understood and accessed by the public for reuse through other media and applications. The Data Portal has been facilitating national and international conversation around U.S. extractive industries revenue and is designed to present this data in a format that is most accessible to the average citizen. The portal has set a global standard in revenue governance transparency. You can view the Data Portal at: <https://useiti.doi.gov>.

Who is the USEITI Multistakeholder Group?

The Secretary of the Interior established the USEITI Federal Advisory Committee in August 2012. The Committee's purpose was to serve as the initial EITI Multistakeholder Group (MSG) and its duties included consideration and fulfillment of the tasks required to achieve candidate and compliant status in the EITI. The Multistakeholder Group or MSG is comprised of representatives from government, industry and civil society. The Committee's Charter was renewed in 2014, and again in 2016. The MSG met 20 times in a public meeting between 2012 and February 2017.

Why are you terminating the USEITI Multistakeholder Group?

The Federal Advisory Committee serves at the Secretary of the Interior's discretion. The MSG each year developed and recommended to the Secretary a fully-costed work plan, containing measurable targets and a timetable for implementation, and an assessment of capacity constraints. Each year the MSG developed and recommended to the Secretary an Annual Activity Report documenting the decisions and accomplishment, and progress in meeting the EITI Standard. The MSG advised the Secretary on long-term oversight and other activities necessary to achieve EITI candidate and compliant status. The MSG oversaw publishing the 2015 and 2016 USEITI Annual Reports on an open source, open code interactive web-based data portal (<https://useiti.doi.gov>). Given the current challenges to fully implementing the EITI Standard and a thoughtful review of the many accomplishments of the MSG, the Secretary determined the MSG had accomplished its work.

Why are you withdrawing from the EITI Standard?

The U.S. has met 8 of the 9 elements of the standard. USEITI has been implementing within

U.S. statutory mandates and in a voluntary reporting system. Given the ongoing uncertainty about corporate income tax reporting as part of USEITI, as well as the recent decision by the USEITI MSG to rely on the government's existing audit and assurance processes, USEITI would be deviating in two significant respects from the EITI Standard. Therefore the decision was made that the U.S. would no longer formally implement the Standard. However, the Department, as managed by ONRR, has robust audit and assurance practices in place to demonstrate accountability for the revenues paid and received for our country's oil, gas, and mineral resources. The Department, through ONRR will continue to mainstream (publicly disclose) DOI revenue reporting in lieu of redundant company reporting and Independent Administrator reconciliation.

Explain what the challenges were for the U.S. to implement the EITI Standard

Domestic implementation of EITI is subject to existing laws and regulations. For example, the Trade Secrets Act and the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA) of 1982, prohibit the Federal government from releasing company pricing information and Federal employees are subject to criminal penalties if they violate these laws. Another example is Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) provides that tax returns and tax return information are confidential and prohibited from disclosure, unless an exception identified in the IRC is applicable. The IRC imposes civil and criminal penalties for violations of the disclosure prohibitions.

What does it mean to mainstream revenue data?

The EITI governing Board in its 2016 revised Standard included allowing for two possible procedures for EITI disclosures: (1) the "conventional" agreed upon procedure for EITI Reports, which is already in use (company and government parallel disclosure to an Independent Administrator for reconciliation); and (2) the agreed upon procedure for mainstreamed disclosures. The mainstreaming transparency option enables countries to refer directly to existing public information about the extractive sector where available, comprehensive, reliable, and consistent with the requirements of the EITI Standard. We welcome the idea of mainstreamed EITI disclosures in lieu of company reporting and Independent Administrator reconciliation.

What domestic benefits of adopting the EITI Standard are you giving up?

The Department of the Interior will continue to highlight industry's financial contributions to the U.S. Government and the national and state level distribution of those resources, including the revenues generated by royalties, rents, bonuses and taxes. The Department will continue to provide enhanced and user friendly access to reliable information that can be used to hold the government and [industry] to account. Increasing the public's awareness and understanding of how extractive revenues are collected and disbursed enhances our accountability and facilitates the full and fair return to the American people for these resources.

What were the international benefits to the U.S. of adopting EITI?

The United States will continue to be one of seventeen supporting countries of the EITI. The United States remains a strong supporter of good governance and transparency, including the principles of transparency in the extractive sector represented by EITI. EITI is an important tool to promote transparency, increase competitiveness and combat corruption globally. We have taken a leading role in EITI since its founding in 2003, and we will continue to support the international EITI initiative and country level implementation. Attempting to implement the EITI Standard in the United States was a proactive step in the mainstreaming of EITI principles. It

demonstrated that a strong commitment to transparency and accountability principles applies equally to developed and developing countries, providing an example for other OECD economies. Despite the infeasibility of implementing the Standard domestically, the United States remains committed to these same transparency and accountability principles.

How much does the government gain in revenue from the extractive industries?

The U.S. is a major developer of natural resources. The Department of Interior collects on average approximately \$10 to \$12 billion in annual revenues from the development of oil, gas and minerals on Federal lands and offshore in the Outer Continental Shelf. The bulk of these revenues are disbursed to the U.S. Treasury, with smaller portions distributed to five Federal agencies, more than 30 states, 41 American Indian tribes, and approximately 34,000 individual Indian mineral owners. In addition, the U.S. receives federal taxes related to resource extraction.

## CONTACTS and TIMING MATRIX

ITEM/ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	Reviewer/AUDIENCE	DELIVERY/Time
DRAFT Comms Plan to Judy Wilson, ONRR	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Internal to ONRR – Judy Wilson for review	Email by 10/13/17
DRAFT to DOI for review	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Frank Quimby, DOI, Reviews Press Releases	Email by 10/13/17
DRAFT to Director, ONRR	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Director to review; (Greg Gould requested that Frank Quimby review first)	Email by 10/17/17
FINAL DRAFT, excluding MATRIX, to State for review	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Micah Watson, State Once State is OK with the DRAFT, work with NSC.	Email by 10/19/17
FINAL DRAFT, excluding MATRIX, to NSC	Heidi/Judy Wilson	James Mazarella, National Security Council (NSC)	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL Courtesy Copy, excluding MATRIX, to USAID	Heidi/Judy Wilson	Jen Lewis, USAID	Email by 10/20/17
<b>FINAL Date to Withdraw from USEITI: November 2, 2017</b>			
FINAL, excluding MATRIX, to DOI Communications and Public Affairs	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Russell Newell, Dep Director, Comms; CC: Frank Quimby	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL excluding MATRIX, to DOI Intergovernmental Team	Judith Wilson, Program Manager for U.S. EITI, ONRR	Jason Funes, DOI Intergovernmental Team	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL, excluding MATRIX, to other agencies	Judith Wilson, Program Manager for U.S. EITI, ONRR	Treasury, Energy & Commerce	Email by 10/20/17



FINAL excluding MATRIX to OCL	Anita Gonzales, Legislative Liaison for ONRR	Joseph Nevills, OCL Leg. Summary and Audrey Haskens, OCL Report	Email by 10/20/17
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OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE  
(ONRR)

**PRE-DECISIONAL and DELIBERATIVE**  
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**U.S. EITI Withdrawal  
Communication Plan**

*(This announcement is internal and not intended as a press release)*

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**As of October 16, 2017**

## BACKGROUND

The U.S. EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) Federal Advisory Committee was established in August 2012. The Committee's purpose was to serve as the initial EITI Multi-stakeholder Group (MSG), and its duties included consideration and fulfillment of the tasks required to achieve candidate and compliant status in the EITI. The Committee's Charter was renewed in 2014, and again in 2016. The MSG each year developed and recommended to the Secretary a fully-costed work plan, containing measurable targets and a timetable for implementation, and an assessment of capacity constraints. Each year the MSG developed and recommended to the Secretary an Annual Activity Report documenting the decisions, accomplishments and progress in meeting the EITI International Standard. The MSG advised the Secretary on long-term oversight and other activities necessary to achieve EITI candidate and compliant status.

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## COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES

- The purpose of this Communication Plan is to inform the Department and U.S. EITI

stakeholders that the U.S. EITI Multi-stakeholder group has fulfilled its responsibilities to the Secretary as documented in the Charter. The U.S. met 8 of the 9 elements of the EITI Standard, but will not be deemed in full compliance with the Standard, due to laws prohibiting certain data disclosures by companies in regard to taxes. As a result, the U.S. EITI plans to withdraw from the EITI Standard by November 6, 2017. The U.S. will continue to maintain the U.S. EITI Data Portal and implement within our domestic statutory and regulatory context.

- ***This Communication Plan is not intended as a public Press Release.***

## **KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND AUDIENCES**

### Internal Stakeholders:

- Executive Office of the President –
  - National Security Council
  - Office of Science and Technology Policy
- DOI Bureaus and Offices
  - OS, BLM, BOEM, BSEE, OSMRE, BIA, OST
- Other Federal Agencies
  - State, Treasury
- ONRR Employees
- ONRR's State and Tribal Royalty Audit Committee (STRAC)

### External Stakeholders:

- Members of the U.S. EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group
- Congressional Officials (OCL)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Civil Society Stakeholders
- State Officials

## **KEY MESSAGES/TALKING POINTS**

### U.S. Commitment and USEITI:

- The United States remains committed to the EITI and transparency and good governance of the extractive sectors.
- The United States has led the global initiative in providing revenue related data and information in an interactive, open-source data portal and by regularly engaging with other implementing countries to share our best practices.
- USEITI's second report demonstrated for the second year in a row the government's robust audit and assurance practices within the United States finding zero unresolved discrepancies, but also spotlighted the challenge posed by voluntary company reporting.
- The United States will mainstream transparency of non-tax revenue data through the work already underway within the Office of Natural Resource Revenue including on the data portal.



- The Department of the Interior Inspector General report issued on May 18 demonstrates the United States' "significant progress" towards implementation including meeting eight of the nine implementation indicators and partially meeting the requirement on company reporting.
- The United States has over the past decade been one of the strongest supporters of this initiative, providing over \$32 million to World Bank and mission-level assistance to EITI implementation, serving on the International Board, and this year considering for the first time a direct financial contribution to the Secretariat.
- However, the challenges facing United States implementation, as detailed in the Implementation Progress Report, are very significant. We have not taken those difficulties lightly. We have worked deliberately through a process to identify a path to feasibly implement the Standard. We have not found a solution that is feasible or practical. We expect to announce a final decision on EITI implementation within the next two weeks.
- It is important to note that we willingly took on a very ambitious task and have not asked to change the rules or move the goalposts in order to accommodate the American system, which is highly transparent and efficient but which does not permit the kinds of disclosure required by the Standard.
- IF PRESSED ON DODD-FRANK 1504: Section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act remains U.S. law and the Securities and Exchange Commission is responsible for promulgating an implementing rule. The Administration supported the passage of House Joint Resolution 41, which vacated the previous rule, as a necessary rulemaking action to increase American competitiveness. We cannot comment on any pending or future legislative action regarding transparency in the extractive industries.
- The OIG reviewed the EITI and found that the U.S. met seven of the eight EITI requirements. The OIG FINAL Report can be found at:  
[https://www.doioig.gov/sites/doioig.gov/files/AIE\\_EITI\\_FinalInspectionReport\\_Public.pdf](https://www.doioig.gov/sites/doioig.gov/files/AIE_EITI_FinalInspectionReport_Public.pdf)
- The OIG recognizes that the U.S. will move from being an implementing country to only a supporting country of EITI; and the U.S. intends to continue its efforts to disclose revenue and maintain the online data portal, thus institutionalizing EITI processes.

## **U.S. EITI QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### What is the EITI?

EITI is a voluntary, international standard for transparency in reporting revenues paid and received for natural resource extraction. The design of each EITI framework is country-specific, and is developed through a multi-year, consensus-based process by a multi-stakeholder group (MSG) composed of representatives from government, industry and civil society. The main product of the USEITI will be annual reports.

### What is an EITI Report?

To comply with the EITI Standard, an EITI country must publish annual reports, produced by an Independent Administrator and approved by the MSG. The EITI Report documents the parallel reporting and reconciliation of revenues paid by the extractives industry to government and the

revenues received and disbursed by the government. The EITI Report is also a compilation of publicly available contextual, legal, and current fiscal information about the extractives industries.

Where are the USEITI Reports and what did they actually disclose?

DOI published the 2015 and 2016 USEITI Annual Reports on an open source, open code interactive web-based data portal (<https://useiti.doi.gov>). On this portal, the Department of the Interior unilaterally discloses 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 revenues by company, commodity, and revenue type as well as production data across all commodities. The Annual Reports provide clarity and transparency of the revenues generated by energy development on public lands and waters—a significant source of financial support for local communities, States, Tribes, and the Federal Government.

Will the Department of the Interior continue to issue USEITI reports?

The Department of the Interior will continue to disclose revenues by company, commodity, and revenue type as well as production data across all commodities on the data portal. The content on the Data Portal will reflect the Office of Natural Resources Revenue's activities for 2017 undertaken as a part of the United States' involvement in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Unlike previous years, the content has not been approved by the full USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group., given the MSG did not meet following the February session. However, the content provided here and included in the online report has been informed by MSG feedback and the MSG had an opportunity to review all additional content.

What is a Data Portal?

The Data Portal is a web-based resource for data and information about U.S. extractive industries on Federal land and waters. It provides interactive visualizations that can be readily understood and accessed by the public for reuse through other media and applications. The Data Portal has been facilitating national and international conversation around U.S. extractive industries revenue and is designed to present this data in a format that is most accessible to the average citizen. The portal has set a global standard in revenue governance transparency. You can view the Data Portal at: <https://useiti.doi.gov>.

Who is the USEITI Multistakeholder Group?

The Secretary of the Interior established the USEITI Federal Advisory Committee in August 2012. The Committee's purpose was to serve as the initial EITI Multistakeholder Group (MSG) and its duties included consideration and fulfillment of the tasks required to achieve candidate and compliant status in the EITI. The Multistakeholder Group or MSG is comprised of representatives from government, industry and civil society. The Committee's Charter was renewed in 2014, and again in 2016. The MSG met 20 times in a public meeting between 2012 and February 2017.

Why are you terminating the USEITI Multistakeholder Group?

The Federal Advisory Committee serves at the Secretary of the Interior's discretion. The MSG each year developed and recommended to the Secretary a fully-costed work plan, containing measurable targets and a timetable for implementation, and an assessment of capacity constraints. Each year the MSG developed and recommended to the Secretary an Annual Activity Report documenting the decisions and accomplishment, and progress in meeting the EITI Standard. The MSG advised the Secretary on long-term oversight and other activities necessary to achieve EITI candidate and compliant status. The MSG oversaw publishing the

2015 and 2016 USEITI Annual Reports on an open source, open code interactive web-based data portal (<https://useiti.doi.gov>). Given the current challenges to fully implementing the EITI Standard and a thoughtful review of the many accomplishments of the MSG, the Secretary determined the MSG had accomplished its work.

Why are you withdrawing from the EITI Standard?

The U.S. has met 8 of the 9 elements of the standard. USEITI has been implementing within U.S. statutory mandates and in a voluntary reporting system. Given the ongoing uncertainty about corporate income tax reporting as part of USEITI, as well as the recent decision by the USEITI MSG to rely on the government's existing audit and assurance processes, USEITI would be deviating in two significant respects from the EITI Standard. Therefore the decision was made that the U.S. would no longer formally implement the Standard. However, the Department, as managed by ONRR, has robust audit and assurance practices in place to demonstrate accountability for the revenues paid and received for our country's oil, gas, and mineral resources. The Department, through ONRR will continue to mainstream (publicly disclose) DOI revenue reporting in lieu of redundant company reporting and Independent Administrator reconciliation.

Explain what the challenges were for the U.S. to implement the EITI Standard

Domestic implementation of EITI is subject to existing laws and regulations. For example, the Trade Secrets Act and the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA) of 1982, prohibit the Federal government from releasing company pricing information and Federal employees are subject to criminal penalties if they violate these laws. Another example is Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) provides that tax returns and tax return information are confidential and prohibited from disclosure, unless an exception identified in the IRC is applicable. The IRC imposes civil and criminal penalties for violations of the disclosure prohibitions.

What does it mean to mainstream revenue data?

The EITI governing Board in its 2016 revised Standard included allowing for two possible procedures for EITI disclosures: (1) the "conventional" agreed upon procedure for EITI Reports, which is already in use (company and government parallel disclosure to an Independent Administrator for reconciliation); and (2) the agreed upon procedure for mainstreamed disclosures. The mainstreaming transparency option enables countries to refer directly to existing public information about the extractive sector where available, comprehensive, reliable, and consistent with the requirements of the EITI Standard. We welcome the idea of mainstreamed EITI disclosures in lieu of company reporting and Independent Administrator reconciliation.

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DRAFT to DOI for review	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Frank Quimby, DOI, Reviews Press Releases	Email by 10/13/17
DRAFT to Director, ONRR	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Director to review; (Greg Gould requested that Frank Quimby review first)	Email by 10/17/17
FINAL DRAFT, excluding MATRIX, to State for review	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Micah Watson, State Once State is OK with the DRAFT, work with NSC.	Email by 10/19/17
FINAL DRAFT, excluding MATRIX, to NSC	Heidi/Judy Wilson	James Mazarella, National Security Council (NSC)	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL Courtesy Copy, excluding MATRIX, to USAID	Heidi/Judy Wilson	Jen Lewis, USAID	Email by 10/20/17
<b>FINAL Date to Withdraw from USEITI: November 2, 2017</b>			
FINAL, excluding MATRIX, to	Heidi Badaracco, Program	Russell Newell, Dep	Email by 10/20/17



DOI Communications and Public Affairs	Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Director, Comms; CC: Frank Quimby	
FINAL excluding MATRIX, to DOI Intergovernmental Team	Judith Wilson, Program Manager for U.S. EITI, ONRR	Jason Funes, DOI Intergovernmental Team	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL, excluding MATRIX, to other agencies	Judith Wilson, Program Manager for U.S. EITI, ONRR	Treasury, Energy & Commerce	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL excluding MATRIX to OCL	Anita Gonzales, Legislative Liaison for ONRR	Joseph Nevills, OCL Leg. Summary and Audrey Haskens, OCL Report	Email by 10/20/17
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OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE  
(ONRR)

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**U.S. EITI Withdrawal  
Communication Plan**

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**As of October 16, 2017**

## BACKGROUND

The U.S. EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) Federal Advisory Committee was established in August 2012. The Committee's purpose was to serve as the initial EITI Multi-stakeholder Group (MSG), and its duties included consideration and fulfillment of the tasks required to achieve candidate and compliant status in the EITI. The Committee's Charter was renewed in 2014, and again in 2016. The MSG each year developed and recommended to the Secretary a fully-costed work plan, containing measurable targets and a timetable for implementation, and an assessment of capacity constraints. Each year the MSG developed and recommended to the Secretary an Annual Activity Report documenting the decisions, accomplishments and progress in meeting the EITI International Standard. The MSG advised the Secretary on long-term oversight and other activities necessary to achieve EITI candidate and compliant status.

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In May 2017, the DOI Office of the Inspector General released a final inspection report on the U.S. implementation of the EITI. The report included observations and no recommendations. Their review found the U.S. has met 8 of the 9 elements of the standard but will not be found in compliance with the EITI standard because U.S. companies are not required by law to disclose specific data, (particularly tax payments).

(b) (5)

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## COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES

- The purpose of this Communication Plan is to inform the Department and U.S. EITI stakeholders that the U.S. EITI Multi-stakeholder group has fulfilled its responsibilities to the Secretary as documented in the Charter. The U.S. met 8 of the 9 elements of the EITI Standard, but will not be deemed in full compliance with the Standard, due to laws prohibiting certain data disclosures by companies in regard to taxes. As a result, the U.S. EITI plans to withdraw from the EITI Standard by November 6, 2017. The U.S. will continue to maintain the ~~U.S. EITI~~ Data Portal and implement the principles of the EITI standard within our domestic statutory and regulatory context.
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- EITI Implementing and Supporting Countries

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The Department of the Interior will continue to highlight industry's financial contributions to the U.S. Government and the national and state level distribution of those resources, including the revenues generated by royalties, rents, bonuses and taxes. The Department will continue to provide enhanced and user friendly access to reliable information that can be used to hold the government and [industry] to account. Increasing the public's awareness and understanding of how extractive revenues are collected and disbursed enhances our accountability and facilitates the full and fair return to the American people for these resources.

What were the international benefits to the U.S. of adopting EITI?

The United States will continue to be one of seventeen supporting countries of the EITI. The United States remains a strong supporter of good governance and transparency, including the principles of transparency in the extractive sector represented by EITI. EITI is an important tool to promote transparency, increase competitiveness and combat corruption globally. We have taken a leading role in EITI since its founding in 2003, and we will continue to support the international EITI initiative and country level implementation. Attempting to implement the EITI Standard in the United States was a proactive step in the mainstreaming of EITI principles. It demonstrated that a strong commitment to transparency and accountability principles applies equally to developed and developing countries, providing an example for other OECD economies. Despite the infeasibility of implementing the Standard domestically, the United States remains committed to these same transparency and accountability principles.

How much does the government gain in revenue from the extractive industries?

The U.S. is a major developer of natural resources. The Department of Interior collects on average approximately \$10 to \$12 billion in annual revenues from the development of oil, gas and minerals on Federal lands and offshore in the Outer Continental Shelf. The bulk of these revenues are disbursed to the U.S. Treasury, with smaller portions distributed to five Federal agencies, more than 30 states, 41 American Indian tribes, and approximately 34,000 individual Indian mineral owners. In addition, the U.S. receives federal taxes related to resource extraction.

## CONTACTS and TIMING MATRIX

ITEM/ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	Reviewer/AUDIENCE	DELIVERY/Time
DRAFT Comms Plan to Judy Wilson, ONRR	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Internal to ONRR – Judy Wilson for review	Email by 10/13/17
DRAFT to DOI for review	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Frank Quimby, DOI, Reviews Press Releases	Email by 10/13/17
DRAFT to Director, ONRR	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Director to review; (Greg Gould requested that Frank Quimby review	Email by 10/17/17



		first)	
FINAL DRAFT, excluding MATRIX, to State for review	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Micah Watson, State Once State is OK with the DRAFT, work with NSC.	Email by 10/19/17
FINAL DRAFT, excluding MATRIX, to NSC	Heidi/Judy Wilson	James Mazarella, National Security Council (NSC)	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL Courtesy Copy, excluding MATRIX, to USAID	Heidi/Judy Wilson	Jen Lewis, USAID	Email by 10/20/17
<b>FINAL Date to Withdraw from USEITI: November 2, 2017</b>			
FINAL, excluding MATRIX, to DOI Communications and Public Affairs	Heidi Badaracco, Program Manager for Public Affairs, ONRR	Russell Newell, Dep Director, Comms; CC: Frank Quimby	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL excluding MATRIX, to DOI Intergovernmental Team	Judith Wilson, Program Manager for U.S. EITI, ONRR	Jason Funes, DOI Intergovernmental Team	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL, excluding MATRIX, to other agencies	Judith Wilson, Program Manager for U.S. EITI, ONRR	Treasury, Energy & Commerce	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL excluding MATRIX to OCL	Anita Gonzales, Legislative Liaison for ONRR	Joseph Nevills, OCL Leg. Summary and Audrey Haskens, OCL Report	Email by 10/20/17
FINAL excluding MATRIX to STRAC	Bruce Rumburg, Agreements Officer's Representative	STRAC	Email by 10/20/2017

# **Label: "ONRR/FOIA Request EITI/FOIA Request, OS-2018-00350"**

**Created by:**judith.wilson@onrr.gov

Total Messages in label:106 (11 conversations)

Created: 01-30-2018 at 15:18 PM

# Conversation Contents

## Comms Plan for US EITI

### Attachments:

/3. Comms Plan for US EITI/1.1 DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17.docx  
/3. Comms Plan for US EITI/4.1 DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17.docx  
/3. Comms Plan for US EITI/9.1 DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17jw rev.docx

## "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>

---

**From:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 09:55:12 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Comms Plan for US EITI  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17.docx

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Thanks for all your help!

**Heidi Badaracco**  
**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

## "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>

---

**From:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 10:00:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>

**Subject:**

Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

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Happy Friday!

Greg

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director*

*Office of Natural Resources Revenue*

*U.S. Department of the Interior*

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**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

---

**"Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>**

**From:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 10:03:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>  
**CC:** "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI



OK, I will add that in and re-send to Judy. Thanks for the quick look-over!

**Heidi Badaracco**  
**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

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**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

**"Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 11:21:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comms Plan for US EITI  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17.docx

Judy:

Please see attached DRAFT Comms Plan, to include a couple of bullets on the OIG and link to Report. For your review --

**Heidi Badaracco**  
**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gould, Greg** <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>  
Date: Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM  
Subject: Re: Comms Plan for US EITI  
To: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
Cc: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>

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Hi Judy,

If you have time today, could you please look over the attached, DRAFT Comms Plan for the  
EarthRights International v. US Department of Interior, 22-cv-01503-CKK00005005

US EITI, before I send to Frank Quimby? Greg asked me yesterday to send this to Frank Quimby for review, before he reviews; and offering you a chance to review first, if you have time today? I pulled the Q & A's and Talking Points from your email, yesterday. You should be able to review it pretty quickly? Let me know when you would like me to send to Frank for review.

Thanks for all your help!

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**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

**Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>**

---

**From:** Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 13:21:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
**CC:** "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Comms Plan for US EITI

I just landed. Give me a couple hours.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
Date: 10/13/17 11:55 AM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
Cc: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
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Denver, Co 80225

Phone: 303-231-3434

**Judith Wilson** <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>

---

**From:** Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 13:22:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
**CC:** John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Comms Plan for US EITI

I will add when I get home.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>  
Date: 10/13/17 12:01 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
Cc: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
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Greg

*Gregory J. Gould*

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*Director  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue  
U.S. Department of the Interior*

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**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

**"Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 13:24:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Judith Wilson <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

Thank you!

*Gregory J. Gould*

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On Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 1:21 PM, Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)> wrote:

I just landed. Give me a couple hours.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>

Date: 10/13/17 11:55 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>

Cc: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>

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Denver, Co 80225

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

---

**"Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>**

**From:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 13:37:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

I added and sent you attachment a second time.

Thank you!!

**Heidi Badaracco**  
Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination  
P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C  
Denver, Co 80225

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

On Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 1:22 PM, Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)> wrote:

I will add when I get home.

----- Original message -----

From: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>

Date: 10/13/17 12:01 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>

Cc: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>

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*Director*

*Office of Natural Resources Revenue*

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**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

**"Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 15:41:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17jw rev.docx

Hi all. I reviewed and commented/revised (in track changes) the Comms plan. I do not agree that we send the comms plan /Q&As or TPs to the STRAC before we ever send the letter to the International Board.

On Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 3:24 PM, Gould, Greg <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)> wrote:  
Thank you!

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue  
U.S. Department of the Interior*

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----- Original message -----

From: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
Date: 10/13/17 11:55 AM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
Cc: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff <[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
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**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
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**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

--

**Judy Wilson**  
**Program Manager USEITI Secretariat**  
**Office of Natural Resources Revenue**  
[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)  
**202-208-4410**

**Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>**

---

**From:** Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 13 2017 16:35:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Badaracco, Heidi" <heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov>, John Mehlhoff <john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Comms Plan for US EITI

Agreed.

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director*  
*Office of Natural Resources Revenue*  
*U.S. Department of the Interior*

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On Oct 13, 2017, at 3:42 PM, Wilson, Judith <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)> wrote:

Hi all. I reviewed and commented/revised (in track changes) the Comms plan. I do not agree that we send the comms plan /Q&As or TPs to the STRAC before we ever send the letter to the International Board.

On Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 3:24 PM, Gould, Greg <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)> wrote:  
Thank you!

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue  
U.S. Department of the Interior*

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On Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 1:21 PM, Judith Wilson <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)> wrote:  
I just landed. Give me a couple hours.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Badaracco, Heidi" <[heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov](mailto:heidi.badaracco@onrr.gov)>  
Date: 10/13/17 11:55 AM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
Cc: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, John Mehlhoff  
<[john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov](mailto:john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov)>  
Subject: Comms Plan for US EITI

Hi Judy,

If you have time today, could you please look over the attached, DRAFT Comms Plan for the US EITI, before I send to Frank Quimby? Greg asked me yesterday to send this to Frank Quimby for review, before he reviews; and offering you a chance to review first, if you have time today? I pulled the Q & A's and Talking Points from your email, yesterday. You should be able to review it pretty quickly? Let me know when you would like me to send to Frank for review.

Thanks for all your help!

**Heidi Badaracco**  
**Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 25165, MS 64100C**  
**Denver, Co 80225**

**Phone: 303-231-3434**

--

**Judy Wilson**  
**Program Manager USEITI Secretariat**  
**Office of Natural Resources Revenue**  
[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)  
**202-208-4410**

<DRAFT Comms Plan EITI HB 10\_13\_17jw rev.docx>

# **Label: "ONRR/FOIA Request EITI/OS 2018 00350 part 2"**

**Created by:judith.wilson@onrr.gov**

Total Messages in label:138 (9 conversations)

Created: 01-30-2018 at 15:27 PM



# Conversation Contents

## USEITI Outlook

### Sam Bartlett <SBartlett@eiti.org>

---

**From:** Sam Bartlett <SBartlett@eiti.org>  
**Sent:** Wed Aug 02 2017 08:45:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>, "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** USEITI Outlook

Hi Greg & Judith,

Greeting from Oslo. Would you have time for a quick call later this week to discuss the outlook for the USEITI? It would be good to clarify whether the MSG will meet again in 2017 (we gather this is unlikely) and where things stand with the next EITI Report.

Regards  
Sam

### "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>

---

**From:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed Aug 02 2017 08:58:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Sam Bartlett <SBartlett@eiti.org>  
**CC:** "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: USEITI Outlook

Hi Sam,

Greetings from Colorado, I hope you are doing well. Try not to be too surprised, but we really don't have an update for you right now. We are still waiting for the political leadership to come on board before we can make any final decisions. As soon as we have a better understanding of next steps, we will set-up a call.

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**From:** Sam Bartlett <[SBartlett@eiti.org](mailto:SBartlett@eiti.org)>  
**Sent:** Wed Aug 02 2017 09:16:02 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Greg Gould ([Greg.Gould@onrr.gov](mailto:Greg.Gould@onrr.gov))" <[Greg.Gould@onrr.gov](mailto:Greg.Gould@onrr.gov)>  
**CC:** "Judith Wilson ([judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov))" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>  
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**Sent:** Wed Aug 02 2017 10:09:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Sam Bartlett <SBartlett@eiti.org>  
**CC:** "Judith Wilson (judith.wilson@onrr.gov)" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: USEITI Outlook

Thanks Sam, when is the next board meeting?

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director*

*Office of Natural Resources Revenue*

*U.S. Department of the Interior*

[\(202\) 513-0600](tel:(202)513-0600)

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**Sam Bartlett <SBartlett@eiti.org>**

---

**From:** Sam Bartlett <SBartlett@eiti.org>  
**Sent:** Wed Aug 02 2017 10:34:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Greg Gould <greg.gould@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** "Judith Wilson (judith.wilson@onrr.gov)" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: USEITI Outlook

25-26 October / SB

---

**From:** Greg Gould [mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov]  
**Sent:** onsdag 2. august 2017 18.09  
**To:** Sam Bartlett <SBartlett@eiti.org>  
**Cc:** Judith Wilson (judith.wilson@onrr.gov) <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: USEITI Outlook

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*Gregory J. Gould*

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*Director  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[\(202\) 513-0600](tel:2025130600)*

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**Judy Wilson**  
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**202-208-4410**

**From:** Sam Bartlett <SBartlett@eiti.org>  
**Sent:** Wed Aug 02 2017 13:00:46 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Gould, Greg" <greg.gould@onrr.gov>, "Wilson, Judith" <judith.wilson@onrr.gov>  
**CC:** Jonas Moberg <JMoberg@eiti.org>  
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Thanks Greg and Judith,

This neatly illustrates the conundrum. One the one hand, DOI continues to do a quite remarkable job of mainstreaming EITI implementation within the scope of its jurisdiction and mandate, with detailed and timely disclosures of non-tax revenues (and how these are used), alongside other important contextual information. In many ways, this work exceeds the EITI's requirements. However:

1. There will be no reporting from companies, no reconciliation, and no assessment from an Independent Administrator as per the EITI Standard. While it's possible to argue company reporting and reconciliation are already done routinely (making the work of the Independent Administrator redundant), and that all stakeholders accept that this data as comprehensive and highly reliable, this would require a mainstreaming application endorsed by the MSG and the EITI Board prior to the publication of the report.
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That's our reading of the situation, at least. If we've got something wrong – or missed an opportunity to move forward – please let us know!

Regards  
Sam

On 2 Aug 2017, at 19:10, Wilson, Judith <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)> wrote:

We are:  
updating all of the community case studies;  
updating the data for the selected 18 States;  
adding the content for the State of Colorado;



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Date: Wed, Aug 2, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Subject: Re: USEITI Outlook

To: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>

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*Director  
Office of Natural Resources Revenue  
U.S. Department of the Interior*

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See additional feedback below from the International Secretariat, note that it is clear we are on the road to suspension unless we withdraw our application as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Greg

*Gregory J. Gould*

---

*Director*

*Office of Natural Resources Revenue*

*U.S. Department of the Interior*

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Date: Wed, Aug 2, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Subject: Re: USEITI Outlook

To: "Gould, Greg" <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>, "Wilson, Judith" <[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)>

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
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- adding the content for the State of Colorado;
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- adding employment by commodity;

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Hi Greg & Judith,

Greeting from Oslo. Would you have time for a quick call later this week to discuss the outlook for the USEITI? It would be good to clarify whether the MSG will meet again in 2017 (we gather this is unlikely) and where things stand with the next EITI Report.

Regards  
Sam

--  
**Judy Wilson**

**Program Manager USEITI Secretariat**  
**Office of Natural Resources Revenue**  
**[judith.wilson@onrr.gov](mailto:judith.wilson@onrr.gov)**  
**202-208-4410**



Report on Progress Made in Promoting  
Transparency in Extractive Industries Resource Payments  
(Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; section 935)

**Introduction**

This report was prepared pursuant to section 935(d) of Public Law 110-140, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Title IX, P.L. 110-140) (the Act), section 935(d). Subsection 935(d)(1) of the Act mandates that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a report on progress made in promoting transparency in extractive industries resource payments. This report covers the approximate period between May 2015 to May 2016 and addresses U.S. government involvement with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), including bilateral and multilateral activities to increase participation in EITI; progress implementing EITI domestically since our admission into the initiative in 2014; and U.S. government efforts to increase the transparency of natural resource management beyond EITI.

Extractives sector (oil/gas and mining) transparency is a key part of the U.S. government's good governance promotion, anti-corruption, and energy security strategies. The Department of State, through its Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR), leads various extractive sector transparency initiatives and activities. In addition, steps taken by the Departments of State, Treasury, Interior, Energy, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) help resource-rich countries meet the goal of increasing transparency in extractive industry payments.

**United States' Participation in the EITI**

The EITI is a voluntary initiative through which countries work with industry and civil society representatives to publish information on how the government manages the extractives sector, in an effort to improve resource revenue transparency and thus boost transparency, accountability and good governance, and prevent corruption. With 51 countries implementing and many more expressing intent to join, the EITI has emerged as a global standard for natural resource revenue transparency, and promotion of the EITI is a key component of U.S. efforts to advance transparency in the extractive industries.

The Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) is the current U.S. representative to the International EITI Board and was elected as a full Board Member for the period 2016-2019. The ENR PDAS is a member of three EITI committees: the Governance and Oversight Committee, which she chairs, which provides oversight of the EITI's management and governance; the Outreach and Candidature Committee, which reviews

applications for EITI Candidate Country status; and the Finance Committee, which directs the budgeting and funding initiatives of the EITI.

Building on the strong work by the United States and others in 2013 to significantly expand the scope, depth, and quality of EITI reporting, the EITI launched the 2016 Standard in February. The revised 2016 Standard improves the EITI's quality assurance mechanisms in order to evaluate the extent to which implementing countries adhere to the seven EITI compliance requirements, and requires countries to ensure that companies that bid for, operate, or invest in extractive projects declare their beneficial owners. Through its representation on the EITI Board and committees, the United States works to clarify, interpret, and promote these rules, including by helping to draft guidance documents on how to assess country compliance with these rules. During the reporting year, the EITI admitted Malawi, the Dominican Republic, and Germany as candidate countries, bringing the total number of EITI implementing countries to 51, including the United States. Thirty-one countries have completed the EITI validation process, but two – Yemen and the Central African Republic – remain suspended. Mexico is expected to formally apply for candidature by the end of 2016, and France and the Netherlands are on track to launch their candidature application processes. During the reporting year, Argentina, Australia, Suriname, Tunisia, and Thailand expressed their intention to apply for candidature at some later date.

The United States is both an implementing and a supporting country within the EITI. Senior U.S. government officials regularly raise revenue transparency and the importance of the EITI in bilateral and multilateral fora. Bilaterally, the United States encourages EITI candidate countries to continue working towards compliance, and discusses the benefits of the EITI to members outside the initiative. Multilaterally, the United States works through the G-7, G-20, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and U.S.-Africa Partnership on Illicit Finance to further the extractive industries transparency agenda and promote EITI. Under the auspices of the G-7, the United States partnered with Burma to support its EITI pre-candidacy and provide technical assistance related to efforts to reform its oil and gas sector, and with Guinea to promote transparency in the artisanal diamond sector and support the country's efforts to transition from candidacy to full compliance within EITI. In July 2014, Burma joined EITI as a candidate country and Guinea passed from EITI candidacy to compliance.

President Obama's 2011 announcement that the United States would implement the EITI domestically under the OGP catalyzed the G-7 to more strongly endorse the EITI as an accountability tool, and preceded commitments by

France, Germany, Italy, and the UK to implement the EITI as well. This has reinforced to middle-income countries that countries at all levels of development can improve their natural resource management. The United States has used successive National Action Plans under the OGP to further advance our EITI collaboration and commitments. The United States also participates in the OGP Openness in Natural Resources Working Group along with nine other countries who are OGP members.

The United States was admitted as an EITI candidate country in March 2014. By implementing EITI, the U.S. government is working to further enhance transparency for the benefit of the American taxpayer, and sending a powerful signal that the United States remains a global leader in promoting transparency in the extractives sector. U.S. implementation of the EITI (“USEITI”) is led by the Secretary of the Interior. Interior is supported by an inter-agency working group that includes the National Security Council; the Office of Management and Budget; the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, and Energy; and the Small Business Administration. The centerpiece of USEITI is the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) – the consensus-based decision making body comprised of government, industry, and civil society representatives responsible for overseeing EITI implementation. Interior formed the MSG as the USEITI Advisory Committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act in December 2012, and the group has met eighteen times since February 2013, including five times during the reporting year.

Leading by example, in December 2015 the United States launched the USEITI interactive online portal ([useiti.doi.gov](http://useiti.doi.gov)), the first EITI report to be fully online, to raise the bar on transparency. The online report offers the public a user-centric, one-stop shop to access contextual information from publicly available government sources about the governance and economic impact of extractive industries in the United States at the federal level and for selected states and counties with high extractive industry activity. The annual online report now also includes three years of revenues paid for developing energy and mineral resources on public lands and waters at the company and commodity level. The online portal expands U.S. efforts to promote the development of innovative open data tools that make extractive data more meaningful for and accessible to the American people. The portal was created as an open source tool that other countries can replicate and utilize to streamline their own EITI reporting process and enhance the transparency and accountability of information available to citizens. The State Department works to connect USEITI representatives with international counterparts to share experiences with countries in EITI or considering joining EITI.

The United States has provided funding to support the EITI Single-Donor Trust Fund (SDTF) administered by the World Bank, which provides technical assistance to EITI implementing countries. To date, U.S. government support to the SDTF is \$13.5 million, the second highest of any donor country. USAID support to the SDTF ends in December 2017. In addition, USAID provided \$2.8 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, \$3 million in FY 2014, and \$3 million in FY 2015, primarily through USAID Missions, to build the capacity of civil society organizations to increase extractive industry transparency and participate in EITI.

### **Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative**

Since 2010, the Department of State provides foreign assistance through its Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI) to countries to strengthen their ability to manage their oil and gas sectors. EGCI is a State-led, U.S. interagency effort to provide a wide range of technical and capacity building assistance to the host governments of select countries that are on the verge of becoming the world's next generation of oil and gas producers. EGCI's core objective is to help these countries establish the technical and institutional capacity to manage their oil and gas sector resources responsibly. The global program works to ensure sound and transparent energy sector governance for the benefit of national economic development.

EGCI introduces policy makers and regulators to experts from both the U.S. government and outside organizations on building capacities to address technical, legal and regulatory, financial, and environmental and social impacts, including transparent management of licensing, revenues, and community engagement. EGCI taps into the U.S. government's considerable expertise and capabilities in order to provide assistance that is tailored to the specific needs of individual countries. U.S. government agencies that provide technical assistance through EGCI funding include: the Department of Interior's U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and Bureau of Land Management; the Department of Treasury's Office of Technical Assistance (OTA); and the Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program.

State supplements assistance through EGCI with assistance through grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts that provide additional expertise in areas such as petroleum engineering, financial management, legal capacity building, and energy-related environmental issues.



### **Fiscal Transparency and Foreign Assistance**

Since FY 2012, in addition to reviewing transparency of national budget documentation, the Department of State's Fiscal Transparency report has also evaluated transparency in natural resource extraction licensing allocation practices. The most recent Fiscal Transparency report was published June 12, 2015 and is available on the website of State's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. In support of fiscal transparency, including with respect to extractive industries, the Fiscal Transparency Innovation Fund (FTIF) was created in FY 2012 to support government and/or civil society organization efforts to improve budget transparency including by building technical capacity in governments. The FTIF has supported 47 projects in 35 countries around the world to date.

### **Dodd-Frank Section 1504 Transparency Requirements**

Transparent reporting of payments by companies made to governments for the extraction of oil, natural gas, and minerals help empower citizens to hold their governments to account for the decisions made by their governments in the management of valuable oil, gas, and mineral resources and revenues.

In December 2015, the SEC released for public comment a draft rule to implement Section 1504, which requires that resource extraction issuers disclose payments made to governments in connection with the commercial development of oil, natural gas, or minerals. Following the U.S. lead reflected in Dodd-Frank Section 1504, in June 2013 the EU adopted a transparency directive that requires similar disclosures from EU-listed and other large companies. The EU directive requires project-by-project disclosures and covers the oil, gas, mining, and forestry sectors. Norway has also agreed to follow the EU directive and both Norway and the United Kingdom have already incorporated the disclosure requirement into domestic law. In addition, Canada passed legislation in December 2014 introducing mandatory reporting requirements that were developed to align with the related U.S. and EU legislation.

### **Treasury Department and IFI Activities**

Treasury has the lead on U.S. government relations with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including the World Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs). Treasury has, in line with legislative guidance, advised the IFIs and the public that it is U.S. policy to vote against any assistance by such institutions for the extraction and export of natural resources if the government of the country has done one of the following: (1) prevented through laws and regulations the public disclosure of company payments as required by Dodd-Frank Section 1504; or (2) not adopted laws, regulations or procedures, in

the sector in which assistance is being considered, for accurately accounting for and publicly disclosing payments to the government by companies exporting natural resources, independent auditing of such payments, and public disclosure of concession agreements and bidding documents allowing in any such disclosure for the redaction of, or exceptions for, information that is commercially proprietary or that would create competitive disadvantage. Treasury officials consistently stress the importance of resource revenue transparency in Board consideration of MDB projects, country and sector strategies, IMF Article IV consultations, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, diagnostic studies, and in bilateral meetings with country counterparts.

### **Department of Energy Programs**

The Department of Energy promotes and encourages energy sector reforms through various ongoing consultative and cooperative mechanisms (energy policy dialogues, bilateral consultations, multilateral forums such as the G-20, cooperative programs and exchanges) at the ministerial level, with several key EITI implementing countries, and with some of the countries that have expressed interest in participating. These efforts include a focus on promoting good governance; enhanced global transparency in the extractive industries with a special focus on data transparency; the establishment of stable regulatory and investment climates; and adherence to open and competitive bid processes. Specific activities that support the EITI objectives include discussions of best practices that could be included in draft legislation and policies, as well as regulatory capacity training in host countries and the United States.

### **Conclusion**

Promoting transparency, accountability and improved governance are key U.S. foreign policy objectives that involve numerous U.S. government agencies, organizations, and institutions. The United States remains a leader in transparency, accountability, and good governance in the energy sector. The United States will continue to strongly support the EITI, EGCI, and related efforts, and will continue to work for improved transparency in the energy sector.