

## MT-01 Overview Backup

*Ryan Zinke is a corrupt politician who has used public office to try to enrich himself at Montanans' expense.*

### **Ryan Zinke Is A Corrupt Politician Who Has Used Public Office To Try To Enrich Himself At Montanans' Expense**

**The Office Of The Inspector General Found That Zinke “Did Not Comply With Ethical Obligations And Duty Of Candor.”** “In sum, we concluded that Secretary Zinke did not comply with his ethics obligations as set forth in his ethics agreement, recusal memorandum, and accompanying documents, all of which were provided to senior level executive officials at the DOI and the OGE as a required part of the confirmation process.” [Office of the Inspector General U.S. Department of The Interior, [2/16/22](#)]

**The Office Of The Inspector Said That Zinke May Have Used Federal Resources And His Position As Secretary Of The Interior For Personal Financial Gain And Misused His Official Position To Direct Subordinates To Assist Him With The 95 Karrow Project.** “The allegations also stated that Secretary Zinke may have used Federal resources and his position as Secretary of the Interior for personal financial gain and that other DOI staff may have actively tried to conceal the Secretary’s involvement... In addition, we found that Secretary Zinke misused his official position in violation of Federal regulations by directing his subordinates to assist him with matters related to the Foundation and the 95 Karrow project.” [Office of the Inspector General U.S. Department of The Interior, [2/16/22](#)]

**Zinke Stood To Benefit From The Property, According To Critics.** “According to the letter by the House Democrats, Zinke stands to benefit from the fate of the property adjacent to the foundation’s land, including 95 Karrow’s proposal to build boutique shops, a hotel and a microbrewery, a proposal Zinke made more than a half-decade ago but which never gained traction with surrounding neighborhoods.” [Flathead Beacon, [6/25/18](#)]

**It Was Reported That Zinke Faced A Potential Criminal Investigation From The Justice Department Over Allegations That He Used His Office For Personal Gain.** “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will step down by the end of this year, President Donald Trump announced Saturday, making him the latest Trump administration Cabinet official forced to resign amid scandal. The resignation comes after reports that the Justice Department is considering whether to pursue a criminal investigation against the former Montana congressman and Navy SEAL, who is facing several probes into whether he has used his office for personal gain. His impending exit will make him the most recent in line of Trump administration officials to leave under a cloud of ethical scandals, including former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and former HHS Secretary Tom Price.” [Politico, [12/15/18](#)]

## MT-01 Message # 1 Backup

*Ryan Zinke resigned in disgrace after facing 18 federal investigations including allegations of corruption and using his office for personal gain.*

### **Ryan Zinke Resigned In Disgrace After Facing 18 Federal Investigations Including Allegations Of Corruption And Using His Office For Personal Gain**

**Zinke Resigned As Secretary Of The Interior After It Was Reported That He Faced A Potential Criminal Investigation From The Justice Department Over Allegations That He Used His Office For Personal Gain.** “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will step down by the end of this year, President Donald Trump announced Saturday, making him the latest Trump administration Cabinet official forced to resign amid scandal. The resignation comes after reports that the Justice Department is considering whether to pursue a criminal investigation against the former Montana congressman and Navy SEAL, who is facing several probes into whether he has used his office for personal gain. His impending exit will make him the most recent in line of Trump administration

officials to leave under a cloud of ethical scandals, including former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and former HHS Secretary Tom Price.” [Politico, [12/15/18](#)]

**According To The Center For Western Priorities, Zinke Was “The Most Investigated Interior Secretary In Recent Times,” Due To The 15 Inquiries He Faced Or Was Facing As Of October 2018.** “The inspector general recently concluded that Zinke broke department policy by allowing his wife, Lolita, to travel with him in government vehicles and said the secretary could have taken steps to avoid spending \$12,375 on a charter flight last year. In all, Zinke has faced or is facing 15 inquiries, making him the most investigated interior secretary in recent times, according to the Center for Western Priorities, a watchdog. ‘Since stepping into his role as interior secretary, Ryan Zinke has repeatedly leveraged his office for personal gain, attracting unprecedented scrutiny from government investigators,’ said Jennifer Rokala, executive director of the Denver-based group.” [Helena Independent Record, [10/30/18](#)]

**MSNBC: The First Example Of Trump’s Department Of Justice Declining To Prosecute Trump Appointees Was When Trump’s DOJ Declined To Charge Ryan Zinke After He Faced Corruption Allegations.** “In other words, the agency's independent watchdog department thought the Trump appointees' deceptions might have risen to the level of criminal wrongdoing. As it turns out, the Justice Department decided not to prosecute, which has proven to be a familiar consequence. As regular readers may recall, the first example was Ryan Zinke. Corruption allegations involving Donald Trump's scandal-plagued Interior secretary were referred to Justice Department prosecutors, but Trump's DOJ declined to charge the Montana Republican.” [MSNBC, Maddowblog, [7/19/21](#)]

---

**While Secretary Of The Interior, Zinke Was The Subject Of 18 Federal Investigations For Misconduct**

---

<b>Investigation</b>	<b>Outcome Of Investigation</b>
Blocked casino project after meeting with lobbyists, Department of Interior Office of Inspector General (Inspector General)	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation, and unresolved
Potential Hatch Act violation: Announced that Florida would be exempt from a federal expansion of offshore drilling during an appearance with Florida Governor Rick Scott, when Scott was a speculated Senate candidate, Office of Special Counsel (OSC)	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Censorship in a climate change report, Inspector General	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Potential Hatch Act violation: Zinke tweeted a picture of himself wearing “Make America Great Again” socks, OSC	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Alleged retaliation against a whistleblower who spoke out about the effects of Climate Change on Alaska Native communities, OSC	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Real estate and microbrewery deal with a Halliburton executive, Inspector General	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Real estate and microbrewery deal with a Halliburton executive, Justice Department	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Spending \$139,000 in taxpayer funds for office doors, House Oversight Committee	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Zinke’s official government trips that included his wife, Inspector General	Zinke was implicated in Misconduct
Alleged threat to Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) during the healthcare debate, Inspector General	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Alleged threat to Sen. Murkowski during the healthcare debate, Government Accountability Office	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Staff reassignments that may have been politically motivated, Inspector General	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Potentially improper chartered flights, Inspector General	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Halted mining study into the health impact of a mining technique in Appalachia, Inspector General	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records

Potential Hatch Act violation: National Hockey League speech, OSC	Zinke was cleared by this investigation
Potential Hatch Act violation: Virgin Islands political fundraiser, OSC	Zinke was cleared by this investigation
Potential Hatch Act violation: Seven additional trips between March 2017 and October 2017 that combined official and political activity, OSC	Zinke was cleared by this investigation
Zinke's involvement in a plan to shrink national monuments, Inspector General	Zinke was cleared by this investigation

[Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (C.R.E.W), [8/9/18](#)]

*Note: Some of the allegations that led to investigations against Zinke were investigated by multiple sources. Zinke's alleged threats to Senator Murkowski over her refusal to vote for a Republican healthcare plan, and Zinke's Whitefish, Montana real estate deal with a Halliburton executive were both investigated by two different investigators.*

*Note: Some of the allegations against Zinke were unresolved at the time of his departure, and more research is needed into the outcome of those investigations.*

## MT-01 Message #2 Backup

*[Zinke] tried to personally profit from out of state interests buying up Montana land and driving up housing costs. Zinke was even investigated for engaging in a shady land deal, attempting to help a multinational corporate executive buy land in Whitefish for a private development project that Zinke stood to make money from.*

### [Zinke] Tried To Personally Profit From Out State Corporations Buying Up Montana Land And Driving Up Housing Costs

---

#### Montana Had An Affordable Housing Crisis

---

**Montana Governor Greg Gianforte Said That “Affordable And Attainable Housing Is...The No.1 Issue Facing Working Families In Montana.”** “‘I think affordable and attainable housing is probably the No. 1 issue facing working families in Montana,’ Gov. Greg Gianforte said at a press conference in April.” [Missoulian, [5/15/23](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Nowhere To Go: Montana's Affordable Housing Crisis.”** [Missoulian, [5/15/23](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Montana City Grapples With Rise Of Unhoused People Living In Vehicles.”** [PBS News Hour, YouTube, [4/21/24](#)]

---

#### Halliburton CEO Dave Lesser Bought Land In Whitefish That Zinke Sought To Personally Benefit From

---

**David Lesar, The Chairman Of Halliburton, Promised Zinke And His Wife The Rights To Run A Microbrewery As Part Of A Development Project In Zinke's Hometown Of Whitefish, Montana.** “A group funded by David Lesar, the Halliburton chairman, is planning a large commercial development on a former industrial site near the center of the Zinkes' hometown of Whitefish, a resort area that has grown increasingly popular with wealthy tourists. The development would include a hotel and retail shops. There also would be a microbrewery — a business first proposed in 2012 by Ryan Zinke and for which he lobbied town officials for half a decade. The Whitefish city planner, David Taylor, said in an interview that the project's developer suggested to him that the microbrewery would be set aside for Ryan and Lola Zinke to own and operate, though the developer told POLITICO that no final decisions have been made.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

**The Project Planned To Use Land Owned By A Foundation Zinke Started To Build The Veterans Peace Park In Whitefish.** “Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

**Zinke Would Have Profited From The Deal Because Land He Owned Near The Proposed Development Would Have Increased In Value Due To Nearby Commercial Development.** “Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

**The Proposed Project Would Have Put A New Hotel, Retail Stores, And A Microbrewery Near The Land Owned By Zinke.** “Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

---

## **Halliburton Was A Multinational Company**

---

**Halliburton Was A Large, Multinational Energy Company Headquartered In Texas And The United Arab Emirates.** “Halliburton is a large, multinational energy company headquartered in Houston, Texas and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.” [Maritime Injury Center, accessed [7/27/24](#)]

---

## **Lesar Had Real Estate Interests In 95 Karrow LLC, Which Included Multiple Multi-Million Dollar Properties, Including One That Was \$11.5 Million**

---

**Lesar Had Real Estate Interests In 95 Karrow LLC.** “The Politico report published last week focuses on Lesar’s real estate interests in 95 Karrow LLC, the project seeking to revitalize a shuttered timber plant, and the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park, an adjacent land parcel with which Zinke has long ties.” [Flathead Beacon, [6/25/18](#)]

- **95 Karrow Had Planned 74 Residential Units.** “City Council last week approved a revised plan for the 95 Karrow project, a large commercial and residential development slated for the former Idaho Timber site...The amendment adds 74 residential units to the 10 that were previously approved. The zoning on the property does not allow for vacation rentals.” [Whitefish Pilot, [9/15/21](#)]
- **95 Karrow Ave Had Multiple Multimillion Dollar Plots Available.** [Zillow.com, accessed [7/28/24](#)]



## 95 Karrow Ave


Whitefish, MT 59937




**\$1,350,000**  
 -- bd, -- ba  
 -- sqft  
 Active - **Unit 2**




National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson




**\$1,600,000**  
 -- bd, -- ba  
 -- sqft  
 Active - **Unit 1**




National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson




**\$1,700,000**  
 -- bd, -- ba  
 -- sqft  
 Active - **Unit 4**




National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson




**\$2,050,000**  
 -- bd, -- ba  
 -- sqft  
 Active - **Unit 3**




National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson




**\$2,400,000**  
 -- bd, -- ba  
 -- sqft  
 Active - **Unit 7**



National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson









**\$2,400,000**  
 -- bd, -- ba  
 -- sqft  
 Active - **Unit 9**



National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson



	<p><b>\$2,560,000</b></p> <p>-- bd, -- ba</p> <p>-- sqft</p> <p>Active - <b>Unit 8</b></p>	
National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson		
	<p><b>\$7,500,000</b></p> <p>-- bd, -- ba</p> <p>-- sqft</p> <p>Active - <b>Unit 10</b></p>	
National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson		
	<p><b>\$11,500,000</b></p> <p>-- bd, -- ba</p> <p>-- sqft</p> <p>Active - <b>Unit 5&amp;6</b></p>	
National Parks Realty - Whitefish, Michael Anderson		

[Zillow.com, accessed [7/28/24](#)]

**Zinke Was Even Investigated For Engaging In A Shady Land Deal, Attempting To Help A Multinational Corporate Executive Buy Land In Whitefish For A Private Development Project That Zinke Stood To Make Money From**

**David Lesar, The Chairman Of Halliburton, Promised Zinke And His Wife The Rights To Run A Microbrewery As Part Of A Development Project In Whitefish, Montana**

**David Lesar, The Chairman Of Halliburton, Promised Zinke And His Wife The Rights To Run A Microbrewery As Part Of A Development Project In Zinke’s Hometown Of Whitefish, Montana.** “A group funded by David Lesar, the Halliburton chairman, is planning a large commercial development on a former industrial site near the center of the Zinkes’ hometown of Whitefish, a resort area that has grown increasingly popular with wealthy tourists. The development would include a hotel and retail shops. There also would be a microbrewery — a business first proposed in 2012 by Ryan Zinke and for which he lobbied town officials for half a decade. The Whitefish city planner, David Taylor, said in an interview that the project’s developer suggested to him that the microbrewery would be set aside for Ryan and Lola Zinke to own and operate, though the developer told POLITICO that no final decisions have been made.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

**The Project Planned To Use Land Owned By A Foundation Zinke Started To Build The Veterans Peace Park In Whitefish.** “Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

**Halliburton Was A Multinational Company**

**Halliburton Was A Large, Multinational Energy Company Headquartered In Texas And The United Arab Emirates.** “Halliburton is a large, multinational energy company headquartered in Houston, Texas and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.” [Maritime Injury Center, accessed [7/27/24](#)]

---

## **Zinke Would Have Profited From The Deal Because Land He Owned Near The Proposed Development Would Have Increased In Value From Nearby Commercial Development**

---

**Zinke Would Have Profited From The Deal Because Land He Owned Near The Proposed Development Would Have Increased In Value Due To Nearby Commercial Development.** “Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

**The Proposed Project Would Have Put A New Hotel, Retail Stores, And A Microbrewery Near The Land Owned By Zinke.** “Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

---

## **Zinke’s Land Deal With The Chairman Of Halliburton Led To An Investigation From The Interior Department’s Inspector General**

---

**The Interior Department’s Inspector General Investigated Zinke Over A Land Deal He Made With The Chairman Of The Oilfield Services Company Halliburton Co.** “The Interior Department’s top watchdog has referred an investigation into Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department, raising the prospect that criminal violations have been uncovered, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday. The Interior Department’s inspector general has been looking into several inquiries involving Zinke, including accusations over his wife’s travel and a land deal with a property development group backed by the chairman of the oilfield services company Halliburton Co. The Post cited anonymous sources and did not say which investigation had been referred to the Justice Department.” [Helena Independent Record, [10/30/18](#)]

## **MT-01 Message #3 Backup**

*[Zinke] sold out Montana farmers and ranchers while Chinese corporations bought up U.S. farmland, and then a PAC for a Chinese company donated to his campaign.*

## **[Zinke] Sold Out Montana Farmers And Ranchers While Chinese Corporations Bought Up U.S. Farmland...**

**Montana Cattlemen’s Association President Gilles Stockton: “Ryan Zinke Was In Congress In 2015 And Actually Voted To Remove Beef And Pork From The Labeling Requirements. He Has Not Repudiated That Vote.”** According to an op-ed in the Ravalli Republic by Gilles Stockton, President of the Montana Cattlemen’s Association, “When we look at the five candidates currently running to represent us in Congress we find a mixed bag. As mentioned above, Representative Rosendale could be sponsoring the American Beef Labeling Act, but isn’t. Ryan Zinke was in Congress in 2015 and actually voted to remove beef and pork from the labeling requirements. He has not repudiated that vote.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 10/1/22]

- Montana Cattlemen’s Association President Gilles Stockton: “In 2015 Congress Rescinded The Requirement That Imported Beef And Pork Be Labeled... Immediately Following This Action By Congress Cattle Markets Crashed By Nearly Half, Resulting In Billions Of Dollars Lost To Ranchers In Rural States Such As Montana.”** According to an op-ed in the Ravalli Republic by Gilles Stockton, President of the Montana Cattlemen’s Association, “A new poll conducted on behalf of the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) finds that 86% of Americans favor reinstatement of Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) for beef and pork. In 2015 Congress rescinded the requirement that imported beef and pork be labeled. However, it was only for beef and pork. All other foods, including lamb and seafood, continue to be labeled. Immediately following this action by Congress cattle markets crashed by nearly half, resulting in billions of dollars lost to ranchers in rural states such as Montana.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 10/1/22]
- The Northern Plains Resource Council Claimed That 14,000 Jobs Had Been Lost In American Meatpacking Facilities As A Result Of The Repeal Of Country-Of-Origin Labeling.** According to the Northern Plains Resource Council, “Since COOL was repealed nationally in 2015, 14,000 jobs in American meatpacking facilities have been lost. Without COOL, processing meat overseas is cheaper and perpetuates exploitation of workers and the environment. United Food and Commercial Workers – the largest private-industry union representing workers at grocery stores, retailers, meatpackers, and processors – supports restoring mandatory COOL.” [Northern Plains Resource Council, 3/1/22]

**HEADLINE: “China Owns 380,000 Acres Of Land In The U.S. Here’s Where.”** [WKAR, 6/26/23]

- Chinese Firms And Investors Own Over 383,934 Acres In The U.S.** “Chinese firms and investors own just over 383,934 acres in the U.S., less than the state of Rhode Island, and far less than how much Canada, Netherlands, Italy, the U.K. and Germany, in that order, each own.” [WKAR, 6/26/23]

**...And Then A PAC For A Chinese Company Donated To His Campaign**

**Zinke Received \$7,500 From Syngenta PAC.** [FEC.gov, accessed 7/27/24]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
SYNGENTA CORPORATION EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	ZINKE FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	DE	05/13/2024	\$2,500.00
SYNGENTA CORPORATION EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	ZINKE FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	DE	09/08/2023	\$2,500.00
SYNGENTA CORPORATION EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	ZINKE FOR CONGRESS	GENERAL	DE	06/21/2022	\$2,500.00

[FEC.gov, accessed 7/27/24]

- Syngenta Was A Chinese Owned Agricultural Chemical Company That Was The World’s Largest Producer Of Agricultural Chemicals.** “ChemChina, a state-owned enterprise, has filed for an IPO of Syngenta, the world’s largest producer of agricultural chemicals, which it bought for \$43 billion in 2017 (a deal that Fortune chronicled in detail). It remains China’s biggest foreign acquisition. Now the IPO could be one of China’s biggest.” [Fortune, 7/1/21]

**MT-01 Message #4 Backup**

*Ryan Zinke is profiteering off Montana's housing crisis, buying up properties and increasing the rent on Montantans.*

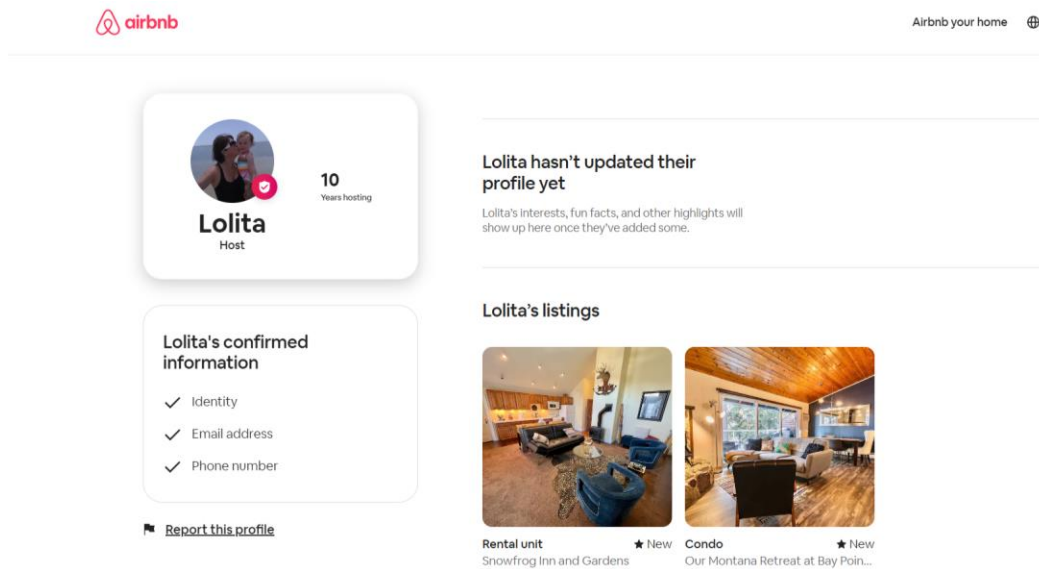


# Ryan Zinke Is Profiteering Off Montana's Housing Crisis, Buying Up Properties And Increasing The Rent On Montantans

## Zinke's Wife, Lolita, Had Three Airbnb Postings For Various Properties

**Zinke Was Married To Lolita Zinke.** “Lolita ‘Lola’ Zinke, a Santa Barbara native and wife of Donald Trump’s former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, broke a bottle of Champagne over the hull of the future USS Santa Barbara in Mobile, Alabama, this weekend, proclaiming, ‘For the United States of America, I christen thee ‘Santa Barbara.’” [Santa Barbara Independent, [10/18/21](#)]

**There Was A Profile “Lolita” That Appeared To Be Lolita Zinke Who Listed The Snow Frog Inn.** [Air Bnb, accessed [5/2/24](#)]



[Air Bnb, accessed [5/2/24](#)]

- **The Snow Frog Inn Was Owned By Ryan Zinke And His Family.** “Plans for a new bed and breakfast will go before the City of Whitefish on Monday during a public hearing. Ryan Zinke and his family are working with the Whitefish Planning board to get approval on a bed and breakfast. The Snow Frog Inn will feature six bedrooms for guests, a kitchen, a living room space and lodge area where customers can relax.” [Montana Right Now, [5/31/13](#)]
- **Zinke Listed Snow Frog LLC As A Position On His Personal Financial Disclosure.** [U.S. House Clerk, Ryan Zinke 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure, filed [5/13/23](#)]


### SCHEDULE E: POSITIONS

Position	Name of Organization
Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC Whitefish MT
Partner	Snowfrog LLC Whitefish MT
Partner	Double Tap LLC Whitefish MT


[U.S. House Clerk, Ryan Zinke 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure, filed [5/13/23](#)]

**Lolita Zinke Had Three Air Bnb Postings For Various Properties in Whitefish.** [Air Bnb, accessed [4/30/24](#);  
Air Bnb, accessed [4/30/24](#); Air Bnb, accessed [4/30/24](#)]

### Snowfrog Inn and Gardens Share Save



**Entire rental unit in Whitefish, Montana**  
4 guests · 2 bedrooms · 2 beds · 1 bath  
★ New

 **Hosted by Lolita**  
10 years hosting

This centrally located upstairs apartment in downtown Whitefish offers two bedrooms, one bath, a full kitchen, a living room with a fireplace, and dedicated work space. The property also provides Laundry facilities, and is beautifully decorated in upscale furnishing. With its proximity to town and the Whitefish River, residents can easily enjoy all the amenities and outdoor activities the area has to offer.

**Add dates for prices**

CHECK-IN Add date	CHECKOUT Add date
GUESTS 1 guest	

**Check availability**

[Report this listing](#)

[Air Bnb, accessed [4/30/24](#)]

## Our Montana Retreat at Bay Point on Whitefish Lake

[Share](#) [Save](#)



### Entire condo in Whitefish, Montana

8 guests · 3 bedrooms · 5 beds · 2 baths

★ New



**Hosted by Lolita**  
10 years hosting

Enjoy exclusive access to 600 feet of private homeowners beach and unwind in the indoor pool after a day of exploring. Introducing our stunning 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo on Whitefish Lake! This retreat comfortably sleeps 8, featuring two Murphy beds for added flexibility. Complete with a fully equipped kitchen, with luxurious furnishings throughout. Welcome to your perfect Whitefish getaway!

CHECK-IN 5/1/2024	CHECKOUT 5/6/2024
GUESTS 1 guest	

Those dates are not available

[Change dates](#)

[Report this listing](#)

[Air Bnb, accessed [4/30/24](#)]

## Our Montana Retreat at Bay Point on Whitefish Lake

[Share](#) [Save](#)



### Entire condo in Whitefish, Montana

8 guests · 3 bedrooms · 5 beds · 2 baths

★ New



**Hosted by Lolita**  
10 years hosting

Enjoy exclusive access to 600 feet of private homeowners beach and unwind in the indoor pool after a day of exploring. Introducing our stunning 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo on Whitefish Lake! This retreat comfortably sleeps 8 featuring two Murphy beds for added flexibility

Add dates for prices

CHECK-IN Add date	CHECKOUT Add date
GUESTS 1 guest	

[Check availability](#)

[Report this listing](#)

[Air Bnb, accessed [4/30/24](#)]

---

## Zinke's Whitefish Lake AirBnB Rented for Over \$16,000 a month

---

**Whitefish Lake AirBnB Rented For As High As \$18,600 For A Month.** “In the ad, Tranel showed an Airbnb listing entitled "Our Montana Retreat at Bay Point on Whitefish Lake," which is a two-bedroom, two-bathroom home listed by a host named "Lolita" (Lolita Hand is Zinke's wife). In the ad, the cost breakdown shows an "accommodation" cost of \$16,800, a cleaning fee of \$200 and an Airbnb service fee of \$1,537 for a month-long stay, with a "monthly stay discount" of \$2,520 for a total pre-tax cost of \$16,017 for one month. When attempting to book the rental for the month between March 5 and April 5, 2025, AlterNet found an accommodation cost of \$18,600, a \$200 cleaning fee and a \$732 service fee. [AlterNet, [8/27/24](#)]

---

## Air Bnb Contributed To The Housing Crisis In Montana

---

**Advocates Said Measures To Ban Some Short-Term Rentals Would Help Alleviate The City's Housing Crisis.** “Bozeman votes to ban some short-term rentals, ‘grandfathers’ others: Proponents say the new ordinance will help alleviate city’s housing crisis.” [Montana Free Press, [10/18/23](#)]

**Short-Term Rentals Can Be A Factor In A Lack Of Affordable Housing, Like In Whitefish Where There Are 900 Listings For Short-Term Rentals On Airbnb.** “Granted, short-term rentals are not the sole cause of the lack of affordable housing in Montana, but in some areas they can be a factor. In the Whitefish area, there are more than 900 listings for short-term rentals on Airbnb in a town with 7,600 residents.: [Montana Business Quarterly, [1/2/19](#)]

## MT-01 Message #5 Backup

*Zinke wants to roll back Montanans' rights and freedoms. He supports letting the government ban abortion with no exceptions, even in cases of rape and incest or when the woman's life is at stake, and has voted repeatedly to take away abortion rights in Montana. He repeatedly voted to criminalize abortion and supports letting the government punish women and doctors with jail time.*

## He Supports Letting The Government Ban Abortion With No Exceptions, Even In Cases Of Rape And Incest Or When The Woman's Life Is At Stake...

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported The Dobbs Decision Overturning Roe V. Wade.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Abortion remains legal in Montana and several GOP laws putting restrictions on access are currently on hold with recent court decisions. Zinke has said he supports the Dobbs decision to return lawmaking to the states, and said in a recent interview he supports the 2021 law that bans abortion after 20 weeks in Montana that includes exceptions. ‘I think a ban is too harsh because it doesn’t take into account dire circumstances,’ he said. ‘Nor do I think that abortion should be a routine substitute for birth control and I appreciate that it’s a Montana decision, and right now I appreciate what the Legislature put forward with 20 weeks.’” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

**Following The Dobbs Decision, States Had The Ability To Ban Abortion Without Exceptions.** According to Human Rights Watch, “In June 2022, the US Supreme Court overturned the constitutionally protected right to access abortion,[2] leaving the question of whether and how to regulate abortion to individual states.[3] As of January 17, 2023, abortion is banned, with extremely limited exceptions, in thirteen states: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma.[4] Georgia has banned abortion after six weeks of pregnancy (effectively outlawing access entirely).[5] Approximately 22 million women and girls of reproductive age (ages 15-49) in the US live in states where abortion access is heavily restricted, and often totally inaccessible.” [Human Rights Watch, [4/18/23](#)]

**Zinke Said That He “Believe[ed] In The Sanctity Of Life.”** “I believe in the sanctity of life.” [Rep. Ryan Zinke, Twitter, [5/14/15](#)]





[Rep. Ryan Zinke, Twitter, [5/14/15](#)]

## ...And Has Voted Repeatedly To Take Away Abortion Rights In Montana

### Federal Votes

#### Mifepristone

**June 2023: Zinke Voted In Favor Of Prohibiting The FDA From Implementing A Rule That Would Allow Pharmacies To Dispense Mifepristone Without A Prescription.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres' amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill, which would, "strike language to prohibit the Food and Drug Administration's use of funds provided in the bill to implement the January 2023 change to no longer require that a physician dispense the abortion drug mifepristone to patients in person. Under the change mifepristone can now be dispensed by a certified pharmacy with a prescription issued by a health care provider and can also be shipped directly to the patient." The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/14/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Agriculture Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions Blocking The Implementation Of An FDA Rule That Increased Access To Mifepristone.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Agriculture appropriations bill, which would, "rescind \$500 million from the Rural Energy for America Program, which provides funding for rural small businesses and agricultural producers to undertake renewable energy projects or to improve energy efficiency. As amended, the \$500 million rescinded would be converted to loan guarantees for future projects. [...] The bill also included several policy riders, including language to: [...] Block the FDA policy removing the requirement that health care providers dispense the abortion drug mifepristone to patients in person. The FDA's change currently allows pharmacies with special certification to distribute the pill to patients with a prescription." The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/14/23]

#### Service Members And Veterans



**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 2670, A Bill To Authorize \$874.2 Billion In National Defense Spending Which Included An Amendment Repealing A DOD Memorandum Concerning Reimbursements For Abortion-Related Travel.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would authorize \$874.2 billion in national defense spending, including \$841.5 billion for the Defense Department and \$32.2 billion for national security programs within the Energy Department. The bill would authorize approximately \$168.6 billion for weapons and other procurement and \$145.2 billion for military research and development. Within these totals, it would authorize \$32.3 billion for shipbuilding; \$13.2 billion for Air Force procurement of 83 new F-35 series tactical force aircraft; \$17.4 billion for 92 Navy aircraft; \$539 million for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent ballistic missile system; and approximately \$30 billion for missile defense programs, including \$434 million for a hypersonic missile defense system, \$498 million for continued development of Guam missile defense systems, \$160 million for Israeli missile defense systems and \$2.6 billion for a Space Force defendable missile warning satellite system. Within Energy Department funding, it would authorize \$23.9 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration, primarily for the maintenance of a nuclear weapons stockpile. It would authorize \$38.2 billion for the Defense Health Program and \$17.5 billion for military construction. It would authorize \$9.7 billion for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and \$3.6 billion for the European Deterrence Initiative, primarily intended to counter aggression by China and Russia, respectively. For international assistance and cooperation, it would authorize \$4 billion to bolster U.S. and allied forces in Europe against Russian aggression, including \$300 million in security assistance to Ukraine; \$565 million for the U.S. Africa Command; \$398 million for forces in Syria and Iraq combating the Islamic State group; \$336 million for a cooperative threat reduction program assisting former Soviet Union countries; \$300 million for cooperative research and development programs with Israel; and \$210 million for the Baltic Security Initiative. The bill would authorize a 5.2 percent military pay increase and authorize the Defense Department to issue bonuses to junior enlisted servicemembers to counteract inflation. It would authorize \$1.1 billion for the Defense Department environmental restoration fund and require the department to undertake various environmental cleanup activities. It would eliminate the position of chief diversity officer within the Defense Department and include various provisions to restrict DOD programs that involve diversity, equity and inclusion and critical race theory. The bill would establish a special inspector general for Ukraine assistance and require the Defense Department to make plans to increase the energy resiliency of each main operating base in the U.S. European Command zone. It would repeal a 2022 Defense Department memorandum regarding access to reproductive health care and prohibit the department from paying for or reimbursing expenses relating to abortion services; eliminate all Defense Department and Armed Forces offices established to promote diversity, equity and inclusion as well as terminate all personnel within such offices; and prevent the Defense Department from purchasing data of U.S. individuals that would otherwise require a warrant, court order or subpoena. The motion passed the House on July 14, 2023 by a vote of 219-210, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 4 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted for the motion, while 206 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 2670, [Vote #328](#), 7/14/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/14/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 2670 To Repeal A 2022 Defense Department Memorandum Regarding Access To Reproductive Health Care And Prohibit The Department From Paying For Or Reimbursing Expenses Relating To Abortion Services.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Jackson, R-Texas, amendment no. 5 that would repeal a 2022 Defense Department memorandum regarding access to reproductive health care and prohibit the department from paying for or reimbursing expenses relating to abortion services.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 13, 2023 by a vote of 221-213, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 1 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted for the motion, while 211 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 2670, [Vote #300](#), 7/13/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/23](#)]

**May 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Restricting The Use Of Military Construction-VA Funds To Provide Abortion Services For Veterans.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Wasserman Schultz’s amendment to the Military Construction-VA appropriations bill, which would, “strike language relating to social policy riders, and the relevant accompanying report language that would: Direct the Defense secretary to inform Congress 30 days prior to any military exercise that is anticipated to cost more than \$100,000. Prohibit the use of funds to provide abortion-related services for veterans, except in the case of rape, incest or in which the life of the woman is at risk. [...] Prohibit the use of funds to implement the 2021 executive order that promotes clean energy

and a variety of climate-related executive orders.” The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 5/23/24]

**May 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Military Construction-VA Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions Restricting The Use Of Federal Funds To Provide Abortion Services For Veterans.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Military Construction-VA appropriations bill, which would, “prohibit funding for gender-affirming surgical procedures or hormone therapies and abortion-related care or counseling. [...] It also would bar the use of funding to carry out executive orders related to federal government decarbonization, addressing climate change and more.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 25 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 5/23/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Prohibiting The Use Of Defense Funds To Allow Servicemembers To Obtain Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted for Rep. McCollum’s amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to prohibit the use of funds for 24 policy provisions, including: Paid leave, travel or related expenses of federal employees or their dependents to obtain abortions. [...] Implementing climate change executive orders.” The amendment was rejected, with 24 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Defense Appropriations Bill, Which Included A Provision To Prohibit The Use Of Defense Funds To Allow Servicemembers To Obtain Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Defense appropriations bill, which would, “prohibit the use of funding for paid leave, travel or related expenses for federal employees or their dependents to obtain abortions or abortion-related services. [...] It would not include \$621.2 million for climate change initiatives from the administration's budget request.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 25 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted For Amendments That Prohibited The Use Of Military Construction Or VA Funds For The Purpose Of Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted for en bloc amendments, introduced by Rep. Carter, to the FY2024 Military Construction-VA appropriations bill, which would, “ban the use of funds provided by the bill for: --Abortions and gender-affirming care.” The amendment was adopted, with 34 Republicans voting in favor and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Military Construction-VA Appropriations Bill, Which Included An Amendment Banning The Use Of Federal Funds For Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Military Construction-VA appropriations bill, which would, “bar the use of federal funds for abortion and gender-affirming care.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Defense Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions To Prohibit The Use Of Funds To Allow Federal Employees To Receive Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Defense appropriations bill, which would, “prohibit the use of funding in the bill to: Implement climate change programs and to finalize, implement or promulgate the November 2022, ‘Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk’ proposed rule. [...] Provide paid leave and travel or related expenses of a federal employee or their dependents for the purposes of obtaining an abortion or abortion-related services. [...] It also would eliminate funding for: Climate change initiatives, a \$715 million reduction.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/22/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Prohibiting The Use Of Defense Funds To Ensure Access To Reproductive Healthcare Such As Abortions For Servicemembers.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. McCollum’s amendment to the Defense appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to implement, administer or otherwise carry out the Defense Department’s October 2022 memo, or any successor policy, ensuring access to reproductive health care, including permission for servicemembers to receive paid leave when they must travel to obtain reproductive health services such as

abortions.” The amendment was rejected, with 24 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/22/23]

## State Votes

**In 2009, Zinke Voted Against A Referendum To Amend The Montana Constitution To Declare That The Right To Privacy Did Not Grant Access To Abortion.** The Billings Gazette reported, “While in the Montana Senate, Zinke voted for bills to require parental notification for abortion that were later vetoed by Democratic governors. In 2009 he voted against a referendum to amend the Montana Constitution to say its right to privacy did not grant access to abortion or public funding of abortion. In 2011 he voted for a similar referendum— both referendums ultimately failed to make it to the ballot.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

**Zinke Voted For A Bill To Send A Constitutional Amendment To Montana Specifying That The Montana Constitution Did Not Grant A Right To Abortion.** In April 2011, Zinke voted in favor of a bill that would send a constitutional amendment to the electors of Montana, to specify that the Montana constitution does not grant a right to an abortion or the public funding of an abortion. The bill passed (30-20). [[HB 574, 4/13/11](#); NARAL, [2011 Scorecard](#)]

**Zinke Voted To Include “Unborn Children” In Definition Of “Deliberate Homicide,” Which Would Subject Those Charged To Criminal Prosecution.** In March 2011, Zinke sponsored and voted to add the term “unborn child” when detailing the offense of deliberate homicide and mitigated deliberate homicide. The bill passed (29-21). [[HB 167, 3/31/11](#)]

## He Repeatedly Voted To Criminalize Abortion And Supports Letting The Government Punish Women And Doctors With Jail Time

**2023: Zinke Voted H.R. 26.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would require health care practitioners to provide the same care to a child that is “born alive” after an abortion or attempted abortion as they would for a child born at the same gestational age and to ensure the child is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital; require hospital and clinic practitioners and employees to report any knowledge of failures to provide such care; and impose criminal fines and penalties for failures to meet these requirements. It would state that a child born alive under these conditions is a legal person under U.S. law, entitled to the protections of U.S. law, and it would specifically make any act that kills or attempts to kill such a child punishable as murder or attempted murder. The bill would also prohibit the prosecution of the mother of a child born alive after an abortion or attempted abortion and permit such mothers to seek relief through civil action against any person who violates the bill’s requirements, including monetary and punitive damages. The motion passed the House on January 11, 2023 by a vote of 220-210, with 1 voting present and 3 not voting. 1 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted for the motion, while 210 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 26, [Vote #29](#), 1/11/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

- **Vox: “Reproductive Rights And Physician Groups Say The Bill Could Criminalize Doctors And Is Unnecessary.”** According to Vox, “But reproductive rights and physician groups say the bill could criminalize doctors and is unnecessary — not only because a live birth after an abortion attempt is an extremely unlikely scenario but also because laws already exist to protect an infant in this instance anyway. ‘The bill maligns and vilifies providers and patients to push a false narrative about abortion later in pregnancy,’ Dr. Kristyn Brandi, a board member of Physicians for Reproductive Health, told Vox in an email last year.” [Vox, [2/25/19](#)]

**Zinke Voted For H.R. 3504.** In September 2015, Zinke voted for legislation that “amends the federal criminal code to require any health care practitioner who is present when a child is born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion to: (1) exercise the same degree of care as reasonably provided to any other child born alive at the same gestational age, and (2) ensure that such child is immediately admitted to a hospital. The term ‘born alive’ means the complete expulsion or extraction from his or her mother, at any stage of development, who after such

expulsion or extraction breathes or has a beating heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut.” The bill passed, 248 to 177. [HR 3504, [Vote #506](#), 9/18/15]

- **Doctors Would Face Up To 5 Years In Prison If They Were Found To Not Follow The Legislation.** “Per the bill, ‘the term ‘born alive’ means the complete expulsion or extraction from his or her mother, at any stage of development, who after such expulsion or extraction breathes or has a beating heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut.’ Physicians could face up to five years of prison time for lack of adherence to this measure and may also face civil suits from women who wish to press charges.” [Yahoo News, [9/18/15](#)]

## MT-01 Message #6 Backup

*Libertarian Dennis Hayes is a conservative outsider who is focused on draining the corrupt Washington swamp, building Trump's border wall, eliminating the government overreach of the Bureau of Land Management, and always standing up to the radical left.*

### **Libertarian Dennis Hayes Is A Conservative Outsider Who Is Focused On Draining The Corrupt Washington Swamp...**

**Hayes Was A Retired Builder And Remodeler.** In an interview with Montana Public Radio, Hayes said, speaking to current and previous occupations, “Retired builder and remodeler.” [Montana Public Radio, [5/15/24](#)]

**Hayes Said That The First Thing He Would Do In Office Would Be To “File Impeachment Papers On The Corruption Of Joe Biden [And] The Republican Party Wasting Our Taxpayer Money.”** In a candidate questionnaire, Hayes said, “First thing I do is file impeachment papers on the corruption of Joe Biden the Republican Party wasting our taxpayers money with their dog-and-pony show and not getting anything done.” [Montana Free Press, [9/4/24](#)]

**Hayes Was Running For Congress To Investigate Corruption From Government Entities.** “Libertarian Congressional candidate Dennis Hayes from Tulsa, Oklahoma is running for a spot in Congress to investigate what he believes is corruption from several organizations and government entities.” [KBZK, [5/16/24](#)]

**Hayes Called Climate Change “A Farce.”** “Climate change is a farce nothing but a joke it's a waste of taxpayers money and too many people in this government making millions of dollars off of it it's a scam.” [Montana Free Press, [9/4/24](#)]

**Hayes Supported Building A Border Wall, Said There Should Be A Border Wall At Our “South Border And Our North Border.”** In a candidate questionnaire, Hayes said, “There should be a border wall at our south border and our north border no one is allowed in here unless they go through the door and through the proper channels like the Constitution says.” [Montana Free Press, [9/4/24](#)]

### **...Building Trump's Border Wall...**

**Hayes Supported Building A Border Wall, Said There Should Be A Border Wall At Our “South Border And Our North Border.”** In a candidate questionnaire, Hayes said, “There should be a border wall at our south border and our north border no one is allowed in here unless they go through the door and through the proper channels like the Constitution says.” [Montana Free Press, [9/4/24](#)]

### **...Eliminating The Government Overreach Of The Bureau Of Land Management..**

**Hayes Said That He Had Been Fighting With The Forest Service For 10 Years On Their Corruption And Lies.** “‘I know how corrupt this government is,’ Hayes said in a written statement to MTFP. ‘I’ve been fighting with the forest service for going on 10 years on their corruption and lies.’” [Montana Free Press, [9/4/24](#)]

**Hayes Said That He Would Start Investigating The “Forest Service, The [Bureau Of Land Management]” And “Start Getting People Fired And Make Sure They Lose Their Pension.”** In a candidate questionnaire, Hayes said, “To start investigating the Forest Service, the BLM, the court systems on all of their corruption and start getting people fired and make sure they lose their pension too much corruption in this government they're not for the people anymore they're for their own back pockets.” [Montana Free Press, [9/4/24](#)]

**Hayes Said That The Forest Service Should Be Defunded.** In an interview with Montana Public Radio, Hayes said, “Defund the forest service there's too much corruption in it and this is the people's land not the government's land the government does not own any land by the Constitution.” [Montana Public Radio, [5/15/24](#)]

## MT-01 Message #7 Backup

*Ryan Zinke is another Washington politician who resigned from Donald Trump's cabinet after facing 18 federal investigations including allegations of corruption and abuse of taxpayer dollars. And Zinke sold out Montana to out-of-state and Chinese interests, accepted campaign contributions from a PAC for a Chinese company, sought to profit from out-of-state corporate executives buying up land and voted to make it harder for Montana ranchers to compete with China.*

### **Ryan Zinke Is Another Washington Politician Who Resigned From Donald Trump's Cabinet After Facing 18 Federal Investigations Including Allegations Of Corruption And Abuse Of Taxpayer Dollars**

**Zinke Resigned As Secretary Of The Interior After It Was Reported That He Faced A Potential Criminal Investigation From The Justice Department Over Allegations That He Used His Office For Personal Gain.** “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will step down by the end of this year, President Donald Trump announced Saturday, making him the latest Trump administration Cabinet official forced to resign amid scandal. The resignation comes after reports that the Justice Department is considering whether to pursue a criminal investigation against the former Montana congressman and Navy SEAL, who is facing several probes into whether he has used his office for personal gain. His impending exit will make him the most recent in line of Trump administration officials to leave under a cloud of ethical scandals, including former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and former HHS Secretary Tom Price.” [Politico, [12/15/18](#)]

**According To The Center For Western Priorities, Zinke Was “The Most Investigated Interior Secretary In Recent Times,” Due To The 15 Inquiries He Faced Or Was Facing As Of October 2018.** “The inspector general recently concluded that Zinke broke department policy by allowing his wife, Lolita, to travel with him in government vehicles and said the secretary could have taken steps to avoid spending \$12,375 on a charter flight last year. In all, Zinke has faced or is facing 15 inquiries, making him the most investigated interior secretary in recent times, according to the Center for Western Priorities, a watchdog. ‘Since stepping into his role as interior secretary, Ryan Zinke has repeatedly leveraged his office for personal gain, attracting unprecedented scrutiny from government investigators,’ said Jennifer Rokala, executive director of the Denver-based group.” [Helena Independent Record, [10/30/18](#)]

**MSNBC: The First Example Of Trump's Department Of Justice Declining To Prosecute Trump Appointees Was When Trump's DOJ Declined To Charge Ryan Zinke After He Faced Corruption Allegations.** “In other words, the agency's independent watchdog department thought the Trump appointees' deceptions might have risen to the level of criminal wrongdoing. As it turns out, the Justice Department decided not to prosecute, which has proven to be a familiar consequence. As regular readers may recall, the first example was Ryan Zinke. Corruption



allegations involving Donald Trump's scandal-plagued Interior secretary were referred to Justice Department prosecutors, but Trump's DOJ declined to charge the Montana Republican.” [MSNBC, Maddowblog, [7/19/21](#)]

---

**While Secretary Of The Interior, Zinke Was The Subject Of 18 Federal Investigations For Misconduct**

---

<b>Investigation</b>	<b>Outcome Of Investigation</b>
Blocked casino project after meeting with lobbyists, Department of Interior Office of Inspector General (Inspector General)	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation, and unresolved
Potential Hatch Act violation: Announced that Florida would be exempt from a federal expansion of offshore drilling during an appearance with Florida Governor Rick Scott, when Scott was a speculated Senate candidate, Office of Special Counsel (OSC)	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Censorship in a climate change report, Inspector General	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Potential Hatch Act violation: Zinke tweeted a picture of himself wearing “Make America Great Again” socks, OSC	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Alleged retaliation against a whistleblower who spoke out about the effects of Climate Change on Alaska Native communities, OSC	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Real estate and microbrewery deal with a Halliburton executive, Inspector General	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Real estate and microbrewery deal with a Halliburton executive, Justice Department	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Spending \$139,000 in taxpayer funds for office doors, House Oversight Committee	Open at the time of Zinke’s resignation
Zinke’s official government trips that included his wife, Inspector General	Zinke was implicated in Misconduct
Alleged threat to Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) during the healthcare debate, Inspector General	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Alleged threat to Sen. Murkowski during the healthcare debate, Government Accountability Office	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Staff reassignments that may have been politically motivated, Inspector General	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Potentially improper chartered flights, Inspector General	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Halted mining study into the health impact of a mining technique in Appalachia, Inspector General	Investigation was closed and/or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records
Potential Hatch Act violation: National Hockey League speech, OSC	Zinke was cleared by this investigation
Potential Hatch Act violation: Virgin Islands political fundraiser, OSC	Zinke was cleared by this investigation
Potential Hatch Act violation: Seven additional trips between March 2017 and October 2017 that combined official and political activity, OSC	Zinke was cleared by this investigation
Zinke’s involvement in a plan to shrink national monuments, Inspector General	Zinke was cleared by this investigation

[Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (C.R.E.W), [8/9/18](#)]

*Note: Some of the allegations that led to investigations against Zinke were investigated by multiple sources. Zinke’s alleged threats to Senator Murkowski over her refusal to vote for a Republican healthcare plan, and Zinke’s Whitefish, Montana real estate deal with a Halliburton executive were both investigated by two different investigators.*

*Note: Some of the allegations against Zinke were unresolved at the time of his departure, and more research is needed into the outcome of those investigations.*

## And Zinke Sold Out Montana To Out-Of-State And Chinese Interests, Accepted Campaign Contributions From A PAC For A Chinese Company...

**Montana Cattlemen’s Association President Gilles Stockton: “Ryan Zinke Was In Congress In 2015 And Actually Voted To Remove Beef And Pork From The Labeling Requirements. He Has Not Repudiated That Vote.”** According to an op-ed in the Ravalli Republic by Gilles Stockton, President of the Montana Cattlemen’s Association, “When we look at the five candidates currently running to represent us in Congress we find a mixed bag. As mentioned above, Representative Rosendale could be sponsoring the American Beef Labeling Act, but isn’t. Ryan Zinke was in Congress in 2015 and actually voted to remove beef and pork from the labeling requirements. He has not repudiated that vote.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 10/1/22]

- Montana Cattlemen’s Association President Gilles Stockton: “In 2015 Congress Rescinded The Requirement That Imported Beef And Pork Be Labeled... Immediately Following This Action By Congress Cattle Markets Crashed By Nearly Half, Resulting In Billions Of Dollars Lost To Ranchers In Rural States Such As Montana.”** According to an op-ed in the Ravalli Republic by Gilles Stockton, President of the Montana Cattlemen’s Association, “A new poll conducted on behalf of the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) finds that 86% of Americans favor reinstatement of Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) for beef and pork. In 2015 Congress rescinded the requirement that imported beef and pork be labeled. However, it was only for beef and pork. All other foods, including lamb and seafood, continue to be labeled. Immediately following this action by Congress cattle markets crashed by nearly half, resulting in billions of dollars lost to ranchers in rural states such as Montana.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 10/1/22]
- The Northern Plains Resource Council Claimed That 14,000 Jobs Had Been Lost In American Meatpacking Facilities As A Result Of The Repeal Of Country-Of-Origin Labeling.** According to the Northern Plains Resource Council, “Since COOL was repealed nationally in 2015, 14,000 jobs in American meatpacking facilities have been lost. Without COOL, processing meat overseas is cheaper and perpetuates exploitation of workers and the environment. United Food and Commercial Workers – the largest private-industry union representing workers at grocery stores, retailers, meatpackers, and processors – supports restoring mandatory COOL.” [Northern Plains Resource Council, [3/1/22](#)]

**HEADLINE: “China Owns 380,000 Acres Of Land In The U.S. Here’s Where.”** [WKAR, [6/26/23](#)]

**Chinese Firms And Investors Own Over 383,934 Acres In The U.S.** “Chinese firms and investors own just over 383,934 acres in the U.S., less than the state of Rhode Island, and far less than how much Canada, Netherlands, Italy, the U.K. and Germany, in that order, each own.” [WKAR, [6/26/23](#)]

**Zinke Received \$7,500 From Syngenta PAC.** [FEC.gov, accessed [7/27/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
SYNGENTA CORPORATION EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	ZINKE FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	DE	05/13/2024	\$2,500.00
SYNGENTA CORPORATION EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	ZINKE FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	DE	09/08/2023	\$2,500.00
SYNGENTA CORPORATION EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	ZINKE FOR CONGRESS	GENERAL	DE	06/21/2022	\$2,500.00

[FEC.gov, accessed [7/27/24](#)]

- Syngenta Was A Chinese Owned Agricultural Chemical Company That Was The World’s Largest Producer Of Agricultural Chemicals.** “ChemChina, a state-owned enterprise, has filed for an IPO of Syngenta, the world’s largest producer of agricultural chemicals, which it bought for \$43 billion in 2017 (a

deal that Fortune chronicled in detail). It remains China's biggest foreign acquisition. Now the IPO could be one of China's biggest." [Fortune, [7/1/21](#)]

## **...Sought To Profit From Out-Of-State Corporate Executives Buying Up Land...**

---

### **David Lesar, The Chairman Of Halliburton, Promised Zinke And His Wife The Rights To Run A Microbrewery As Part Of A Development Project In Whitefish, Montana**

---

**David Lesar, The Chairman Of Halliburton, Promised Zinke And His Wife The Rights To Run A Microbrewery As Part Of A Development Project In Zinke's Hometown Of Whitefish, Montana.** "A group funded by David Lesar, the Halliburton chairman, is planning a large commercial development on a former industrial site near the center of the Zinkes' hometown of Whitefish, a resort area that has grown increasingly popular with wealthy tourists. The development would include a hotel and retail shops. There also would be a microbrewery — a business first proposed in 2012 by Ryan Zinke and for which he lobbied town officials for half a decade. The Whitefish city planner, David Taylor, said in an interview that the project's developer suggested to him that the microbrewery would be set aside for Ryan and Lola Zinke to own and operate, though the developer told POLITICO that no final decisions have been made." [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

**The Project Planned To Use Land Owned By A Foundation Zinke Started To Build The Veterans Peace Park In Whitefish.** "Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value." [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

---

### **Halliburton Was A Multinational Company**

---

**Halliburton Was A Large, Multinational Energy Company Headquartered In Texas And The United Arab Emirates.** "Halliburton is a large, multinational energy company headquartered in Houston, Texas and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates." [Maritime Injury Center, accessed [7/27/24](#)]

---

### **Zinke Would Have Profited From The Deal Because Land He Owned Near The Proposed Development Would Have Increased In Value From Nearby Commercial Development**

---

**Zinke Would Have Profited From The Deal Because Land He Owned Near The Proposed Development Would Have Increased In Value Due To Nearby Commercial Development.** "Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value." [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

**The Proposed Project Would Have Put A New Hotel, Retail Stores, And A Microbrewery Near The Land Owned By Zinke.** "Meanwhile, a foundation created by Ryan Zinke is providing crucial assistance. Lola Zinke pledged in writing to allow the Lesar-backed developer to build a parking lot for the project on land that was donated to the foundation to create a Veterans Peace Park for citizens of Whitefish. The 14-acre plot, which has not been significantly developed as a park, is still owned by the foundation. Lola Zinke is its president, a role her

husband gave up when he became interior secretary. The Zinkes stand to benefit from the project in another way: They own land on the other side of the development, and have long sparred with neighbors about their various plans for it. If the new hotel, retail stores and microbrewery go through, real estate agents say, the Zinke-owned land next door would stand to increase substantially in value.” [Politico, [6/19/18](#)]

---

## **Zinke’s Land Deal With The Chairman Of Halliburton Led To An Investigation From The Interior Department’s Inspector General**

---

**The Interior Department’s Inspector General Investigated Zinke Over A Land Deal He Made With The Chairman Of The Oilfield Services Company Halliburton Co.** “The Interior Department’s top watchdog has referred an investigation into Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department, raising the prospect that criminal violations have been uncovered, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday. The Interior Department’s inspector general has been looking into several inquiries involving Zinke, including accusations over his wife’s travel and a land deal with a property development group backed by the chairman of the oilfield services company Halliburton Co. The Post cited anonymous sources and did not say which investigation had been referred to the Justice Department.” [Helena Independent Record, [10/30/18](#)]

## **And Voted To Make It Harder For Montana Ranchers To Compete With China**

**Montana Cattlemen’s Association President Gilles Stockton: “Ryan Zinke Was In Congress In 2015 And Actually Voted To Remove Beef And Pork From The Labeling Requirements. He Has Not Repudiated That Vote.”** According to an op-ed in the Ravalli Republic by Gilles Stockton, President of the Montana Cattlemen’s Association, “When we look at the five candidates currently running to represent us in Congress we find a mixed bag. As mentioned above, Representative Rosendale could be sponsoring the American Beef Labeling Act, but isn’t. Ryan Zinke was in Congress in 2015 and actually voted to remove beef and pork from the labeling requirements. He has not repudiated that vote.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 10/1/22]

- **Montana Cattlemen’s Association President Gilles Stockton: “In 2015 Congress Rescinded The Requirement That Imported Beef And Pork Be Labeled... Immediately Following This Action By Congress Cattle Markets Crashed By Nearly Half, Resulting In Billions Of Dollars Lost To Ranchers In Rural States Such As Montana.”** According to an op-ed in the Ravalli Republic by Gilles Stockton, President of the Montana Cattlemen’s Association, “A new poll conducted on behalf of the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) finds that 86% of Americans favor reinstatement of Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) for beef and pork. In 2015 Congress rescinded the requirement that imported beef and pork be labeled. However, it was only for beef and pork. All other foods, including lamb and seafood, continue to be labeled. Immediately following this action by Congress cattle markets crashed by nearly half, resulting in billions of dollars lost to ranchers in rural states such as Montana.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 10/1/22]
- **The Northern Plains Resource Council Claimed That 14,000 Jobs Had Been Lost In American Meatpacking Facilities As A Result Of The Repeal Of Country-Of-Origin Labeling.** According to the Northern Plains Resource Council, “Since COOL was repealed nationally in 2015, 14,000 jobs in American meatpacking facilities have been lost. Without COOL, processing meat overseas is cheaper and perpetuates exploitation of workers and the environment. United Food and Commercial Workers – the largest private-industry union representing workers at grocery stores, retailers, meatpackers, and processors – supports restoring mandatory COOL.” [Northern Plains Resource Council, [3/1/22](#)]