



## Ryan Zinke

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Republican Incumbent in  
Montana's 1st Congressional District

**Research Book–2024**

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# Table Of Contents

<b>Table Of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Key Findings</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Key Findings</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Section 1: Zinke Is Bad For Montana</b> .....	<b>41</b>
Zinke Has Left Montana Behind, Living In His \$3.9 Million California Mansion .....	42
Zinke’s Proposed “Solutions” To Montana’s Housing Crisis Included Handouts To His Developer Donors And Longer Mortgages That Would Prevent People From Ever Fully Owning Their Homes .....	51
Zinke Repeatedly Voted Against Funding For Affordable Housing .....	59
While Zinke’s Wall Street Donors Caused Skyrocketing Housing Prices By Buying Up Single-Family Homes, Zinke Was Nowhere To Be Found .....	64
Zinke Voted To Remove Country Of Origin Labeling Requirements For Beef, Decimating Montana’s Cattle Industry, And Supported The TPP, A Free Trade Agreement That Would Have Worsened The Problem .....	84
Zinke Took \$7,500 From A CCP-Owned Company That Bought Farmland In The U.S. While Saying China Was An “Adversary” .....	89
Zinke Caused The Largest Ever Reduction In Public Land In U.S. History By Shrinking Numerous National Monuments So That Energy Companies Could Drill On Previously Protected Land .....	92
Zinke’s Tenure As Interior Secretary Was A Disaster For National Parks, Drawing Widespread Condemnation And Putting Yellowstone At Risk.....	115
<b>Section 2: Zinke Is A Far-Right Extremist</b> .....	<b>120</b>
Zinke Supported Banning Abortion Nationally And Allowing States To Ban Abortion With No Exceptions, Calling Himself “Adamantly Unambiguous” In His Pro-Life Views.....	121
Zinke Said Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid Were Too Expensive And That “Everything Should Be Looked At” To Ensure The Programs Remained Solvent .....	141
Zinke Opposed Efforts To Force Big Pharma To Negotiate Prescription Drug Prices While Taking Tens Of Thousands In Campaign Contributions From The Industry.....	146
Zinke Bragged That He Supported Repealing The Affordable Care Act And Repeatedly Voted To Repeal The Law .....	151
Zinke Opposed Making It Easier For Veterans To Obtain Their Benefits And Said They Should Get A Job Instead Of Being “Economic Slaves” Dependent On Government Benefits .....	157
Zinke Voted To Let The U.S. Default On Its Debt, Which Would Have Instantly Caused A “Cataclysmic” Recession, Wiped Out \$10 Trillion In Household Wealth, And Destroyed Millions Of Jobs .....	161
Zinke Repeatedly Voted To Shut Down The Government And Force The Troops And Border Patrol Agents To Work Without Pay .....	164
Despite Portraying Himself As An Advocate For Ending Sexual Harassment, The Problem Worsened During Zinke’s Tenure As Interior Secretary .....	170
<b>Section 3: Zinke Is A Corrupt, Unethical Fraud</b> .....	<b>178</b>
Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke: 21 Months In Office, 18 Ethics Investigations .....	179
Zinke Reportedly Lied To Federal Investigators About His Involvement In A Real Estate Deal Between His Family’s Foundation And Halliburton’s Chairman .....	183
Zinke Misled Federal Investigators Regarding His Conversations With MGM Lobbyists And Lawmakers Who Pushed Him To Deny A Petition For A Tribal Casino That Would Have Competed With MGM .....	198



Swamp Creature: Zinke Went Straight Through The Revolving Door After Resigning As Interior Secretary, Ballooning His Net Worth By Consulting For Companies That He Had Previously Regulated.....	207
Zinke Used Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars Of Taxpayer Money On Office Customizations As Interior Secretary .....	225
Zinke Used Taxpayer Funds On A \$12,000 Private Jet To Speak With His Biggest Donor’s NHL Team & Tested Ethics Rules On Travel For His Family Members .....	229
Zinke Improperly Billed Travel To The Government While Serving As A Navy SEAL, Which Caused Superiors To Block Him From Ever Moving Up In Command.....	238
Zinke Inflated His Resume As A Navy SEAL And Geologist In Order To Pursue His Own Agenda .....	242
Zinke Was Accused Of Steering A \$300 Million Federal Contract To His Friend’s Two-Person Company .....	246
Zinke Was Implicated In A Pay To Play Scandal Involving A Residential Development In Arizona, Prompting Calls For A DOJ Investigation .....	253
Zinke Took Actions As Interior Secretary To Benefit PROOF Research, A Montana Company He Was Invested In .....	256
Zinke Used His Political Power To Help His Friends In The Drone Industry, Which He Promoted Before Joining Congress .	262
Zinke Had Significant Ties To Turkey.....	266
<b>Section 4: Zinke Sold Out His Constituents To The Energy Industry.....</b>	<b>271</b>
After Resigning, Zinke Raked In Hundreds Of Thousands In Consulting Fees And Thousands In Campaign Cash From The Very Same Oil Giants That Received Leases While Zinke Was Interior Secretary .....	272
Pay-To-Play: Zinke Was An Unprecedented Boon For The Oil And Gas Industry As Interior Secretary & The Industry Rewarded Him With Hundreds Of Thousands In Campaign Donations.....	280
Zinke Had A Consistent Legislative Record Of Backing Fossil Fuel Interests In Congress .....	315
As Interior Secretary, Zinke Conducted A “Soviet Style Purge” Of Senior Climate Staff And Removed References To Climate Change In Official Reports .....	331
Zinke Supported Policies To Expand Mineral Mining While Taking Tens Of Thousands In Campaign Cash From The Industry .....	337
<b>Background &amp; Reference .....</b>	<b>342</b>
<b>Public Records .....</b>	<b>343</b>
Campaign Finance.....	343
Financial Disclosures .....	365
Key Interior Department IG Reports .....	394
Leases On Federal Land .....	401
Office Expenditures.....	412
Personal Political Contributions.....	414
Staff Revolving Door .....	416
Turnberry Solutions .....	417
<b>Legislative Record .....</b>	<b>426</b>
Key Committee Markup Votes.....	426
Key Co-Sponsorships, Sponsorships, And Amendments.....	442
Key Floor Votes .....	450
<b>Issues .....</b>	<b>489</b>
Biography.....	489
Agriculture & Food Safety.....	507



Budget.....	510
Campaigns.....	516
Comments On Other Public Figures.....	520
Consumer Protections And Regulations .....	529
Crime & Public Safety.....	529
Economy & Business .....	530
Education .....	533
Election Law & Campaign Finance .....	534
Energy .....	539
Environment .....	572
Ethics & Government Reform .....	644
Foreign Policy.....	705
Guns .....	715
Health Care .....	716
Housing .....	729
Immigration & Border.....	737
LGBT .....	745
Labor .....	748
National Security & Terrorism .....	750
Native American Issues.....	751
Racism.....	755
Seniors .....	755
Taxes .....	757
Transportation .....	760
Veterans.....	761
Women & Gender Issues .....	764



## Key Findings

### Key Vulnerabilities

#### Section 1: Zinke Is Bad For Montana

► **Zinke Has Left Montana Behind, Living In His \$3.9 Million California Mansion:** Over the last three years, a wide variety of evidence, including campaign finance and SEC filings, more than a dozen distinct property records, posts on the Instagram account of Zinke’s wife, and in-person reporting have indicated that Zinke either lives or spends a significant portion of his time at the property his wife owns in Santa Barbara, California. It’s no wonder Zinke listed the California property as his mailing address in so many places either – the Santa Barbara house was more than three times as expensive as Zinke’s so-called primary residence in Montana. Zinke and his campaign have insisted that Zinke lives in Montana full-time while his wife lives at her Santa Barbara house, with the couple traveling back and forth to see each other, a claim that one law professor labeled “a hard sell to any tax authority.”

• **A Mountain Of Evidence Indicated That Zinke Lived In Santa Barbara, Not Montana:** A wide array of press coverage and public records indicated that Zinke spent much of his time in Santa Barbara, including:

- **Property Records:** Press coverage from Politico and other outlets noted that the Santa Barbara property, which was owned solely by Zinke’s wife, had a homestead tax exemption, indicating that it was Lolita Zinke’s primary residence. This was still true as of July 2024. In contrast, Zinke did not claim a primary residence tax deduction on his home in Whitefish, where he ostensibly lived full-time when not in D.C.

Moreover, from 2021 to 2024, Zinke listed his wife’s California home as his mailing address on six distinct property records, with his adult children and wife listing California addresses on an additional six distinct records that did not involve Zinke himself. Specifically, in 2021, both the quit claim deed and mortgage for Zinke’s property in Whitefish were signed by Zinke and his wife from Santa Barbara, California.

Moreover, from 2022 to 2024, Zinke’s mailing address was listed on four property records for his property in Whitefish. These records included the deed for the property itself, the property report card, the assessor’s website, and a property appraisal notice.

Five other property records indicated that Zinke’s wife and adult children lived in California. Additionally, between 2021 and 2024, five property records for property in Lupfer Heights, Montana, that was owned by Zinke’s wife and his sons, Konrad and Frederick, indicated that their mailing address was in Santa Barbara. These records included the deed for the property itself, two property appraisal notices, the property report card, and the assessor’s website.

- **Campaign Finance Filings:** In 2020, Zinke’s address was listed in Santa Barbara, California, when he was paid speaker fees by the St. Lucie County Republican Executive Committee in Florida – a fact that has not been covered by the press. Additionally, a 2022 Politico story noted that Zinke’s wife had listed her address as being in Santa Barbara multiple times after Zinke resigned from the Trump Administration.
- **An SEC Filing:** Press coverage noted that an SEC filing of Zinke’s consulting contract with U.S. Gold Corp. listed his mailing address in Santa Barbara, while also listing his “Main Office” in Whitefish.
- **Instagram:** Press coverage noted that Zinke appeared numerous times alongside his wife on her Instagram account, with many of the posts being tagged from Santa Barbara. In one post, Zinke’s wife called him her “Quarenteammate” in Santa Barbara, indicating that Zinke did not live in Montana during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **In-Person Reporting:** In one Politico article about Zinke’s residency, the reporter wrote that they had visited Zinke’s alleged primary residence in Montana, and that, “Exiting the property, Nikita Packard identified herself as Zinke’s son’s 22-year-old girlfriend and told a POLITICO photographer that she lived in the house, but that Zinke did not. Packard did not say where the former secretary resides permanently, and she did not respond to later attempts to confirm details. A former tenant of Zinke’s, who until 2019 lived at a rental property of his next door and who asked not to be named for privacy reasons, described interacting with the Zinkes but said they did not appear to live in the Snowfrog building full-time. [...] The former Zinke tenant told me the Snowfrog had been used as a multiunit rental property, and two other Montana sources said they had heard the same.”

- **Zinke’s Wife’s House In Santa Barbara Was Far More Expensive And Nicer Than Zinke’s So-Called Primary Residence In Whitefish:** Zinke’s California house was far nicer than his Montana house. Zillow indicated that the Zinkes’ Santa Barbara property had an estimated value of \$3,967,700, a value in line with Zinke’s most recent financial disclosure, which indicated the property had a value between \$1 million and \$5 million. Additionally, Zillow estimated that if the Santa Barbara property were rented, it would fetch a whopping \$12,737 per month – more than seven times the median rent in Montana, which was \$1,800 in July 2024. A Google Maps satellite view suggested that the house was also situated on a large plot of surrounding land.

In contrast, Zinke’s property in Whitefish – his primary residence, according to his voter registration, political contributions, FEC filings, spokesperson, and Zinke himself – was assessed to be worth \$910,500 in 2024, with Zillow estimating that the property would fetch rent of \$1,535 a month.

- **In Response, Zinke Claimed That His Wife Lived In California And He Lived In Montana, An Explanation That One Law Professor Called “A Hard Sell To Any Tax Authority”:** In response to reporting about his residence, Zinke claimed that his wife lived in California full time and that he lived in Montana full time, noting that his wife was “a person in her own right” and that the homestead deduction on the California property only applied to his wife, as he did not own the property with her. Zinke said, “Lola pays California taxes, so we operate exactly under the law within the guidelines of the homestead act... it wasn’t mine, it was Lola’s.”

Zinke claimed that he and his wife traveled back and forth between Montana and California to be with each other and insisted that his primary residence was in Montana. In response, Andrew Hayashi, a law professor at the University of Virginia, wrote, “The details for determining residency will depend on the state or local laws, but I would think that it would be a hard sell to any tax authority that the candidate and his wife do not have the same primary residence (assuming they are not separated).”

- ▶ **Zinke’s Proposed “Solutions” To Montana’s Housing Crisis Included Handouts To His Developer Donors And Longer Mortgages That Would Prevent People From Ever Fully Owning Their Homes:** Zinke’s public statements about the housing crisis reveal that his “solutions” to the crisis would be woefully inadequate at doing anything other than enriching his donors in the real estate and construction industries. Zinke said he supported offering 50 year mortgages as an affordability solution, which would effectively guarantee buyers would never fully own their home and would lock them into longer, more expensive mortgages. He also called for cutting costs and regulations for builders and developers – a clear giveaway to the industry that constituted his largest lifetime donor over his congressional career. Zinke also said he preferred incentivizing private sector housing over public housing and drew criticism from the press and Montana Democrats for failing to offer a comprehensive plan on housing and being “nowhere to be found” on the issue.

- **Zinke Called For Offering 50 Year Mortgages To Solve The Housing Crisis, Which Would Force Borrowers To Pay More In Interest And Reduce Their Ability Ever Fully Own Their Homes:** In 2022, Zinke repeatedly argued for offering 50 year mortgages as a solution for housing affordability, saying, “It doesn’t mean people are going to live in a house for 50 years, it just means they’re able to buy and I can tell

you, most Americans, how you build long-term wealth is you own a home.” Critics noted that Zinke’s proposal would prevent people from fully owning their home and lock them into higher interest payments. For example, the Billings Gazette wrote, “Critics note that overall payments would rise over the life of the loan compared to a standard 15- or 30-year mortgage.” Zinke’s Democratic opponent, Monica Tranel, slammed him for backing 50-year mortgages in an op-ed, writing, “A 50-year mortgage locks buyers into longer, higher debt, essentially guarantees the buyer will never actually own their home, and limits the equity they will obtain. [...] Zinke’s pandering to corporate profits is nothing new, but be clear: Zinke’s ‘solution’ does not help homeowners but ensures large corporate lenders make more money.”

- **Zinke Called For A Regulatory Holiday And Cutting Costs For Builders, A Clear Giveaway For Developers:** In 2022, Zinke said that to address the housing crisis in Montana, “The answer is to get government out of the way and reduce costs and timelines for builders. The federal government can... promote the affordable and stable supply of building materials... [by] implementing a series of regulatory holidays... We also need meaningful permitting relief; lengthy and costly permitting processes also unnecessarily tie up construction projects.” Zinke’s call to cut costs and permitting regulations for builders and implement regulatory holidays would effectively be a giveaway to real estate developers. Regulatory holidays were periods during which private firms were temporarily exempted from regulation to foster investments under uncertain conditions, often used to help incentivize large telecommunications infrastructure projects. Critics noted that regulatory holidays often benefited the largest companies in a given market by exempting them from taxes and regulation, cementing monopolistic market dominance over the long term.
- **Zinke Said He Opposed Public Housing And Wanted To Incentivize Private Sector Housing:** In 2022, Zinke said, “I’m a big advocate for private housing, but not government housing, and we can incentivize on the private side. We all got to work together. But also, the county is growing and it’s going to continue to grow.” That year, Zinke similarly argued, “The answer to Montana’s housing crisis is not more government housing. The answer is to get government out of the way and reduce costs and timelines for builders.”
- **Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donor By Industry Was The Real Estate Industry, And His Top Donors By Employer Included Multiple Realtor And Construction Entities:** OpenSecrets found that over the course of his congressional career, Zinke’s top donor by industry was real estate, when excluding retired people and conservative groups. Specifically, Zinke accepted \$974,736 in contributions from people employed in the real estate industry. Moreover, Zinke’s top lifetime donors by employer included multiple entities associated with building, construction, and realtors, such as \$41,950 from employees of Langlas & Associates (a construction general contractor based in Bozeman), \$30,000 from the National Association of Home Builders PAC, \$28,100 from employees of Barnard Construction, and \$25,000 from the National Association of Realtors PAC.
- **Zinke Received Criticism By The Press And Montana Democrats For Being Absent On The Housing Crisis:** Zinke was criticized by the Daily Inter Lake in 2022, which wrote, “Zinke has also been outspoken about the housing crisis, yet has not released a comprehensive plan like Tranel’s.” The Inter Lake noted that when reached for comment, Zinke’s spokesperson pointed to a bill “to support housing for police officers, first responders and teachers.”

Elsewhere, Sheila Hogan, the executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, wrote an op-ed slamming Zinke as “nowhere to be found” on the housing crisis in Montana. Hogan argued, “It might be easy for a millionaire like Zinke, who spends part of his time at his home in Santa Barbara, California, to ignore how costs have gone up across our state, but the reality is dire for Montana families who suddenly have to choose between paying their mortgage or rent, or putting food on the table. [...] We need leaders in Congress who will hold bad actors, hedge funds, and out-of-state corporations accountable for driving up the cost of living, ensuring Montanans have a level playing field in the housing market.”

- ▶ **Zinke Repeatedly Voted Against Funding For Affordable Housing:** Zinke repeatedly voted against funding for affordable housing after being re-elected to Congress in 2022. He voted for appropriations bills that would have

guttered federal programs to fund affordable housing and slashed funding for public housing, putting tens of thousands of people at risk of eviction.

- **Zinke Voted In Committee To Slash Funding For Affordable Housing And Cut Public Housing Funding, Cuts Which Could Have Caused Tens Of Thousands Of Evictions:** As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Zinke's votes on the annual bills funding the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) backed versions of the bills that slashed funding for affordable housing. In 2023, he voted in committee for a fiscal 2024 HUD appropriations bill that would have eliminated the Choice Neighborhoods program, a \$185 million fund that provided grants to encourage local residential developments, and would have cut funding for public housing by \$150 million compared to the previous year. During the amendment process for that bill, Zinke voted three times to cut \$3.62 million for earmarks funding community housing projects run by LGBT organizations. Zinke also voted to preserve a provision in the bill cutting funding for a HUD rule meant to combat segregation in housing projects that received grants from HUD.

In July 2024, Zinke voted in committee for the fiscal 2025 HUD appropriations bill, which would have cut funding for the only federal program dedicated to new affordable rental and homeownership housing – the HOME program – by 60 percent, from \$1.25 billion to \$500 million. The bill Zinke supported also included provisions to cut funding for public housing by \$600 million – a seven percent cut that Appropriations Committee Democrats argued could cause tens of thousands of evictions. The bill would have also eliminated a program to help mayors and governors fund expansions of affordable housing and would have eliminated the Choice Neighborhoods initiative, which helped communities redevelop distressed housing. Moreover, it would have eliminated targeted funding to reduce the hazard of lead paint in public housing, affecting up to 700,000 families.

- **Zinke Voted Against Affordable Housing And Equal Access To Federal Housing Programs On The House Floor:** In 2023, Zinke voted against an amendment to move \$100 million within the budget for the Housing and Urban Development Department's (HUD) Community Development Fund to promote removing barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. That year, Zinke also voted to cut the salary of Julia Gordon, the assistant secretary for housing and the federal housing commissioner, to \$1. Zinke also voted three times in 2023 against measures to promote equal access for federal housing programs. He voted to cut \$25.2 million from the budget for HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. Zinke also voted to block funding for a HUD rule that ensured that federal housing programs accommodated transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and voted to block funding for HUD's Equity Action Plan.

► **While Zinke's Wall Street Donors Caused Skyrocketing Housing Prices By Buying Up Single-Family Homes, Zinke Was Nowhere To Be Found:** While other Members of Congress proposed legislation to rein in Wall Street's buying spree of single-family homes, Zinke was silent on the issue. Zinke took \$758,667 in campaign contributions from the investment industry, which included the hedge funds and private equity firms which, in 2019, began outbidding ordinary Americans for residential single-family homes, worsening the housing shortage that has pushed prices, particularly for first-time buyers, through the roof. This problem has extended to Montana, with at least 22 percent of single-family homes being bought by investors as of the end of 2023. While bills have been proposed to ban institutional investors and hedge funds from buying or owning these properties in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, Zinke did not cosponsor any of them, nor did any of his 249 press releases address the topic of Wall Street's residential property buying spree. Zinke also did not cosponsor a bill to double the tax on foreign investors who bought up residential property in the United States, whereas his Democratic opponent has called for banning hedge funds from buying up single-family homes and cracking down on foreign investors.

- **Zinke Did Not Support Attempts To Rein In Wall Street's Buying Spree Of Single Family Homes:** As of July 2024, Zinke had failed to cosponsor multiple pieces of legislation to stop Wall Street hedge funds from buying up single-family homes. Zinke did not cosponsor the End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act, a bill that would have banned hedge funds and private equity firms from buying single-family homes, forcing them to sell 10 percent of their holdings per year until they had none left. Moreover, Zinke did not cosponsor



the American Neighborhoods Protection Act, a bill to impose a \$10,000 per-home annual tax of corporate owners of more than 75 single-family homes.

- **Throughout His Time In Congress, Zinke Did Not Issue A Single Press Release Addressing Wall Street's Role In Rising Home Prices:** From January 2015 to July 2024, Zinke's congressional office issued 249 press releases, none of which highlighted Wall Street investors' role in inflating home prices by purchasing single-family homes. In fact, Zinke's entire website contained no mention of Wall Street, save for mentions of articles by the Wall Street Journal. Clearly, Zinke failed to recognize the importance of the issue.
- **Zinke Did Not Support Attempts To Reduce The Number Of Foreign Investors Buying Up Residential Property:** As of July 2024, Zinke had failed to cosponsor the Home Advantage For American Families Act, a bill introduced by Republican Representative Maria Elvira Salazar that would double the tax paid by foreign investors when purchasing real property in the United States, from 15 percent to 30 percent. The bill also increased funding for affordable housing construction in certain census tracts.
- **Zinke's Democratic Opponent Supported Banning Wall Street From Buying Up Residential Homes And Cracking Down On Foreign Investors That Bought Up Property:** The housing plan posted on the website of Zinke's Democratic opponent, Monica Tranel, included a section reading, "Ban Hedge Funds from Buying Homes and Crack Down on Land Speculators and Foreign Investors. We need to eliminate the incentives that push private equity firms into buying nursing homes and mobile home parks and sucking the money out of them or razing them to the ground and selling off lots at high prices. Congress should structure our tax code to discourage corporate ownership of multiple homes or housing units that are held as investment vehicles rather than as homes for people who live and work in our communities. [...] We also need to clamp down on foreign adversaries buying up farmland and water rights in Montana."
- **Zinke's Third Largest Lifetime Donor Was Wall Street And The Investment Industry:** OpenSecrets found that people employed in the "Securities and investment" industry constituted Zinke's third largest lifetime donor by industry, contributing a combined \$758,667, assuming the exclusion of retired people, leadership PACs, and conservative groups. When including those groups, people employed in securities and investment constituted Zinke's sixth largest donor industry. The securities and investment industry included hedge funds, private equity & investment firms, and venture capital firms, with the first two groups being the primary culprits in the trend towards buying residential homes as investment properties.
- **The Wall Street Firms Zinke Accepted Money From Were Partly Responsible For Skyrocketing Housing Prices, As They Outbid Ordinary People For Single Family Homes And Converted The Homes Into Profitable Rental Investments:** Major Wall Street firms have increasingly financed companies that have gobbled up single-family homes and converted them to profitable rental investments, hiking both rents and home prices nationwide. This trend has rapidly accelerated since 2019. While no entity owned more than 1,000 single-family homes in 2011, major institutional investors now own a combined 700,000 homes. The firms participating in this trend, either directly or by serving as private equity for other companies, included many notable hedge funds, private equity, and investment firms, including Vanguard, Blackstone, Blackrock, Goldman Sachs, Pretium Partners, and J.P. Morgan.
  - **Wall Street Buyers Have Significant Advantages Over Families Competing With Them To Buy A Home:** Extensive reporting by various news outlets noted that Wall Street buyers had significant advantages and would outbid ordinary people. Firms often offered to buy homes without inspection, entirely in cash, and at prices higher than the asking price – which they could afford to do because they had access to lower interest rates than the mortgage interest rates available to normal buyers. Reporting by the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and others documented cases where often young couples who were first-time homebuyers were directly outbid by Wall Street-backed companies offering to pay a higher price in cash. In some cases, investors bought up entire blocks or neighborhoods for conversion into rentals, with investigative reporting finding that Wall Street landlords often pursued aggressive rent increases on their

tenants while failing to address habitability and safety issues. The problem is not isolated to a few communities either.

- **25% Of Single Family Home Purchases From 2021-2023 Were Made By Investors – And The Problem Could Get Worse:** Data from the analytics company CoreLogic indicated that investors accounted for roughly 25 percent of single-family home purchasing from 2021 to 2023, with the exact percentage fluctuating quarter to quarter. Other estimates reached similar figures. One 2022 article noted that at time of writing, the 80,000 homes owned by Invitation Homes – which was financed by Blackstone and later had the majority of its shares bought by Vanguard and Goldman Sachs – was more than all of the homes listed for sale on Zillow in the top 10 most populous U.S. cities, combined. Distressingly, the problem is only getting worse. An analysis by MetLife estimated that by 2030, institutional investors will go from owning 3 percent of single-family rental homes to 40 percent of them. One 2022 report noted that Wall Street had collectively set aside a whopping \$110 billion slated to be spent purchasing single-family homes – enough to add 400,000 homes to the 700,000 already owned by institutional investors.
- **Wall Street Investors Are Driving Housing Prices Up:** Wall Street’s actions have increased housing prices. As John Burns, owner of John Burns Real Estate Consulting, explained to the Wall Street Journal, “You now have permanent capital competing with a young couple trying to buy a house... that’s going to make U.S. housing permanently more expensive.” Slate similarly noted, “The median price of an American house has increased by 28 percent over the last two years... Might the fact that corporate investors snapped up 15 percent of U.S. homes for sale in the first quarter of this year have something to do with it?” Jordan Ash, at the nonprofit Private Equity Stakeholder Project, warned that these companies have “been very explicit about how people are shut out of the homebuying market and are going to be perpetual renters.”
- **The Impacts Of Wall Street’s Homebuying Spree Extended To Montana:** CoreLogic estimated that in mid-2023, between 21.6 and 23.4 percent of purchases of single-family homes in Montana were made by investors, as opposed to ordinary people. The trend has only gotten worse since then, with CoreLogic’s data for quarter four of 2023 indicating that the share of single-family Montana homes being bought by investors was between 22.2 and 24.4 percent.

Unsurprisingly, Montanans have been raising the alarm. Two former mayors of Bozeman, Steve Kirchhoff and Jeff Krauss, wrote a 2022 op-ed arguing, “Bozeman’s affordable housing crisis [is] tied to newcomers and Wall Street.” Kirchhoff and Krauss continued, “We don’t have a supply problem in our market; instead, we have a market that caters to Wall Street [...] If we woke up tomorrow to 1,000 brand-new housing units... 20 percent would go to wealthy people from Bozeman who can afford to move up or invest; fifty percent would go to wealthy newcomers; and the remaining thirty percent would go to out-of-state investors. [...] The same fist of the investment class is pounding down the gates and staging hostile takeovers of housing markets in larger cities across the US. [...] If there is an invisible hand guiding the housing markets in ‘hot’ US cities and Montana towns, it’s studded with diamond rings.”

► **Zinke Voted To Remove Country Of Origin Labeling Requirements For Beef, Decimating Montana’s Cattle Industry, And Supported The TPP, A Free Trade Agreement That Would Have Worsened The Problem:** Zinke decimated the U.S. cattle industry, voting to repeal country of origin labeling requirements that caused the industry to crash, costing Montana ranchers billions of dollars. Zinke also supported the TPP, a trade agreement that would have harmed domestic cattle producers through its country of origin labeling rules.

- **Zinke Voted To Remove Country Of Origin Labeling Requirements For Imported Beef, Decimating The Cattle Industry In Montana Overnight:** In 2015, Zinke published a press release touting that he had voted to repeal country of origin labeling requirements for imported beef, which indicated in which country an animal was born, raised, and slaughtered. Zinke said that doing so would allow U.S. producers to “maintain ‘made in the U.S.A.’ labels,” which he claimed would “return certainty to our agriculture industry and allow Montana farmers, ranchers and related trades to compete globally for years to come.”

Zinke's vote had the opposite effect – shortly after the vote, a flood of imported beef into the U.S. market caused the domestic cattle industry to crash by nearly half, costing billions to ranchers in Montana and across the country. An op-ed by Rhonda Perry, the executive director of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, noted, “Immediately after country of origin labeling was rescinded, the price of cattle plummeted and cow/calf producers' profit dropped by 30%, the largest one-year drop in history.” The Washington Post reported in 2019 that the price of 100 pounds of cattle had crashed from \$171 in November 2014 to \$94 in late 2016, which ranchers claimed was due to the repeal of labeling requirements. The price drop severely impacted ranchers – 150,569 cattle operations in the U.S. shut down between 2017 and 2022, and the Northern Plains Resource Council, a Montana-based conservation and agriculture group, argued that the repeal of labeling requirements had cost 14,000 jobs in the meatpacking industry alone. Montana Senator Jon Tester concurred, noting in a 2020 press release that he had opposed the repeal of country of origin labeling, which had forced domestic producers “to compete with foreign meat without any way of showing where product comes from.”

Gilles Stockton, the president of the Montana Cattlemen's Association, noted that Zinke had not repudiated his vote against country of origin labeling as of October 2022. In a letter to the editor, Stockton argued, “I don't know how any other single congressional vote could have had a greater negative consequence to Montana as did Zinke's rescinding of country-of-origin labeling.”

In May 2022, Zinke said at a candidate forum that he supported country of origin labeling for meat, conveniently failing to mention that he had voted to remove the requirement seven years earlier.

► **Zinke Took \$7,500 From A CCP-Owned Company That Bought Farmland In The U.S. While Saying China Was An “Adversary”:** Across the 2022 and 2024 elections, Zinke accepted \$7,500 in contributions from a Syngenta, corporation owned by the Chinese government. Syngenta also owned 1,500 acres of U.S. farmland. During this time, Zinke repeatedly said that China was “our adversary,” making it all the more confusing that he would accept campaign cash from Syngenta. In fact, Zinke himself said, “There is no difference between a business and the Communist Party if they are both Chinese” – yet he was fine accepting money from a company he alleges is controlled by the CCP.

- **Zinke Took \$7,500 From Syngenta, A Company Owned By The Chinese Government Which Owned 1,500 Acres Of U.S. Farmland:** In the 2022 and 2024 election cycles, Zinke accepted \$2,500 contributions from Syngenta's corporate PAC, for a total of \$7,500. Syngenta was owned by ChemChina, a Chinese state-owned company, and owned 1,500 acres of U.S. farmland.

As recently as 2023, Zinke said “There is no difference between a business and the Communist Party if they are both Chinese,” meaning Zinke apparently thinks it's fine to effectively accept campaign cash from the Chinese Communist Party. ChemChina was designated as a Chinese military company operating in the United States by the Department of Defense in 2022.

- **Zinke Made Contradictory Statements About China, Calling It “Not An Enemy” In 2017 While Labeling The Nation An “Adversary” In 2023:** Zinke has contradicted himself on China. In 2017, he said, “I view China as a competitor, not an enemy.” However, more recently, Zinke said in 2023 that he saw China as a “near adversarial” nation, and was quoted in a 2024 article as saying, “Make no mistake: China is not our competitor... China is an adversary.” In 2024, Zinke also said, “China is not our friend. They are a competitor at best, enemy at worst and I would say right now they are clearly our adversary.”

► **Zinke Caused The Largest Ever Reduction In Public Land In U.S. History By Shrinking Numerous National Monuments So That Energy Companies Could Drill On Previously Protected Land:** Zinke successfully oversaw the largest ever reduction in public land in American history, shrinking some national monuments by as much as 85 percent to allow oil, gas, coal, and uranium interests to drill on protected lands. His

actions were tailored to benefit energy industry interests seeking to drill on revered monuments, like Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, which had sacred ties to Tribal communities. While Zinke claimed that his decision to shrink monuments was not based on special interests, internal documents obtained by the press revealed that when the Interior Department was not being lobbied to shrink boundaries by mining companies, the department's own staff was directed to prioritize commercial development over tourism revenue, cultural, and environmental concerns. Zinke's actions were widely condemned by advocates and the public.

- **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Successfully Pushed To Shrink Multiple National Monuments, Including Reducing The Size Of One By 85 Percent:** In May 2017, Zinke released a list of 27 national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act that he planned to review for potential shrinkage or elimination after President Trump signed an executive order calling for such a review. Zinke's final recommendations led to two sites in Utah – Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument – being shrunk by 85 percent and 50 percent, respectively. Other monuments suffering tightened boundaries included Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Gold Butte National Monument, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument, Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, and Rose Atoll Marine National Monument. After facing pressure from lawsuits and outdoors retailers criticizing his proposals to shrink the monuments, Zinke doubled down, claiming he did not “yield to pressure, only higher principle.”
- **Zinke's Actions Were Deliberately Designed To Benefit Oil, Gas, Coal, And Uranium Companies That Wanted To Drill On Land That Had Previously Been Protected As A National Monument:** While Zinke denied that his decisions to shrink national monuments had anything to do with energy interests, multiple mining and oil interests had lobbied the Interior Department to shrink both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. Energy Fuels Resources USA wrote a letter to the Interior Department highlighting uranium deposits within the bounds of Bears Ears just two weeks after Zinke toured the monument, urging the department to shrink the monument as far as possible to open access to uranium ore. A New York Times investigation uncovered that over 300 uranium mining claims existed within the original Bears Ears boundaries, with nearly all of them being placed neatly outside of Zinke's new boundaries.

Additionally, internal agency documents obtained by the Times revealed that an aide to Utah Republican Senator Orrin Hatch sent a proposed boundary change for Bears Ears to a senior Interior Department official, noting the proposal would “resolve all known mineral conflicts” and would benefit oil and gas development. The aide's proposed map was incorporated with almost no changes in Trump's final order revising the monument's boundaries. Zinke denied that any reductions to Bears Ears National Monument had anything to do with oil, gas, or mining interests, declaring that “this [was] not about energy.”

In the case of Grand Staircase Escalante, Zinke's staff ensured that the new boundaries would help coal companies. According to internal agency documents obtained by the New York Times, Zinke's staff estimated the value of coal that could be mined in Grand Staircase, with one memo directing staff to prepare a report on how the monument's protected status harmed mining in the area. In contrast, thousands of pages of accidentally released emails showed a pattern in Zinke's Interior Department of emphasizing the value of commercial development on monument sites while ignoring the benefits of keeping existing boundaries for tourism revenue and cultural and archaeological values.

- **Zinke's Actions Were Investigated For Directly Benefiting Utah State Representative Mike Noel's Financial Interests, As He Owned Land That Was Previously Protected As A Monument:** The Interior Department's inspector general opened an investigation into Zinke's decision to shrink Bears Ears National Monument for benefiting a Utah State representative. State Rep. Mike Noel praised Zinke's decision to shrink Bears Ears Monument, telling reporters, “when you turn the management over to the tree-huggers, the bird and bunny lovers and the rock lickers, you turn your heritage over.” The investigation opened after the inspector general learned that Noel's land in Utah had previously been affected by the old monument's boundaries but was freed under Zinke's proposals. The investigation ultimately cleared Zinke of wrongdoing.



- **Zinke Drew Criticism For “Ring-Fencing” National Monuments With New Oil, Gas, And Uranium Leases On The Land Surrounding Multiple Monuments:** In addition to shrinking national monuments, Zinke drew flack for selling leases to oil, gas, and uranium companies on the land immediately next to multiple national monuments, with critics accusing Zinke of “ring-fencing” the monuments. For example, Zinke’s Interior Department sold 94,000 acres near Dinosaur National Monument to oil and gas companies for drilling, endangering fossil research in an area that already had exceeded federal clean air limits. Zinke’s Interior Department also sold a collection of leases next to Hovenweep National Monument for less than \$3 an acre, despite pleas from the National Park Service, and was forced to postpone a lease sale near sacred Tribal land in New Mexico following protests from locals.
  - **Zinke’s Decision To Shrink National Monuments Was Widely Condemned As The Largest Ever Reduction Of Public Land In U.S. History:** Numerous critics noted that Zinke’s shrinking of national monuments constituted the largest ever reduction in public land in U.S. history, with Zinke cutting two million acres from federal protection. More than 90 percent of the 2.7 million public comments submitted to the Interior Department over Zinke’s proposed monument reduction plan were opposed to the drastic cuts. EarthJustice lawyer Heidi McIntosh called the plans a slap in the face to tribal groups, while author Stephen Trimble slammed Zinke in an op-ed, noting that Zinke spent just one hour with Tribal groups in Utah and multiple days with Republican politicians when making his plans. Daniel Rossman at the Wilderness Society called Zinke’s proposals “unconscionable” and an “unprecedented assault on our public lands.”
- **Zinke’s Tenure As Interior Secretary Was A Disaster For National Parks, Drawing Widespread Condemnation And Putting Yellowstone At Risk:** Zinke drew widespread backlash after he proposed more than doubling the entrance fee at the busiest national parks during peak season and eliminating the \$20 daily pass, which would have affected Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park in Montana. Though public backlash forced Zinke to retract his proposal and push through a more modest fee hike instead, his refusal to properly steward national parks or meet with the National Parks System Advisory Board even once caused a majority of the board to resign in protest of Zinke’s management in 2018 shortly after it was reported that Zinke’s Interior Department would sell oil and gas leasing rights near Yellowstone National Park. Multiple nonprofits slammed Zinke’s “anti-park pattern” of management following the resignations. Zinke also earned an “F” rating in 2016 from the National Parks Conservation Association’s Action Fund over his votes in Congress.
- **Zinke Proposed More Than Doubling The Entrance Fees At The Busiest National Parks As Interior Secretary:** In October 2017, Zinke proposed increasing the peak season gate fee at the 17 busiest national parks from \$30 to \$70 and eliminating the \$20 daily pass, a cost-effective option for day trippers. The Interior Department eventually retracted the proposal following widespread public backlash. In 2018, Montana Public Radio noted that the department had raised fees at the same 17 national parks from \$30 per vehicle to \$35 per vehicle, with Montana parks including Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park being included in the fee hike.
- Zinke’s initial move to hike fees to \$70 was slammed by the Center for Western Priorities’ spokesperson Aaron Weiss, who argued, “This is not a solution to the parks maintenance backlog, and it’s laughable for Zinke to pretend the fee hike would even make a dent in it... This is simply a move to make America’s most popular national parks less accessible to middle and lower income families.”
- **Zinke’s Poor Management Of National Parks Pushed The Majority Of The National Parks System Advisory Board To Resign In Protest Shortly After It Was Reported That The Interior Department Would Lease Land Near Yellowstone National Park For Oil And Gas Drilling:** In early January 2018, it was reported that Zinke’s Interior Department had scheduled a sale of leases for oil and gas drilling on sensitive federal land near Yellowstone National Park in Montana and near Canyonlands National Park in Utah, with the auction scheduled for March 2018.

A little more than a week later in mid-January 2018, the majority of the National Parks System Advisory Board resigned to protest Zinke's handling of national parks. The resigning board president, Tony Knowles, said, "From all of the events of this past year I have a profound concern that the mission of stewardship, protection, and advancement of our national parks has been set aside. [...] We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned... [Zinke] appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem." Knowles also said that Zinke had refused to meet with the park advisory board a single time during his tenure as Interior secretary.

Following the resignations, multiple nonprofits criticized Zinke's management of national parks. Phil Francis, the chairman of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, accused Zinke of "discourteous and disrespectful treatment of the board... consistent with a decidedly anti-park pattern demonstrated by Secretary Zinke's department." Similarly, Aaron Weiss, the spokesperson for the Center for Western Priorities, said, "Secretary Zinke has made it clear who he is listening to and that is oil and gas and uranium companies. Everything he has done has been through that lens. The resignations on Monday are just par for the course. It's just amateur hour over there."

- **Prior To Joining The Interior Department, Zinke Received An F Rating From The National Parks Conservation Association's Action Fund:** In 2016, the National Parks Action Fund, an arm of the National Parks Conservation Association, issued Zinke an "F" rating based on his votes in Congress.

## Section 2: Zinke Is A Far-Right Extremist

► **Zinke Supported Banning Abortion Nationally And Allowing States To Ban Abortion With No Exceptions, Calling Himself "Adamantly Unambiguous" In His Pro-Life Views:** Zinke was staunchly anti-choice, consistently backing Republican attempts to curtail reproductive rights. Zinke cosponsored and voted for a national abortion ban at 20 weeks and indicated he supported a 12-week ban on a questionnaire. He lavished praise on the Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, which allowed states to ban abortion without exception, and was a member of the Republican Study Committee, which backed a total national abortion ban with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the life of the mother. The same bill would effectively ban IVF. Zinke said he was "adamantly unambiguous in I'm pro-life" and said he was "proud" of his pro-life positions. Zinke voted repeatedly to bar public funding for abortions, including for the troops and veterans, while also supporting anti-choice messaging bills, the global gag rule, and other attempts to curtail abortion access. As a result, Zinke earned a 100 percent rating from the National Right to Life Committee.

- **Zinke Supported Banning Abortion Nationally, Despite Publicly Claiming Otherwise:** As early as 2008, Zinke indicated on a questionnaire for Montana's state legislative election that he believed abortion should only be legal within the first trimester of pregnancy, implying support for a ban at 12 weeks. In 2015, he co-sponsored, and later voted for, a bill in Congress banning abortion nationally after 20 weeks. The bill contained exceptions for rape, incest, and the life of the woman. Additionally, Zinke voted twice in Congress to block an FDA rule allowing the abortion medication mifepristone to be dispensed without a prescription, a clear attempt to restrict abortion access nationally.

Zinke publicly claimed that he did not support a national ban on abortion, saying in a 2022 debate, "Life is not perfect, is it?... Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't have any unwanted pregnancy? Really nice if there wasn't incest, rape, issues of health of the mother or child? Wouldn't it be nice? But that's not true, is it? Well, I think a ban is too harsh."

- **Zinke Supported Allowing States To Ban Abortion With No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest, Despite Publicly Claiming Otherwise:** In 2022, Zinke praised the Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, writing, "I applaud the court's decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child." Zinke also said at multiple debates that he supported letting states decide on abortion. The Dobbs decision

overturning *Roe v. Wade* enabled states to ban abortion with no or extremely limited exceptions. However, the *Billings Gazette* noted in 2022 that Zinke “has consistently said during his campaign that he favors exceptions for allowing abortion such as pregnancy due to rape or to save the life of the mother.”

Additionally, in 2011, while serving in Montana’s State Senate, Zinke voted for a bill to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot declaring that the Montana constitution’s right to privacy did not imply that state residents had the right to an abortion or the right to public funding of an abortion – making it possible for the state to enact an abortion ban.

- **Zinke Called Himself “Adamantly” Pro-Life:** In 2022, Zinke said, “I’m adamantly unambiguous in I’m pro-life,” and elsewhere called himself “pro-life and proud of it.” Zinke’s campaign also criticized other Republicans in the 2022 primary for “attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s pro-life record” and called him a “committed pro-life conservative.”
- **Zinke Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee, Which Supported A Bill To Completely Outlaw Abortion And IVF With No Exceptions:** Zinke advertised that he was a member of the Republican Study Committee, which released a fiscal 2025 budget proposal endorsing numerous anti-abortion bills. Among the bills endorsed by the RSC budget was the Life at Conception Act, which would have declared the right to life to be guaranteed by the constitution from the moment of fertilization. One article fact-checking claims about the bill concluded that it “aims to block abortions at all stages... [and] would outlaw all abortions with no exceptions in cases of rape, incest or risk to the pregnant person.” The RSC budget also endorsed a bill to outlaw abortion nationally after six weeks, and one to do so after 15 weeks, with both bills including exceptions for rape, incest, and the mother’s life.

The RSC’s endorsement of the Life at Conception Act would also imperil access to in-vitro fertilization (IVF). Following the February 2024 Alabama Supreme Court ruling restricting in vitro fertilization (IVF), press coverage noted that the Life at Conception Act would restrict or completely ban IVF. Multiple articles noted that the Life at Conception Act would imperil access to IVF because it declared that life began at the moment of “fertilization” and did not include any exceptions or carveouts clarifying that the bill would not restrict IVF. Because IVF typically involved discarding unused fertilized eggs, many warned that the bill would have a similar effect on IVF as the 2024 Alabama Supreme Court ruling, which caused providers in the state to halt IVF treatments after the court declared that fertilized eggs were “unborn children” subject to the state’s Wrongful Death of a Minor Act.

- **Zinke Opposed Abortion Coverage For Veterans And The Troops:** Zinke voted 10 times to block funding for abortions sought by veterans and active-duty service members. These including repeated votes to block funds for a Defense Department policy allowing for travel reimbursements for service members who traveled across state lines to receive an abortion and multiple votes for block funds from the VA appropriations bill from being used to provide abortions to veterans.
- **Zinke Wants To Restrict Insurance Coverage For Abortion:** In 2023, Zinke co-sponsored H.R. 7, a bill that, in addition to making the Hyde Amendment permanent, would require that ACA health care plans stop providing any coverage for abortion.

Across his time in Congress, Zinke cast four votes for legislation to not cover abortions sought by federal employees who had health care plans covering the procedure, a vote to bar discrimination in grant funding against health care providers that refused to provide abortions, and similar measures. Additionally, Zinke voted five times to block Washington, D.C., from using its federally-allocated budget to publicly fund abortions.

Zinke voted four times for the Mexico City Policy, also known as the global gag rule, which banned foreign aid from going to any non-governmental organization that provided abortions or discussed abortion as an option. He also voted three times to bar the use of federal funds to provide abortions to immigrants in ICE detention.

Finally, Zinke voted to define any federal rule that expanded abortion access as a major rule during the amendment process for a bill asserting greater congressional authority over major rules.

- **Zinke Voted For Republican Messaging Bills To Stigmatize Abortion And Support Pro-Life Groups:** In Congress, Zinke voted twice for the Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, a Republican messaging bill which criminalized doctors who killed a child if it was “born alive” after a failed abortion attempt – a literally non-existent practice that critics argued was meant to stigmatize medically-necessary late-term abortions. Zinke also voted to block the denial of federal funds to crisis pregnancy centers, voted for a messaging resolution praising crisis pregnancy centers and pro-life groups, and voted for a bill requiring colleges to tell pregnant students that abortion could cause mental health issues. In 2011, while serving in Montana state government, Zinke sponsored an anti-abortion bill to protect “unborn victims” from violent crimes which would have criminalized an offense that resulted in the death of an unborn child.
- **Zinke Received High Ratings From Pro-Life Groups And A Zero Percent Rating From NARAL Pro-Choice Montana:** As a state senator, Zinke received a 0 percent rating from NARAL Pro-Choice Montana in 2011. In his 2014 run for Congress, Zinke was endorsed by Montana Right to Life. In Congress, he received 100 percent ratings from the National Right to Life Committee.
- ▶ **Zinke Said Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid Were Too Expensive And That “Everything Should Be Looked At” To Ensure The Programs Remained Solvent:** Zinke said that Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid were like sinking ships and that “everything should be looked at” to “save” the programs. Zinke’s method of “saving” the programs would likely entail significant cuts; he repeatedly railed against mandatory spending for taking up a majority of the federal budget in 2023 and was a member of the Republican Study Committee. The RSC proposed a fiscal 2025 budget to raise the Social Security retirement age and convert Medicare into a privatized “premium support” model where tax dollars would subsidize private healthcare plans instead of traditional Medicare. Zinke’s election would imperil the 254,175 Montanans on Medicare and 258,613 on Social Security.
- **Zinke Said That “Everything Should Be Looked At” To Cut Spending From Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid:** In multiple comments in 2023, Zinke criticized the large amount of mandatory spending associated with Medicare and Social Security. Zinke argued that discretionary spending was at 28 percent, whereas the remainder of the budget was mandatory spending for programs that were putting more money out than they were taking in. Zinke argued that those programs should be reviewed because they were likely to have neglected programs that were not doing what they were supposed to. Most alarmingly, Zinke said in 2024 that “everything should be looked at” to address Social Security and Medicare’s solvency. In an appearance on Fox Business, Zinke said, “Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they’re the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that... I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. [...] We got to get people working. Number one, there’s a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you’re right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they’re sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we’re, we’re going to have to.
- **Zinke Is A Member Of The Republican Study Committee, Which Advocated For Raising The Social Security Retirement Age And Subsidizing Private Plans To Compete With Traditional Medicare:** Zinke is a member of the Republican Study Committee, which proposed a fiscal 2025 budget that would have cut Social Security and Medicare.
- Indeed, the RSC budget proposals for both fiscal 2024 and fiscal 2025 included provisions to raise the retirement age for Social Security from 67 to 69. The Biden White House claimed that the RSC budget would amount to a \$1.5 trillion cut to Social Security payments through raising the retirement age and cutting disability payments.

Moreover, both the 2024 and 2025 RSC budgets called for converting Medicare into a “premium support model” whereby people would receive subsidies to purchase private health plans or traditional Medicare on a competitive exchange. The premium support model was originally backed by Paul Ryan and was blasted by President Obama during the 2012 campaign as a plan to “end Medicare as we know it.”

As of 2023, 254,175 Montanans were enrolled in Medicare and 258,613 were enrolled in Social Security.

► **Zinke Opposed Efforts To Force Big Pharma To Negotiate Prescription Drug Prices While Taking Tens Of Thousands In Campaign Contributions From The Industry:** Zinke opposed successful efforts to cut prescription drug costs for millions of Americans while taking over \$14,000 in contributions from his pharmaceutical industry donors.

- **Zinke Opposed The Inflation Reduction Act, Which Allowed For Prescription Drug Price Negotiation And Capped Out Of Pocket Costs For Medicare Recipients:** In 2022, Zinke called the Inflation Reduction Act an “oxymoron” and claimed it would “raise costs, if you have private medical insurance.” Zinke introduced legislation in 2023 to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act alongside other Republican members of Congress. The Inflation Reduction Act allowed Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical companies and capped out of pocket costs for people on Medicare Part D at \$2,000 per year. However, Zinke’s spokeswoman claimed that the bill’s provisions to cut prescription drug costs would just cause the costs to be passed to people covered on private plans. Notably, Zinke was also a member of the Republican Study Committee, which released a fiscal year 2025 budget that advocated for taking away Medicare’s ability to negotiate prescription drug costs and repealing the \$2,000 out of pocket cap on drugs from the Inflation Reduction Act. Zinke’s stance drew criticism from his Democratic opponent Monica Tranel, who wrote in an op-ed that Zinke “allied himself with extremists in his party who would... stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs.”
- **Zinke Accepted \$14,116 In Campaign Contributions From The Pharmaceutical Industry:** OpenSecrets found that Zinke accepted \$14,116 from the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry over the course of his congressional career. Moreover, much of that money came during the 2024 election cycle, during which Zinke accepted \$5,738 in contributions from employees of pharmaceutical companies and the companies’ PACs.

► **Zinke Bragged That He Supported Repealing The Affordable Care Act And Repeatedly Voted To Neuter Or Repeal The Law:** Zinke proudly boasted that he opposed the Affordable Care Act and voted to repeal it, even though the law resulted in 58,000 Montanans gaining healthcare and 426,000 Montanans being protected from price discrimination for having a pre-existing condition. Zinke repeatedly voted to repeal the law and eliminate many of its most important provisions and co-sponsored bills to overturn the law.

- **Zinke Publicly Said That He Opposed The Affordable Care Act And Wanted To Repeal It:** In 2016, Zinke said he supported repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, claiming it was a “one size fits all” solution that “probably had a noble purpose, but the execution of it has hurt Montana and it has hurt the people that need health care the most.”

In fact, the opposite was true. At least 58,000 Montanans gained access to health care because of the ACA, and 426,000 Montanans with pre-existing conditions were protected from price discrimination due to the law. Moreover, 12,736 Montana seniors saved approximately \$12.3 million on drugs per year due to the ACA, while 7,000 young adults in Montana were able to stay on their parents’ healthcare until age 26.

- **Zinke Repeatedly Voted To Repeal The ACA And Its Most Popular Provisions:** Zinke took numerous votes against the ACA and its provisions. In 2016, he voted for a bill to repeal an ACA provision barring Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) from covering over the counter medication. That year, Zinke also voted for a bill to temporarily exempt individuals who lost health care coverage by the closure of a consumer plan from



penalties set by the ACA's individual mandate, weakening one of the law's primary mechanisms of enforcement.

Zinke voted against protecting the ACA's popular provisions concerning pre-existing conditions, gender discrimination, Medicare Part D drug prices, and children on their parents' health care plans from being affected by Republican legislation changing the federal rulemaking process. In 2017, Zinke voted against adding language to a bill to ensure that rules prohibiting health insurance companies from discriminating based on gender or preexisting conditions and prohibiting higher premiums or out-of-pocket costs for seniors on Medicare Part D would not be negatively affected by the bill. That year, Zinke also voted against adding an exemption to a bill so that any rule that barred health insurance issuers from eliminating health coverage for dependents younger than 26 years old would not be affected by the bill.

In 2023, Zinke voted to pass the Custom Health Option and Individual Care Expenses (CHOICE) Arrangement Act, which would have allowed employers to provide cash reimbursements to employees to purchase individual health care plans and legalized group health plans between employers, which would have severely undermined the ACA's requirements concerning employer-provided health care.

- **Zinke Co-Sponsored Bills To Overturn The ACA And Its Most Popular Provisions:** In 2015, Zinke co-sponsored H.R. 596, a bill that would have fully repealed the ACA. That year, he also co-sponsored a bill repealing a provision of the ACA that imposed an annual fee on health insurance providers. Zinke also co-sponsored a 2015 bill repealing most of the core provisions of the ACA, including provisions barring discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions, requiring dependent coverage until age 26, requiring coverage for preventative care, and more.
- **Zinke Accepted More Than \$400,000 In Contributions From The Health Sector:** OpenSecrets found that over the course of his candidacy for Congress, Zinke accepted \$314,693 in contributions from people employed in the health sector and \$89,600 from health sector PACs, for a total of \$404,293.
- ▶ **Zinke Opposed Making It Easier For Veterans To Obtain Their Benefits And Said They Should Get A Job Instead Of Being “Economic Slaves” Dependent On Government Benefits:** Zinke opposed a bill to make it easier for veterans to access their benefits and claimed veterans should get a job to avoid being “economic slaves” who needed to be “wean[ed]” off dependence on government assistance, drawing sharp criticism from other veterans for his insensitive comments and suggesting that Zinke has a general opposition to benefits for veterans.
- **Zinke Opposed The Veterans First Act, A Bill To Make It Easier For Veterans To Access The Disability Benefits They Deserved:** In a 2016 debate, Zinke said he opposed the Veterans First Act after his Democratic opponent called the bill a good start to make funding more flexible. The Veterans First Act was a bipartisan bill to reform the disability claims process at the VA so that veterans could more easily access the disability benefits they were entitled to and aimed to address the longstanding backlog of claims. The Veterans First Act was co-sponsored by Montana senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines, and was sponsored Johnny Isakson, the Republican chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.
- **Zinke Said Veterans Who Depended On Government Assistance Were “Economic Slaves” Who Needed To Get A Job, Arguing, “Don’t Be A Victim. Be A Value-Added Part Of Society”:** In 2016, Zinke reportedly said veterans should work on getting jobs and called dependence on government services “economic slavery.” When asked about the comments, he doubled down, saying, “We have to wean them off the dangerous cycle of economic dependency on the government... Don’t be a victim. Be a value-added part of society.”

Zinke's opposition to veterans' benefits drew sharp criticism from other veterans, with former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and Former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans slamming Zinke in an op-ed for “shamelessly touting his military service” while “disparaging and undermining veterans.” Hollow and

Carlson-Evans blasted Zinke for comparing “veterans who receive VA benefits to ‘economic slaves.’ How can he equate men and women who served our nation and earned the benefits that come with that service to slaves? At the same time, Zinke himself has received almost \$2,000 each month in veterans’ benefits.” Hollow and Carlson-Evans continued, “how can the VA improve if Congressman Zinke stands in the way of efforts to make it work better? We’re also appalled that Zinke skips votes on veterans’ issues to promote his own brand on cable news stations.”

► **Zinke Voted To Let The U.S. Default On Its Debt, Which Would Have Instantly Caused A “Cataclysmic” Recession, Wiped Out \$10 Trillion In Household Wealth, And Destroyed Millions Of Jobs:** Zinke recklessly voted for a debt default, which would have instantly crashed the U.S. economy. In 2023, Zinke voted against the bipartisan deal between President Biden and then-House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to raise the debt ceiling and prevent the federal government from defaulting on its debt. Zinke argued that the bill was “not enough,” claiming, “more has to be done to cut the budget.”

Had Zinke not been outvoted by other Members of Congress, the United States would have breached the debt limit and been forced to default on its debt, which Cornell trade policy professor Eswar Prasad argued would have had a “cataclysmic” impact on the global economy. Mark Zandi at Moody Analytics projected that a U.S. default lasting just one week would kill 1.5 million jobs in the U.S., with a longer default wiping out \$10 trillion in household wealth and destroying 7.8 million jobs, causing the unemployment rate to rise from 3.4 percent to 8 percent or higher. PBS similarly noted, “much financial activity hinges on confidence that America will always pay its financial obligations. Its debt, long viewed as an ultra-safe asset, is a foundation of global commerce, built on decades of trust in the United States. A default could shatter the \$24 trillion market for Treasury debt, cause financial markets to freeze up and ignite an international crisis.”

► **Zinke Repeatedly Voted To Shut Down The Government And Force The Troops And Border Patrol Agents To Work Without Pay:** During the budget negotiation process for fiscal 2024, Zinke repeatedly voted for a government shutdown that would have left the military and border patrol agents working without pay. His votes against continuing resolutions (CRs) in October and November 2023 came after Zinke had slammed far-right Republicans for voting down the October CR, with Zinke arguing that the far-right wanted to “burn it down” and leave the troops without pay – the very thing he would vote to do himself.

- **September 2023: Zinke Supported A Continuing Resolution To Avoid A Government Shutdown, Citing The Need To Pay The Troops And Border Patrol Agents So That They Didn’t Miss A Rent Or Car Payment:** In September 2023, Zinke said he would support a continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown and subsequently voted for the CR. He explained his vote by arguing that a shutdown would force border patrol agents to work without pay and said, “If we go to a shutdown our military is not going to be paid... And these are the corporals, the young petty officers. That means they’re likely to miss a rent payment, maybe a car payment. Their credit score is going to be affected.”
- **October 2023: Zinke Voted Against A Continuing Resolution While Criticizing Far-Right Republicans For Wanting To “Burn It Down” – Despite Taking The Same Vote As Them:** In October 2023, when another CR was necessary to avoid a shutdown, Zinke criticized far-right holdouts, saying, “When you come from the position that ‘there is nothing I will vote for...’ Why are you here? Are you in Washington DC to fix it? Or are you here to burn it down?” However, Zinke subsequently voted with the far-right against a clean CR, while voting for a partisan CR that had no chance of passing. After Zinke’s vote, his Democratic opponent, Monica Tranel, slammed him for “playing with people’s lives and only for political gain,” noting that Zinke’s “mean-spirited” partisan CR would have cut funding for people on food stamps and cut funds for baby formula for low-income mothers.
- **November 2023: Zinke Voted Against A Continuing Resolution Again:** In November 2023, Zinke optimistically said “the wagon’s moving forward” when discussing ongoing budget negotiations, claiming that the House was making progress on the major appropriations bills. However, when another CR was needed to

prevent a government shutdown that month, Zinke again voted against the CR and for a government shutdown. Zinke took to Twitter to explain his vote, saying, “No spending cuts? No policy changes? No CR. I can’t justify a yes vote when it’s just prolonging the status quo to punt again.”

► **Despite Portraying Himself As An Advocate For Ending Sexual Harassment, The Problem Worsened During Zinke’s Tenure As Interior Secretary:** When Zinke took charge of the Interior Department, he pledged a “zero tolerance” policy for sexual harassment and misconduct. The Interior Department’s inspector general consistently found that Zinke’s department was riddled senior employees engaging in harassment, with 39 percent of National Park Service employees reporting being harassed at work. The IG also reported that the department was resistant to change, with complaints of sexual harassment and assault rising in Zinke’s second year atop the department. In one notable case, the inspector general reported that a National Park superintendent was internally found to have sexually harassed two employees, but was rewarded with a transfer to another park, his same salary, and a \$1,000 cash bonus. Zinke was also named in a lawsuit by a female park ranger alleging sex discrimination.

- **Zinke Claimed He Would Fight Sexual Harassment At The Interior Department But Failed To Stop Rising Report Rates:** When Zinke arrived at Interior, he claimed on his first day in office that there would be a “zero tolerance” policy for sexual misconduct. After an April 2017 survey found that nearly 39 percent of National Park Service employees had been harassed at work, an inspector general report found that despite the department’s attempts to address harassment, the department was not holding employees to “the highest standards of ethical conduct.” The IG report warned that some employees, including senior officials, had engaged in “unethical or illegal conduct” and in some recent cases, had been promoted or retained in their positions. After the inspector general’s scathing assessment, Zinke told reporters that he had fired four of his senior Interior Department managers for inappropriate conduct, including sexual harassment, vowing to “remove four hundred more if necessary.”

Despite Zinke’s “zero tolerance” policy, harassment complaints continued to rise amid insufficient attempts at changing the Interior Department’s workplace culture and ethics. In 2017, the inspector general identified “workplace culture and ethics” at the department as a major management and performance challenge for the first time. The following year, “workplace culture and ethics” was featured again, with the IG’s report noting that despite “heightened efforts” within the department, investigators had found a “resistance to change.” According to the IG, under Zinke’s leadership, complaints of sexual harassment and sexual assault rose from 33 in 2017 to 37 in 2018. The IG’s office opened 22 new sexual harassment investigations and “numerous other misconduct investigations” within the department between 2016 and 2019, including one “recent case” where a manager had made “inappropriate and unwelcome sexual comments” to a subordinate despite receiving counseling for similar problems in 2013 and 2016.

- **Under Zinke’s Leadership, A National Park Superintendent’s Consistent Harassment Of His Employees Was Shoved Under The Rug:** One of the first IG investigations into workplace ethics at Zinke’s Interior Department revealed that a National Park superintendent had been moved to a different park after department officials learned that he had been harassing two female employees. De Soto National Park Superintendent Jorge Acevedo was found to have made inappropriate comments and unwanted advances to a woman he supervised, and one he had previously supervised. After department officials learned of Acevedo’s harassment, he was transferred to serve as a partnerships manager at two Alabama national parks, where he kept his \$82,000 salary and no longer supervised employees. Just before his transfer, Acevedo received a \$1,000 cash bonus. The National Park Service handed out talking points to staff to answer media inquiries regarding Acevedo’s new position, instructing employees to praise Acevedo for making a “substantial contribution” during his four years at De Soto.
- **Zinke Was Later Named In A Sex Discrimination Lawsuit Alleging That A Woman Had Been Overlooked For Promotion Because Her Supervisor Did Not Believe Women Should Lead In Law Enforcement:** To make matters worse, in December 2018, Zinke was named in his official capacity in a lawsuit alleging sex discrimination and retaliation by a female National Parks employee, Michelle Schonzeit.



Schonzeit, a park ranger, claimed she had been overlooked for a promotion because her supervisor said that he did not believe women should have leadership positions in law enforcement.

### **Section 3: Zinke Is A Corrupt, Unethical Fraud**

► **Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke: 21 Months In Office, 18 Ethics Investigations:** Zinke’s tenure at the Interior Department saw him face a whopping 18 investigations into ethics abuses spanning just 21 months in office. In response, Zinke parroted conservative talking points about the so-called deep state and labeled the investigations as “political hit jobs” against Donald Trump.

- **Zinke Faced At Least 18 Ethics Investigations During His 21 Months As Interior Secretary, Resigning In Disgrace:** Throughout Zinke’s 21 months at the Interior Department, he was investigated at least 18 times for allegations ranging from Hatch Act violations to serious conflicts of interest. Despite Zinke resigning after the announcement of the 12<sup>th</sup> investigation, Interior Department Inspector General Spokeswoman Nancy DiPaolo said that at least two investigations were “going forward” despite Zinke’s resignation.
- **Zinke Lashed Out At The Investigations, Blaming The “Deep State” And Decrying “Political Hit Jobs”:** Zinke refused to admit wrongdoing, claiming that his then-15 ethics probes in July 2019 were the result of the deep state and an “angry and hateful” D.C environment. Zinke continually minimized his alleged misdeeds, preferring to focus on less perilous investigations, like a Hatch Act complaint into a pair of “Make America Great Again” socks that he featured on his official Twitter account. After an IG report found that Zinke committed wrongdoing by lying to investigators about a land deal that he made with a Halliburton executive, Zinke called the investigation a “political hit job” by the Biden Administration, branding it “shots fired by the Deep State.”

► **Zinke Misled Federal Investigators About His Involvement In A Real Estate Deal Between His Family’s Foundation And Halliburton’s Chairman:** Zinke violated ethics rules by engaging in development negotiations between his family’s foundation and David Lesar, the chairman of the oil giant Halliburton, and misled federal investigators about his involvement. After being appointed as Interior secretary, Zinke obfuscated official ethics forms by stating that he would step away from his family’s foundation, which owned land in Montana. However, Zinke continued his involvement in negotiations between the foundation and developers from Halliburton who were pushing for a real estate development in Zinke’s hometown of Whitefish that would involve some of the land owned by the Zinkes’ foundation. Zinke would have financially benefited from the deal, with his property values appreciating due to their proximity to the new development. Critics argued that the deal posed a clear conflict of interest, not only because Zinke’s campaign had taken significant sums from Halliburton employees, but because Halliburton’s oil operations on public land were regulated by the Interior Department.

In 2022, the Interior Department inspector general released a report detailing Zinke’s ethics violations and stating that Zinke had made “inaccurate and incomplete statements” when asked about his involvement. Emails and text messages uncovered during the investigation showed that Zinke had personally communicated with developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss project details, including hosting the developers for meetings in his office at the Interior Department’s D.C. headquarters and offering times that the developers could “walk the property.” The inspector general then referred his findings to the Department of Justice, which declined to pursue charges. Zinke called the report a “political hit job.”

- **Halliburton Was One Of Zinke’s Biggest Lifetime Donors:** OpenSecrets found that Halliburton and its employees constituted Zinke’s 14<sup>th</sup> largest lifetime donor by employer, contributing \$26,000 to Zinke since 2013.
- **Between 2017 And 2018, Zinke Violated Ethics Rules By Engaging In Development Negotiations Between His Family’s Foundation And Halliburton’s Chairman And Misled Federal Investigators About His Involvement:** In 2018, a developer funded by David Lesar, the chairman of Halliburton, announced that it

planned to build a development with shops, a hotel, and a brewery along the Whitefish River known as the 95 Karrow project. Zinke's family foundation agreed to donate land for a parking lot for the 95 Karrow project, a project that had the potential to increase the value of multiple nearby land parcels owned by the Zinke family.

Upon entering office as Interior secretary, Zinke signed an ethics document pledging that he would resign as president of the family foundation. The mere existence of the agreement between Zinke and the developer raised significant conflict of interest concerns because Zinke, who was in charge of regulating Halliburton's oil operations, stood to receive a significant personal financial benefit from the success of the 95 Karrow project.

Alarmingly, Zinke ignored the ethics document he had signed and continued to be involved in the 95 Karrow project. Zinke claimed he had minimal involvement, had done nothing improper with the 95 Karrow project, and that the deal was proceeding without him. However, in February 2022, an Interior Department Inspector General report revealed the existence of dozens of emails and text messages between Zinke and the developers, finding that Zinke communicated with developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss project details. The report noted that Zinke had "personally acted for or represented the foundation" and "played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers." Emails from Zinke to the developers showed Zinke telling one developer when "it may be a good idea to walk the property" and negotiating with developers for "an exclusive right to produce alcohol" on the property, which would have allowed him to operate a microbrewery that locals claimed had long been a goal of his.

The IG report concluded that Zinke made "inaccurate and incomplete statements" when asked about his involvement in foundation-related matters because of his "extensive and in-depth involvement" with the project in the months after he resigned from the foundation. The report found that Zinke knowingly misled an investigator by claiming that he had not represented the foundation in any capacity. Emails and messages produced by the developers showed that Zinke "repeatedly communicated with the developers of the 95 Karrow project and negotiated with them on behalf of the foundation by discussing the use of foundation property for the project, specific design aspects of the project, and the development of a microbrewery on the property."

The report additionally found that Zinke misused his office for private gain by using his office at the Department of the Interior to host a meeting with project developers and directing his staff to print documents related to the land deal. Records showed that Zinke met with developers at the Interior Department, gave them a personal Lincoln Memorial tour, ate with them at a German beer garden, and that the developers had shown Zinke a plan for the 95 Karrow parking lot during the trip.

The IG report also noted that although Zinke claimed his wife had taken over the project as director of the foundation, investigators found only one email mentioning Lola Zinke's involvement in the project from one developer to another noting that Lola Zinke had rescinded the parking lot deal. Unsurprisingly, Zinke sought to hide his role in the discussions when a reporter started asking questions, writing in a text to a developer, "[The News Organization] is not our friend."

- **The Inspector General's Report Led To An Investigation By The Department Of Justice:** In October 2018, the Interior Department's inspector general referred the investigation of Zinke to the Justice Department, and in January 2019, the Justice Department began investigating whether Zinke misled the Interior Department's inspector general, a potential violation of criminal law. Then-Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen directed Justice Department prosecutors to hold off on bringing charges against Zinke, on the basis that Rosen believed the case was not yet strong enough. In 2021, prosecutors declined to pursue criminal charges against Zinke and dropped the case. Notably, the inspector general's report had not yet been released, and the report was re-referred to the Justice Department, which declined to pursue criminal charges.

- **Zinke Blasted The IG Report, Calling It A “Political Hit Job”:** Following the release of the damning IG report, Zinke called it a “political hit job” by the Biden Administration and called it “shots fired by the deep state.” Zinke added, “When you start exposing the serpents when you drain the swamp, they don’t like it, and they attack... And time and time again, they attack me, and time and time again if you read the IG Report closely, no wrongdoing.”
- **Critics Called The Deal “A Classic Conflict Of Interest: The One Benefiting Financially From An Energy Company Also Regulates That Industry On Behalf Of The American People”:** Independent Record columnist Jock Conyngham wrote, “[Zinke] is currently under investigation for a sweetheart real estate deal backed by the chairman of Halliburton, America’s largest oil-services company — All ironed out while he was at the helm of the Interior Department. Ethics experts call this a classic conflict of interest: the one benefiting financially from an energy company also regulates that industry on behalf of the American people.” University Of Montana political science professor Rob Saldin argued, “The findings in the report seem to be significant, that he behaved unethically, misused his office and then tried to cover it up— those are serious findings.” Al Olszewski, one of Zinke’s Republican primary opponents, called Zinke “One of the most corrupt person’s in Washington” and “a dishonest man” following the release of the IG report.
- ▶ **Zinke Misled Federal Investigators About His Conversations With MGM Lobbyists And Lawmakers Who Pushed Him To Deny A Petition For A Tribal Casino That Would Have Competed With MGM:** Zinke was investigated by the Interior Department’s inspector general and the Justice Department over his decision to block a petition by the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes for a jointly-operated casino, which the Tribes alleged was influenced by MGM lobbyists to avoid competition with MGM’s nearby casino. The inspector general’s investigation found that Zinke had misled investigators about having discussions with MGM lobbyists and other stakeholders about the casino proposal, despite evidence proving Zinke had met with the MGM representatives on multiple occasions and even hosted a dinner where they discussed the proposal. Zinke said that his decision to block the Tribes’ petition resulted from conversations with the Interior Department’s lawyers, who denied having spoken with Zinke about the petition. Ultimately, the IG report concluded that Zinke had intentionally misled investigators, and the inspector general referred the report to the Justice Department.
- **Zinke Denied A Petition By Two Tribal Groups To Open A Casino After MGM Lobbied Him To Deny The Petition, Which Would Have Introduced Competition To A Nearby MGM Casino:** In 2017, MGM Resorts International launched a lobbying campaign against two Native American Tribes’ joint proposal to operate a casino nearby. The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes wanted to open a casino in East Windsor, Connecticut and petitioned the Interior Department to approve amendments, saying their plans to jointly operate the facility would not violate their existing gambling agreements. The Tribes’ petition sparked a lobbying campaign by MGM Resort International, which operated a nearby casino. MGM’s lobbying campaign included meeting with Zinke and urging him to not sign off on the Tribes’ plans. Zinke did MGM’s bidding, sending back the Tribes’ petition to open the casino as “premature” – a denial by any other name. In 2018, the two Tribes filed a lawsuit, alleging that Zinke’s actions were due to “improper political influence.”
- **In 2022, The Interior Department’s Inspector General Found That Zinke Had Misled Investigators About Conversations He Had With Lobbyists And Lawmakers Concerning The Tribes’ Casino Bid:** Zinke was investigated by the Interior Department’s inspector general over his decision to, against the advice of Interior Department employees, block the Tribes from building the casino after being lobbied by MGM. Zinke had neither granted nor denied the Tribes’ petition but had sent it back and noted it was “premature and likely unnecessary,” halting progress on the casino.

The IG’s report found that Zinke misled investigators when he denied having been involved in significant conversations with MGM lobbyists, contrary to evidence. From spring 2017 to fall 2017, lobbyists for MGM, a political consultant, and a U.S. Senator spoke multiple times with Zinke and his chief of staff to urge them to reject the Tribal casino, including at a dinner that Zinke hosted at his residence with the political consultant and an MGM lobbyist. The IG report found that MGM’s lobbyist texted a casino executive with updates on his

discussion with Zinke during the dinner. The report also noted that Zinke claimed to have denied the Tribes' application based on advice from the Interior Department's lawyers, but the department's lawyers insisted that they had never spoken to Zinke about the petition.

The IG report concluded that Zinke intentionally misled investigators, finding that he made statements "with the overall intent to mislead them... [and] presented an inaccurate version of the circumstances in which (Interior) made key decisions on the casino project." The IG report stated, "As a result, we concluded that Secretary Zinke And [his chief of staff] did not comply with their duty of candor when questioned." Following the release of the report, Zinke doubled down and denied wrongdoing, claiming that the report was "distorted and misleading."

- **The Interior Department's Inspector General Referred The Investigation To The Justice Department, Which Investigated Zinke But Declined To Press Charges:** In October 2018, it was reported that the Interior Department's inspector general had referred an investigation of Zinke to the Justice Department, but it was not known which investigation was referred. In January 2019, the DOJ began investigating whether Zinke misled the IG's investigators over his involvement in discussions with lobbyists and his decision to block a casino proposal by two Tribal groups. However, the DOJ ultimately declined to prosecute Zinke over the case's allegations.

► **After Resigning As Interior Secretary, Zinke Ballooned His Net Worth By Consulting For Companies That He Had Previously Regulated:** Zinke waltzed through the revolving door after resigning from the Trump cabinet, working as an advisor for a D.C. lobbying firm that lobbied the Interior Department on behalf of oil, gas, and Tribal clients – three groups that Zinke had previously regulated as Interior secretary. Zinke leveraged his connections to enrich himself, working as a consultant for multiple oil and mining companies from 2020 to 2022, raking in more than \$1 million in consulting income from these companies whose industries he had previously overseen. Unsurprisingly, Zinke's personal wealth ballooned as a result. Financial disclosures from when Zinke left the Interior Department and from when he ran for Congress again show that the value of Zinke's assets more than doubled between 2018 and 2021.

- **Within Months Of Resigning, Zinke Went To Work For A Lobbying Firm With Oil And Gas Clients Which Lobbied The Interior Department:** In February 2019, just a few months after having resigned as Interior secretary, Zinke joined the D.C. lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions as a senior advisor, joining at the same time as ex-Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. Zinke never registered as a lobbyist himself, but said, "I promote energy... it is better to produce energy in this country with reasonable regulation than watch it get produced overseas with none." While Zinke worked at Turnberry Solutions, the Associated Press reported that the firm's clients included oil and gas companies and multiple Tribal groups, along with other clients, meaning Zinke was helping clients that he had previous overseen as Interior secretary – a classic case of the revolving door.

Critical press coverage noted that Zinke's work at Turnberry broke the spirit of Donald Trump's pledge to not allow ex-administration officials to lobby the White House, though Zinke technically did not lobby the administration directly himself. However, the firm did lobby. In 2019, 2020, and 2021, Turnberry Solutions disclosed that it lobbied the Interior Department, with the issues it lobbied on including energy & nuclear power and Indian/Native American affairs, among others. Turnberry Solutions' income grew significantly after Zinke joined, with the firm billing \$790,000 to its clients for lobbying fees in 2018 and \$1.2 million in 2019, the year Zinke joined.

- **Zinke's Financial Disclosures Reveal That He Made Hundreds Of Thousands Each Year From Consulting For Oil, Gas, And Mining Companies That He Had Previously Regulated:** Across his most recent financial disclosures from 2021 and 2022, Zinke reported raking in huge sums as a consultant for industries he once regulated. For instance, Zinke was hired as a consultant for and appointed to the board of U.S. Gold Corp., a mining company that did business with the Interior Department's Bureau of Land



Management (BLM). When Zinke was hired, the company's CEO cited Zinke's "excellent relationship" with the BLM as a factor explaining his hiring – a clear sign that Zinke was chosen for his connections. Zinke's 2021 and 2022 financial disclosures indicated that he was paid \$203,025 by the company from 2020 to 2022 for his consulting work and participation on the company's board of directors.

In addition to U.S. Gold, in 2021 and 2022, Zinke reported receiving consulting income of more than \$5,000 from the oil companies ConocoPhillips and Oasis Petroleum, the pipeline construction company U.S. Trinity, the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance, JVL Enterprises, and the Keelen Group, a lobbying firm. All of these companies did business with the Interior Department or had a financial reason to be interested in Zinke's connections to the Trump Administration.

While the exact amount that Zinke was paid by these clients is mostly unknown, Zinke did disclose the income he received from a few of his consulting clients. Zinke was paid a whopping \$220,000 by ConocoPhillips in 2020 and \$240,000 by the company in 2021, while JVL Enterprises paid him \$350,000 in 2021 at \$60,000 in 2020.

- **The Value Of Zinke's Assets More Than Doubled Between His Exit From The Interior Department And His Decision To Run For Office Again:** Zinke's trip through the revolving door paid off. In his 2018 financial disclosure submitted as he exited the Trump Administration, Zinke reported 12 assets worth between \$1,812,010 and \$2,831,000+. In his next financial disclosure, which covered 2021, Zinke reported 19 assets worth between \$8,033,018 and \$34,397,000. Much, but not all of the change in the value of Zinke's reported assets can be explained by different reporting requirements. The disclosure filed in 2018 listed the property owned by Zinke's wife as having an unspecified value of greater than \$1 million, whereas in 2021, that property was listed as two assets, one with a value between \$1 million and \$5 million, and another with a value between \$5 million and \$25 million.

If the property owned by Zinke's wife is excluded from his 2018 and 2021 disclosures, the value of his assets increased from between \$812,010 to \$1,831,000 in 2018 to between \$2,033,018 and \$4,397,000 in 2021. This means Zinke likely more than doubled his wealth in just a few years on the other side of the revolving door.

► **Zinke Spent Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars Of Taxpayer Money On Office Customizations As Interior Secretary:** Zinke used taxpayer money for office renovations at the Interior Department, including making history as the first cabinet secretary to commission personalized commemorative coins and attempting to spend up to \$200,000 for large custom flags to be raised when he was physically present at work. Zinke also spent at least \$139,000 to renovate two doors in his office.

- **Zinke Attempted To Order Custom Flags To Be Raised Each Time He Was Physically Present At Work, Which Would Have Cost Up To \$200,000:** Zinke carried military tradition into the Interior Department, requesting that a custom flag be raised each time he or his deputy was physically present at the department's D.C. office. The Interior Department took estimates to set up four new flag poles, as Zinke's requested flags were larger than previous flags and would have compromised the existing poles, and found that the new poles would have cost \$200,000. The agency ultimately did not move forward with Zinke's request, instead purchasing smaller custom flags to be used atop existing flagpoles when Zinke was in the building.
- **Zinke Spent At Least \$139,000 To Renovate The Doors In His Interior Department Office:** Zinke was listed alongside fellow disgraced Trump appointees Scott Pruitt and Ben Carson in reports of extravagant office upgrades. While Zinke's office claimed he was unaware of the contract, the Interior Department spent \$139,000 to renovate three sets of double doors in Zinke's department office. Montana residents Archie Thomas and Merry Schrupf slammed Zinke in a letter to the editor, asking fellow Montanans, "Have you ever priced out the cost of a door? Think about that a minute. Probably not, but as a taxpayer you have paid \$139,000 for new office doors and remodel for Ryan Zinke's Washington office as Secretary of the Department of Interior."

- **Zinke Was The First Cabinet Secretary In History To Commission \$2,000 In Personalized Commemorative Coins With His Name Around The Ring:** Zinke made history as the first cabinet secretary to commission a personalized commemorative coin, which featured his name stamped around the ring. The coins, which were meant to be given out to visitors, reportedly cost \$2,000 to create.
- ▶ **Zinke Spent Taxpayer Dollars On A \$12,000 Private Jet To Speak With His Biggest Donor's NHL Team & Tested Ethics Rules On Travel For His Family Members:** Zinke was frequently under the spotlight for spending taxpayer dollars on questionable travel for himself and his family during his tenure as Interior secretary, including a \$12,000 taxpayer-funded private flight to give a pep talk to a hockey team owned by one of his most prolific donors. After attending a team dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, owned by Fidelity National Financial executive Bill Foley, Zinke chartered a \$12,375 taxpayer-funded flight to Montana for his next official business. The Interior Department inspector general later reported that Zinke's luxurious jet price "might have been avoided" had he flown commercial, which reportedly cost as little as \$300. Zinke continued testing ethics rules throughout his tenure, attempting to extend travel privileges to his wife. Zinke was again investigated, with the resulting report finding that Zinke had his staff research making his wife an official Interior Department volunteer, which would have circumvented ethics rules prohibiting her from traveling in government vehicles.
- **Zinke Used Taxpayer Dollars For A \$12,000 Private Jet Bill To Speak With An NHL Hockey Team Owned By His Top Donor, When He Could Have Flown Commercial For \$300:** In June 2017, Zinke traveled to Nevada on official department business before heading to Montana for a Western Governors Association meeting the following day. After wrapping his official business in Nevada, Zinke stayed to give a motivational speech at a team dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a new NHL hockey team owned by Fidelity National Financial chairman Bill Foley. Foley was one of Zinke's most prolific donors, with Fidelity National Financial employees and the company's PAC contributing nearly \$200,000 to Zinke's congressional campaign, and the company remaining Zinke's top lifetime donor by employer as of 2024. After his speech in Vegas, Zinke chartered a private jet to Montana, costing taxpayers \$12,375. The jet was owned by oil and gas executive Jay Nielson, though the plane was chartered through a third-party company.

Zinke's expenses raised flags when the press coverage noted that daily flights between Nevada and Montana costed as little as \$300 but would have required Zinke to miss the hockey dinner. The Interior Department inspector general's office opened an investigation into Zinke's private flight, but wrote in a letter to Zinke's office that their investigation had been "delayed by absent, or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips." After concluding the investigation, the office reported in April 2018 that Zinke's expensive travel "might have been avoided." The inspector general's investigation found that Zinke's staff had withheld information from the ethics officials who approved the travel and that Zinke's travel would not have been approved had the full picture been visible. The investigation also found that Zinke's official business in Nevada was scheduled after Zinke and his staff had planned to attend the Golden Knights event in Las Vegas, suggesting that Zinke may have retroactively concocted official business just so he could attend the hockey dinner.

Members of Congress and advocacy organizations slammed Zinke's abuse of taxpayer funds. The Campaign for Accountability requested an investigation into whether Zinke had violated the Hatch Act by looping his official duties in with the speaking engagement, though the subsequent investigation did not find a Hatch Act violation. Center for Western Priorities spokesman Aaron Weiss characterized Zinke's trip as "a flimsy excuse for... a thank-you dinner with his biggest campaign bundler."

- **Zinke Tested Interior Department Ethics Rules By Trying To Have His Wife To Travel With Him In Government Vehicles And By Procuring A \$25,000 Security Detail For Their Family Vacation:** In October 2018, an Interior Department inspector general investigation concluded that Zinke had violated department policies prohibiting his wife from traveling with him in government vehicles. The report found that despite these policies, Interior's Solicitor's office had approved Zinke's wife, Lolita, and others to ride with Zinke in government vehicles after Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt and Deputy Solicitor Edward Keable said Zinke was "not bound by DOI policy."

The investigators reported that Zinke's staff had gone so far as to research making Lolita Zinke a department volunteer, which would have negated the requirement for the Zinkes to reimburse the department for her travel expenses and eliminated ethics questions about whether she could use government vehicles. Zinke denied that the volunteer research was an attempt circumvent this requirement. The same investigation uncovered a \$25,000 taxpayer-funded protective security detail for Zinke and his family on a vacation to Turkey and Greece. While the investigation found that Zinke's unarmed detail did not violate any prohibitions, the U.S. Park Police had no "finalized policy" governing the detail's activities.

► **Zinke Improperly Billed Travel To The Government While Serving As A Navy SEAL, Which Caused Superiors To Block Him From Ever Moving Up In Command:** Zinke was investigated during his Navy SEAL career and was found to have improperly billed the government for two trips that he took to Montana, which was flagged by officials after he charged extra baggage despite traveling solo. Zinke claimed that this blunder did not stifle his "brilliant" career, but his former commander contradicted these claims in 2017, recalling that the incident had been so significant that he and other senior officers had used it to block Zinke from ever being promoted to command. Most alarmingly, Zinke's travel fraud happened while he was supposed to be investigating ethics issues among other officers. Zinke's last commanding officer before leaving SEAL Team Six told interviewers that even if Zinke's fitness report had been stellar in other areas, language like, "Hey, this officer has questionable judgment" would keep someone from command. Zinke did not earn a command promotion and was described by his final boss as "embarrassed and humbled" when he left SEAL Team Six.

- **Zinke Improperly Billed Travel To The Government While He Served As A Navy SEAL, But Claimed That It Did Not Affect His "Brilliant" Career:** While serving as a midlevel SEAL Team Six officer in the late 1990s, Zinke improperly billed the government for personal travel to his Montana home. Zinke acknowledged the error but claimed it did not stifle his "brilliant" career. Zinke claimed that his trips home were for identifying training locations, but officials doubted his reasoning because he was finishing up a two-year tour as an assault team leader at the time. Zinke also reported excess airline baggage charges for one of the trips, despite traveling alone.
- **Senior Officers Were In Consensus That Zinke's Travel Fraud Was Such A Severe Ethical Breach That He Should Be Severely Punished, With Zinke's Commanding Officer Writing A Fitness Report To Ensure Zinke Would Not Ever Be Promoted:** Zinke's former commanding officer, retired Vice Admiral Albert Calland III, said that Zinke's fraudulent travel reimbursements were uniquely alarming because part of Zinke's job description in the Navy included preventing similar abuses. Calland recalled in a 2017 interview that there was "a lot of discussion" among senior officers about how to punish Zinke, but that it was "an easy decision" to make that punishment severe.

Calland recalled that he gave Zinke "a fitness report that I thought would not allow [Zinke] to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.," noting that Zinke "never got command." Retired Vice Admiral Sean Pybus, Zinke's last commanding officer before leaving SEAL Team Six, told the New York Times that Calland's decision to cite Zinke's "lapses in judgment" in setting a poor example on his fitness report likely kept Zinke from being selected for a command job. Pybus told interviewers that even if Zinke's fitness report had demonstrated top marks in other areas, "language there like 'hey, this officer has questionable judgment,' that would keep him from being selected for a command position." Pybus said that Zinke was "embarrassed and humbled" when he left SEAL Team Six.

► **Zinke Inflated His Resume As A Navy SEAL And Geologist In Order To Pursue His Own Agenda:** Zinke made a habit of exaggerating his experience both as a Navy SEAL and as a geologist, which he repeatedly utilized on the campaign trail and to argue for oil and gas interests. Zinke's autobiography, "American Commander," and his official congressional biography claimed that Zinke served as a commander in the Navy SEALs. Zinke's commanding officer called that "a stretch" while detailing Zinke's 1.5 weeks in service as an "acting commander" to temporarily cover for his commander, who was traveling back to the states. Zinke also claimed dozens of times

that he was a geologist, despite never holding a full-time job in the field. Zinke reportedly invoked his “experience” as a geologist as Interior Secretary while pushing to take actions to benefit oil, gas, and mining companies.

- **Zinke Exaggerated His Accomplishments As A Navy SEAL, Calling Himself A Commander Despite Only Serving As A Temporary “Acting Commander” For Just 1.5 Weeks:** Zinke’s 2016 autobiography, “American Commander,” drew criticism from his former boss for misrepresenting Zinke’s Navy SEAL service in Iraq. While Zinke’s congressional biography described him as a “deputy and acting commander” in Iraq, retired Army Major General Michael Repass told reporters in 2017 that Zinke’s claims in the book “might be a stretch.” General Repass noted that while Zinke served as a deputy commander for four months, Zinke’s tenure as “acting commander” lasted just 1.5 weeks while the general visited the U.S. As the New York Times wrote, Zinke “exaggerated what he did in his later military jobs to obscure that he never received commands of his own.”
- **Zinke Misrepresented Himself As A Geologist Dozens Of Times, Despite Never Holding A Job As One, And Used That “Experience” To Push For Oil & Mining Priorities:** Between May 2017 and April 2018, Zinke repeatedly claimed in public that he was either a geologist or a former geologist, including making the claim several times under oath. Zinke wrote in his autobiography that he had majored in and even considered a career in geology prior to joining the military, but the Interior Department refused to answer whether Zinke had ever joined any professional organizations, like the American Institute of Professional Geologists. The New York Times noted that Zinke had claimed “on dozens of occasions that he is a geologist, though he has never held a job as one.”

Despite never working as one, Zinke told the Senate Appropriations Committee in July 2017 that he was a geologist at least four times while discussing potential drilling sites and coal revenues. While defending his decision to shrink Bears Ears National Monument, Zinke told lawmakers that he was “a geologist” and could assure them that “oil and gas in Bears Ears was not part of [his] decision matrix.” Professional geologists criticized Zinke’s self-titling as a geologist, noting that he was out of touch with “modern geologic knowledge,” especially when it came to climate change.

► **Zinke Was Accused Of Steering A \$300 Million Federal Contract To His Friend’s Two-Person Company:**

In 2017, Zinke drew media scrutiny after Whitefish Energy, an inexperienced two-person company from his hometown, was awarded a \$300 million contract to rebuild part of the electric grid in Puerto Rico following multiple devastating hurricanes. Zinke denied influencing the contract decision, but the company’s CEO said he knew Zinke personally, Zinke’s son had worked for the company, and Zinke’s wife had liked posts by the wife of the company’s CEO on Facebook. The contract was blasted by both U.S. and Puerto Rican officials, with reporting noting that it was awarded without conducting standard background checks to a company that had little to no experience with the work it was hired to do.

- **After A Small Company With Ties To Zinke Received A \$300 Million Contract To Build 100 Miles Of Power Lines In Puerto Rico, Critics Alleged That Zinke Had Abused His Power As Secretary Of The Interior To Direct The Contract To His Friend’s Company:** In October 2017, Montana-based utility-contracting company Whitefish Energy was awarded a \$300 million contract by the Trump administration to build 100 miles of power transmission lines in Puerto Rico after multiple hurricanes brought down the island’s power grid. The company was based in Whitefish, Montana – Zinke’s hometown – and had only two full-time employees, with the New York Times branding the company “tiny and inexperienced” and noting that the scale of the job awarded to it was “raising question about how the contract was awarded.”

Zinke and Interior Department officials denied that he had anything to do with the contract’s approval, despite his personal ties to the company. Zinke’s son had worked a summer job at Whitefish Energy in 2017 and the company’s CEO, Andy Techmanski, said, “We both come from the same town. I knew him before he was a politician.” Techmanski claimed that “other than informing [Zinke] that we were here, we have not requested anything from him.” The Washington Post reported that Zinke’s wife had liked family and profile pictures on



Facebook uploaded by Techmanski's wife at least four times, providing further proof that the families knew each other.

- **Both U.S. And Puerto Rican Officials Criticized The Contract:** Officials in Puerto Rico criticized the contract, and the Governor of Puerto Rico moved to cancel the contract amid the backlash in October 2017. Puerto Rican Opposition Sen. Eduardo Bhatia called Whitefish Energy's contract "absolutely outrageous," stating, "A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?" Bhatia said that the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority had not made any open requests for proposals, performed background checks, or followed normal safeguards before awarding the Whitefish Energy contract.

U.S. officials called for an investigation into the contract, with Senator Maria Cantwell asking the Government Accountability Office to investigate the Whitefish Contract. Additionally, the House Committee on Natural Resources launched an investigation, with Reps. Raul Grijalva and Rob Bishop arguing that the "details of this contract raise numerous questions" and that Congress "needs to understand why the Whitefish contract was awarded and whether other, more cost-effective options were available." The Federal Emergency Management Agency also expressed "significant concerns" about the contract and warned that it might not help pay for storm recovery in Puerto Rico if the contract was found to be improper.

- ▶ **Zinke Was Implicated In A Pay To Play Scandal Involving A Residential Development In Arizona, Prompting Calls For A DOJ Investigation:** While Zinke was Interior Secretary, he and his deputy pushed for an Arizona housing development backed by the Trump campaign. According to a May 2022 referral for a Department of Justice investigation into the matter by Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee, Arizona donors made coordinated political contributions to Trump's campaign for the purpose of advancing a land development project to create a 28,000 home project named "Villages At Vigneto" near Arizona's threatened San Pedro River. The referral for investigation suggested "pay-to-play" politics had helped advance the development deal.

The House Natural Resources Committee's report alleged that Zinke knew about an undisclosed meeting between a developer associated with the project and Zinke's deputy, David Bernhardt, in August 2017 – a meeting which had not been disclosed on the official calendar or in travel records. The report alleged that Zinke was substantially involved, noting the existence of an email from the developer to Zinke informing him that the developer was meeting with Bernhardt about the development, with the email calling for "high level action" to ensure the correct application of Fish and Wildlife Service regulations. Zinke failed to transmit the personal emails to his government email records, as federal law required.

The congressional report alleged that two weeks after the meeting between Bernhardt and the developer, Bernhardt directed a lawyer for the Interior Department to pressure a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field supervisor to change his view on the development project. The next month, the developer coordinated with a group of Arizonans to donate \$241,600 in campaign donations to the Trump Victory Fund and the Republican National Committee. Weeks later, the development received its permits from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

- ▶ **Zinke Took Actions As Interior Secretary To Benefit PROOF Research, A Montana Company He Was Invested In:** As Interior secretary, Zinke acted in the interests of PROOF Research, a Montana-based gun company focused on hunting that Zinke owned stock in. Critics suggested that Zinke was "at least partially motivated" to open more federal land for hunting as secretary of the Interior due to his financial stake in PROOF Research, Inc., a company specialized in producing lightweight, high-precision rifles for hunting and military applications. Soon after Zinke became secretary of the Interior, he and other Interior Department staff met with executives from the company.

Zinke had a longstanding relationship with the company. Zinke's personal financial disclosures from 2016, 2018, and 2021, reported that he owned PROOF Research stock as an asset valued up to \$1,000. After winning a House seat in November 2014, Zinke reportedly told a local newspaper that he planned to retain a small stake in PROOF

Research “because it’s a great company.” Before that, between 2012 and 2014, Zinke was paid at least \$17,000 in compensation from PROOF Research for consulting services.

► **Zinke Used His Political Power To Help His Friends In The Drone Industry, Which He Promoted Before Joining Congress:** Zinke abused his power as Interior Secretary and in Congress to help out his friends in the drone industry. As Interior secretary, Zinke planned to increase the use of drones for fighting wildfires, including awarding a series of contracts to drone companies. In 2018, the New York Times reported that Zinke had ties to a Boeing subsidiary named Insitu which had received a \$1.1 million contract from the Department of Interior. The Times wrote that the company had “past ties to Mr. Zinke’s efforts on behalf of the industry,” referring to Zinke’s work with the Center for Remote Integration, a non-profit that Zinke co-founded to promote the drone industry in Montana. Zinke was a board member of the group between 2012 and 2013.

After resigning as Interior Secretary, Zinke continued to leverage his connections and authority to provide payouts to the drone industry, including calling for the increased use of drones in Ukraine and co-sponsoring a bill in Congress to create a pilot research program to study the use of drones by law enforcement agencies.

► **Zinke Faced Numerous Hatch Act Complaints As Interior Secretary:** Zinke faced numerous Hatch Act complaints throughout his tenure as Interior Secretary as he repeatedly pushed the boundaries of political activity. Zinke was reprimanded for violating the Hatch Act. Zinke faced allegations of political favoritism for appearing with Florida Gov. Rick Scott to announce an exemption for Florida from expanded offshore drilling and taking taxpayer-funded trips to speak alongside Republican politicians.

- **Zinke Faced Numerous Hatch Act Complaints As Interior Secretary, Including Over Taxpayer-Funded Trips To Speak Alongside Republican Politicians And Allegations Of Using A Grant To Sway An Election:** Zinke faced numerous other Hatch Act complaints over his public appearances with Republican politicians. The Office of Special Counsel investigated whether Zinke had violated the Hatch Act when he appeared alongside Florida Gov. Rick Scott to announce an exemption for Florida in offshore drilling expansions. It also investigated Zinke’s public appearance alongside Pennsylvania Republican Rick Saccone to announce the award of a grant for a mine cleanup project. Both cases were eventually dropped or closed.

► **Zinke Had Significant Ties To Turkey:** Zinke had unusually strong ties to Turkey. In 2019, the Zinkes hosted former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim for a brunch at their home in Santa Barbara after Zinke had resigned from his position in the Department of the Interior. Additionally, Zinke’s wife reportedly had family ties to Turkey and the Zinkes traveled there often, including at least three separate trips documented on Lolita Zinke’s Instagram in 2019. The Zinkes’ 2018 vacation to Turkey and Greece drew a reprimand by the Interior Department inspector general for hiring a \$25,000 security detail for the trip. In 2021, the Zinkes also took a beach vacation in Turkey while Montana was suffering from dangerous air pollution caused by large wildfire in Idaho and Oregon.

After leaving the Department of the Interior, Zinke joined the D.C. lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions, where he used his connections to Turkey to benefit clients. For example, in 2019, Zinke led a business delegation to Turkey that was slated to include textile recycling company 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Recycling Inc., which was owned by Charlene Nijmeh, the Chairwoman of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, which was a Turnberry client.

#### **Section 4: Zinke Sold Out His Constituents To The Energy Industry**

► **After Resigning, Zinke Received Hundreds Of Thousands In Consulting Fees And Thousands In Campaign Dollars From The Very Same Oil Giants That Received Land Leases While Zinke Was Interior Secretary:** While Zinke was Interior Secretary, major oil companies such as ConocoPhillips, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and Marathon Oil won millions in leases on federal land. Once Zinke resigned, he cashed out with those very same companies, raking in at least \$460,000 in consulting fees from ConocoPhillips over just two years, and receiving tens of thousands in campaign donations from ConocoPhillips, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and Marathon Oil.

- **While Zinke Was Interior Secretary, ConocoPhillips, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, And Marathon Oil Won Millions In Leases For Oil Drilling Onshore Or Offshore:** During Zinke’s tenure as Interior Secretary, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management sold \$111,638,485 in offshore leasing rights to Chevron across 64 bids at various lease sales. Similarly, Exxon Mobil won \$82,850,900 in offshore leasing rights across 51 bids at various lease sales. Moreover, during Zinke’s tenure at Interior, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – an agency within the department – sold \$1,431,264 of leasing rights for onshore drilling to ConocoPhillips in Alaska across 11 bids. The BLM also sold leasing rights to Marathon Oil while Zinke was atop the department.
- **2020-2021: Zinke Was Paid At Least \$460,000 In Consulting Income By ConocoPhillips:** After Zinke resigned from the Interior Department, he successfully leveraged his ties to the Trump Administration to boost his own consulting business. Zinke reported on his 2021 financial disclosure that he had been paid a whopping \$220,000 by ConocoPhillips that year and had made \$240,000 from consulting for the company in the previous year. Zinke indicated on his 2022 financial disclosure that he had stopped working for ConocoPhillips in December 2021.
- **Zinke Received Tens-Of-Thousands In Campaign Contributions From The Same Companies That His Interior Department Sold Drilling Leases To:** Since he decided to run for office following his resignation from the Interior Department, Zinke has raked in thousands in campaign donations from the same companies that his Interior Department sold leases to. As of July 2024, Zinke’s top donor by employer for the 2024 election cycle was ConocoPhillips, with the company’s employees – including senior figures like its chairman, executive, and senior vice president – contributing \$27,425 and the company’s PAC donating \$7,500 to Zinke. Employees of ConocoPhillips constituted Zinke’s third largest lifetime donor by employer. Moreover, from 2021 to 2024, Exxon Mobil’s PAC and Marathon Oil’s PAC contributed \$1,000 each to Zinke, while Chevron’s PAC contributed \$5,000 to him.
- ▶ **Zinke Expanded Land Leases For The Oil And Gas Industry As Interior Secretary & Zinke Later Received Hundreds Of Thousands In Campaign Donations:** Zinke’s was blasted for being a “pawn for the oil and gas industry” as Interior Secretary, and it’s not hard to see why. Zinke sold an unprecedented amount of public land to oil and gas companies for drilling, opened more than a billion acres to offshore drilling, and staffed the Interior Department with ex-oil and gas lobbyists who took nearly 180 meetings with industry representatives in Zinke’s first year alone. Under Zinke’s leadership, the Interior Department effectively eliminated required environmental reviews for new oil and gas leases, opened the fragile Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for drilling, eliminated safety regulations on fracking, came close to another catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on par with Deepwater Horizon, and eliminated royalty payments from oil and gas companies that had previously generated hundreds of millions of dollars per year in revenue. Zinke was handsomely rewarded by the industry, which was his largest campaign donor pre-Interior and remains his second largest lifetime donor to this day. Since resigning from Interior and running for Congress again, Zinke has taken approximately \$500,000 from the oil and gas industry, including tens of thousands in contributions from corporate PACs for major oil and gas companies like ConocoPhillips, Halliburton, Chord Energy (formerly Oasis Petroleum), and others.
- **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Dramatically Expanded The Amount Of Public Land Leased For Onshore Drilling And Opened 90 Percent Of The Country’s Waters To Offshore Drilling:**
  - **Zinke Dramatically Expanded Onshore Drilling On Federal Land:** In early 2017, shortly after he was appointed, Zinke moved to expand oil and gas drilling on federal land, signing an order in July 2017 to clear the backlog of federal drilling permits and speed up permit processing. That month, he also scheduled lease sales for drilling in areas that had been previously ruled off-limits during the Obama administration. That year, Zinke’s Interior Department sent a memo directing field offices to get rid of “unnecessary impediments and burdens” to the expansion of federal land leases.

The effect of this push was dramatic. By July 2018, oil production on federal land had increased by 25 percent compared to 2016, with Zinke touting his success by claiming that critics were “eating their words

and once again President Trump's policies are bearing fruit for the American people." In his first year in office, Zinke's Bureau of Land Management offered 11.9 million acres of public land at oil and gas lease sales – a six-fold increase over 2016's 1.9 million acres – with 792,823 acres receiving bids. In 2018, Zinke offered just under five million acres for sale, with 1,488,300 acres receiving bids. In early 2018, only 27 million acres were under lease, meaning if more companies had bid on the offered land, the amount of land under lease could have increased by nearly 50 percent. Overall, more than 300 oil and gas companies successfully bid for federal land during Zinke's tenure.

- **Zinke Opened 90 Percent Of The Country's Waters To Offshore Drilling, Igniting A Political Firestorm While Selling Over \$688 Million Of Offshore Leasing Rights:** In 2017, Zinke drew press coverage for lowering the price that drilling companies were required to pay for offshore leases, announcing the largest ever offshore oil and gas lease sale in American history near the end of the year by putting 77 million acres up for bid. The real action started in 2018, when Zinke announced that his Interior Department would open 25 of 26 offshore regions to drilling, effectively opening 90 percent of the entire Outer Continental Shelf – more than a billion acres – for drilling overnight. During the Obama Administration, 94 percent of this area had been off-limits.

Zinke quickly ran into problems – he tried to unilaterally declare that Florida's waters would be exempt, drawing widespread condemnation by observers who speculated that Zinke was trying to help Florida Republican Governor Rick Scott's electoral chances in his U.S. Senate campaign. Soon, all but one coastal-state governor had opposed Zinke's plan, with most requesting that their state's waters be exempt from Zinke's offshore drilling expansion. Nonetheless, Zinke remained committed to expanding offshore drilling, though he was forced to walk back his carveout for Florida, which had not even requested an exemption, unlike other states.

By the end of Zinke's tenure, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management had sold an astonishing \$688,657,749 of leasing rights for offshore drilling to 50 oil and gas companies.

- **Zinke Eliminated Safety Regulations, Weakened Environmental Review, Pushed To Open Drilling In A Wildlife Refuge, And Eliminated Pollution Payments For Oil And Gas Projects As Interior Secretary:**
  - **Zinke Used A Bureaucratic Loophole To Effectively Eliminate Required Environmental Reviews Of New Oil And Gas Leases:** In 2018, the New York Times reported that Zinke's Interior Department had issued a memo instructing the Bureau of Land Management to skip environmental assessments that had historically been required before issuing new drilling leases on public lands, using a bureaucratic loophole to do away with assessments altogether in an effort to expedite the processing of permits. Zinke had previously called the long permitting process for new leases "un-American" and said permits should not take more than two years to obtain.
  - **Zinke Eliminated Safety Regulations For Fracking And Did The Bidding Of Lobbyists To Allow Fracking In The Habitat Of An Endangered Species:** In 2017, Zinke's Interior Department filed a legal proposal to rescind the nation's first safety regulations on fracking, prompting a lawsuit in California. The push to eliminate the safety regulations was estimated to provide a \$300 million benefit to the industry at the expense of public health. Additionally, in 2017, after multiple industry lobbyists requested a repeal of Obama-era protections for the Sage Grouse bird – a threatened species – Zinke changed policy to enable a 3,500-well drilling project in the bird's habitat.
  - **Zinke's Interior Department Explored Plans To Eliminate Safety Regulations That Were Put In Place After The 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Only To Nearly Avoid A Catastrophe In The Gulf Of Mexico Less Than A Year Later:** In 2017, the New York Times reported that Zinke's Interior Department was exploring plans to loosen safety regulations on underwater drilling equipment in the Gulf of Mexico that had been put in place after the disastrous 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Less than a



year later, Zinke was forced to send 50 safety inspectors to conduct surprise inspections on dozens of offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico after reports of “potentially catastrophic crane and lifting incidents.” One Interior official said, “There are still some major incidents that are occurring.”

- **Zinke’s Interior Department Eliminated Royalties That Energy Companies Were Required To Pay For Polluting Federal Land, Costing Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars In Lost Revenue:** In 2018, Zinke eliminated a regulation requiring oil and gas companies to pay penalties if they damaged or polluted federal land that they had leased, which was estimated to cost hundreds of millions of dollars per year in lost revenue. Moreover, Zinke eliminated a different rule closing a loophole which had enabled the industry to underpay required royalties by \$75 million per year.
- **Zinke Pushed To Open The Fragile Arctic National Wildlife Refuge In Alaska To Oil And Gas Drilling:** In June 2017, Zinke issued a directive to compel a rewrite of a 2013 plan limiting oil and natural gas development in Alaska’s national petroleum reserve, undoing Obama-era restrictions meant to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). In September, Zinke’s Interior Department circulated a memo arguing for lifting restrictions on seismic studies in ANWR that had been banned for decades over the risk of harm to threatened wildlife, including polar bears and caribou. By late 2018, Zinke had gotten his wish, opening oil drilling along the coast of the refuge and having successfully appointed pro-drilling officials to oversee the project.

- **Zinke Had A Very Close Relationship With Oil And Gas Lobbyists, With The Industry Reportedly Being “Delighted” By His Approach And Zinke Staffing The Department With Ex-Industry Lobbyists:** In 2018, Zinke argued that the Interior Department should be “a partner” to oil and gas companies. Zinke would later brag in 2022 that he had expanded domestic oil drilling by nearly 50 percent while he was Interior Secretary, from 8.3 million barrels per year to 12.5 million per year.

More significantly, a 2018 report by the environmental nonprofit Friends of the Earth highlighted that during the first year of Zinke’s time atop Interior, officials in the department had held nearly 180 meetings with oil and gas industry representatives. Unsurprisingly, the New York Times reported that the oil and gas industry was “delighted” with Zinke, quoting Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist, who said Zinke’s department was “going back to the Bush Administration... All these guys have been in Interior before and they know a hell of a lot.”

Indeed, the New York Times reported, “Many of [Zinke’s]... appointees spent the Obama years working for the oil and gas industry — and they come to the Interior Department with an insider’s knowledge of how its levers work and a wish list of policies from their former employers. Their work has been swift.”

- **Both Before And After Serving As Interior Secretary, Zinke Raked In Massive Campaign Contributions From Oil And Gas Companies:** Prior to becoming Interior Secretary, Zinke had accepted campaign contributions from many oil and gas companies, with one article noting, “In 2015-16, energy and natural resources political action committees contributed \$126,000 to Zinke’s campaign... That includes \$3,000 from the Halliburton Company PAC, \$5,000 from both the ExxonMobil PAC and Conoco Phillips, \$2,500 from the Koch Industries Inc. PAC and \$1,000 from the Peabody Energy PAC. All of them represent companies that do business with the interior Department.” The same article noted that prior to becoming Interior secretary, Oasis Petroleum, which drilled for oil on 50,000 acres of public land in Montana and North Dakota was one of Zinke’s largest benefactors, with employees of the company having donated \$41,750 to Zinke. As of December 2016, the oil and gas industry was Zinke’s largest industry donor, having contributed \$345,136 to Zinke.

Zinke continued to rake in huge sums from the industry after resigning as Interior secretary. As of July 2024, the oil and gas industry was Zinke’s third largest donor industry in the 2024 election cycle, when excluding retired people and Republican groups. The industry contributed \$220,155 to Zinke in the cycle, with \$56,930

coming from PACs. The industry also contributed \$218,746 to Zinke in the 2022 cycle, meaning he took at least \$438,901 from oil and gas after resigning as Interior secretary.

Additionally, from 2021 to 2024, Zinke received at least \$58,548 in contributions from the corporate PACs for prominent energy companies, including Halliburton, ConocoPhillips, NorthWestern Energy, the Western Energy Alliance PAC, U.S. Energy PAC, the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance PAC, the Montana Gas & Oil PAC, and the Marathon Oil Company Employees PAC. During the same time period, Zinke also accepted \$10,100 from employees of Oasis Petroleum, \$5,000 from employees of the pipeline company U.S. Trinity, and \$27,425 from employees of ConocoPhillips. In fact, employees of ConocoPhillips were Zinke's largest contributor by employer for the 2024 election cycle.

Overall, Zinke's second largest lifetime industry donor was the oil and gas industry, which had given him \$850,827 over his entire congressional career as of 2024. Additionally, Zinke's largest lifetime donors by employer included Chord Energy (formerly known as Oasis Petroleum), ConocoPhillips, and Halliburton, which had contributed \$68,600, \$47,560, and \$10,468 to Zinke across his career, respectively.

- **Critics Savaged Zinke As A “Pawn” For The Oil And Gas Industry Who Was “The Most Anti-Conservation Interior Secretary In Our Nation’s History”:** Numerous non-profits and news organizations criticized Zinke's pro-industry record as Interior Secretary. Center for Western Priorities executive director Jennifer Rokala said following his resignation that Zinke would “go down as the most anti-conservation Interior secretary in our nation’s history... Surrounding himself with former lobbyists, it quickly became clear that Ryan Zinke was a pawn for the oil and gas industry.”

Zinke's decision to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge drew sharp condemnation. The New York Times Editorial Board wrote, “Alaska is ‘open for business!’ With these words, delivered before an appreciative audience of oil producers in anchorage in May, Zinke reaffirmed the Trump Administration’s determination to open Alaska’s fragile environment to commercial exploitation.” In an op-ed, former park ranger Kim Heacox similarly slammed Zinke for moving to “drill for oil in wildlife refuges” and said he needed to “Get away from those sticky oilmen who can hear a dollar bill fall on the rimrock — men who would watch the world burn to increase their profits.”

Others criticized Zinke for aggressively pushing for offshore drilling. OCEANA's Vice President for U.S. Oceans, Jacqueline Savitz, wrote, “Last year, Zinke promised to ‘listen to state and local stakeholders’ as his department reviewed offshore oil and gas. [...] So far, the only stakeholders this administration has listened to are industry lobbyists.” Lorne Stockman, a senior research analyst at Oil Change International, wrote that there was “no economic justification for going to the Outer Continental Shelf, and there probably never will be.”

- ▶ **Zinke Had A Consistent Legislative Record Of Backing Fossil Fuel Interests In Congress:** Zinke consistently supported fossil fuel interests in Congress, voting 39 times to expand oil and gas leasing on federal land, as well as taking numerous votes to lower taxes on oil and gas companies, increase funding for fossil fuel research, and more. Zinke also cosponsored and voted in committee for numerous bills to expand oil and gas production, fast-track new pipelines, expand oil and gas drilling on federal land, and more.

- **Zinke Consistently Voted In Favor Of Oil, Gas, And Coal Interests On The House Floor:**
  - **Zinke Voted To Expand Oil & Gas Leases On Federal Land:** Zinke voted 39 times to expand oil and gas leasing on federal land. Most of these votes were on amendments to H.R. 21, a bill pushed by House Republicans to require increases in the amount of federal land being leased for oil and gas drilling, with Zinke voting against more than a dozen amendments to exempt certain regions like California, Washington, Oregon, Florida, Virginia, the Great Lakes, the Gulf of Mexico, the Outer Continental Shelf, and other areas from being required to lease land for oil and gas drilling. Zinke also voted against numerous amendments on the same bill that would have delayed the bill's implementation unless various agencies

certified that the bill would not increase air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, carbon emissions, gas prices, disproportionately impact low-income communities, and similar provisions intending to neuter the bill's impact. Zinke also opposed attempts to neuter the bill by requiring federal agencies to consult with the EPA, tribal groups, and other federal agencies before issuing new leases. Zinke also voted twice for H.R. 1, a bill pushed by House Republicans to expand domestic oil and gas production.

- **Zinke Voted To Fund Fossil Fuel Research:** Zinke voted four times for fossil energy research funding. These included two votes for higher funding, to the tune of \$45 million and \$600 million respectively, and two votes against lower funding, to the tune of \$13 million and \$285 million respectively.
- **Zinke Voted To Cut Taxes On Oil And Gas Companies:** Zinke voted six times for lower royalties and taxes on oil and gas companies. These votes included one vote opposing a \$10 per barrel tax on oil and two votes to overturn provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act imposing higher royalties on offshore and onshore oil and gas. They also included one vote against updating royalty rates for federally leased oil, gas and coal, one vote expressing disapproval of President Biden for asking to repeal pro-oil and gas tax provisions, and one vote against an amendment to allow the creation of rules determining when flared natural gas qualified as waste that was subject to royalties.
- **Zinke Voted Against Lowering Gas Prices Via The Strategic Petroleum Reserve:** Zinke voted five times to restrict the ability of the executive branch to use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. He voted against three amendments allowing the Energy Department to draw from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to lower gas prices, inflation, or deal with a supply shock. Zinke also voted against an amendment allowing the president to use the reserve to lower gas prices and voted for a bill barring drawdowns from the reserve until oil and gas leasing increased on federal lands.
- **Zinke Voted To Expand The FERC's Authority:** Zinke voted twice to expand the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's authority, taking one vote to give it jurisdiction over natural gas pipelines in hydropower and another vote to give it the authority instead of the Energy Department to approve natural gas imports and exports.
- **Zinke Voted For Plutonium Mining:** In 2016, Zinke voted against an amendment to bar the use of funds to expand plutonium pit production capacity.
- **Zinke Cosponsored Numerous Bills To Expand Oil, Gas, And Coal Extraction:**
  - **Zinke Supported Expanding Drilling On Public Land:** Zinke cosponsored three bills to expand leasing on federal land. These bills included one to delegate states the authority for leasing and permitting of oil and natural gas, one requiring congressional approval before the executive could delay oil, gas or mineral leases on federal lands, and H.R. 1, which was House Republicans' major energy bill to expand the production of oil and gas, including on federal land.
  - **Zinke Supported Expanding Oil And Gas Exports:** In 2015, Zinke cosponsored a bill to remove restrictions on U.S. oil exports and another to expedite exports of natural gas to World Trade Organization member countries.
  - **Zinke Supported Expanding Pipelines, Including In National Parks:** Zinke cosponsored three bills in 2015 to expand pipelines, including one to authorize the Keystone XL pipeline, one expediting the permitting process for gas pipelines, and one authorizing the Interior Department to approve gas pipelines within national parks.
  - **Zinke Supported Pro-Oil And Gas Messaging Bills:** From 2023 to 2024, Zinke cosponsored four pro-oil and gas messaging bills. These included a bill expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. should

increase domestic oil and gas production, a bill requiring reviews of state and federal policies to evaluate their impacts on energy costs, a bill barring state and local governments from restricting energy services based on the source of the energy, and a bill criticizing the Biden Administration's energy policies and advocating for greater domestic oil and gas production.

- **Zinke Supported Other Fossil Fuel Industry Priorities:** Zinke backed three other miscellaneous pro-industry bills. These included a bill to allow “intangible” drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing financial statement income for tax purposes, a bill expanding the Indian coal production tax credit, and a bill limiting the Department of Energy's ability to set energy conservation standards for gas stoves.
- **Zinke Voted In Committee To Expand Leasing For Extractive Industries:** In June 2023, Zinke voted to report the Energy-Water Appropriations bill, which included provisions to increase funding for the development of nuclear power. That year, Zinke also voted three times in committee to expand oil and gas leasing. Specifically, Zinke voted to require the Interior secretary to issue a five-year plan for expanding offshore oil and gas leasing, encourage the Interior Department to maximize the amount of land available for energy leasing sales in Gulf of Mexico and Alaska, and to restart quarterly oil and gas leasing sales.
- ▶ **Zinke Repeatedly Criticized And Voted Against Renewable Energy:** Zinke consistently opposed renewable energy. In public statements, Zinke claimed solar energy was a waste of land and that wind turbines had large carbon footprints and “chop[ped] up” hundreds of thousands of birds per year. In Congress, Zinke voted repeatedly to cut billions in funding for clean energy programs, including voting three times to cut funding for clean energy projects in rural America.
- **Across His Public Statements, Zinke Was Frequently Critical Of Renewable Energy:** Zinke was critical of clean energy. In 2017, he said that solar cells rendered land “no longer useful for anything else but energy, but there's a lot of roofs when you fly over... I think the greatest opportunity, quite frankly, for the solar industry is look at all the roofs in America.” That year, Zinke criticized the Ivanpah solar plant in Nevada, saying, “is that the future of having these three or four 80-foot towers with reflector cells the size of garage doors where it makes this cone, this sphere of death, so as birds go through it they get zapped?” As of September 2017, Zinke's Interior Department had only approved a single solar project, and in March 2018, Zinke reportedly claimed that solar projects were incompatible with wildlife, recreation, and hunting.

Zinke was also critical of wind energy, claiming in 2018 that it had a “significant” carbon footprint and that turbines “chop up” thousands of birds per year. Zinke similarly claimed in 2022, “Wind's not free. An enormous amount of mining material costs up front goes into a wind farm. It also chops up at least 750,000 birds a year, and if you add bats, which are an important part of the environment, that's a consequence.” That year, Zinke also said, “Yes energy is important in this country, but to think you're going to make Montana into one giant windmill and hydrogen is going to provide the power... [that's] just simply nuts.”

- **Zinke Consistently Voted Against Funding For Clean Energy:** Zinke's legislative record showed his opposition to clean energy. For example, Zinke introduced an amendment in 2023 to prohibit funding for an executive order that promoted clean energy. Zinke also repeatedly voted against funding for clean energy in committee, including voting three times to cut \$500 million from the Rural Energy for America program, which funded renewable energy projects for rural small businesses and agricultural producers. Zinke's committee votes in 2023 also included votes to cut \$3.25 billion in funding for clean energy programs, cut \$4.5 billion in funding for home electrification, defunding the General Services Administration's electric vehicle and energy efficiency programs, and defunding the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency.

Zinke also took numerous votes on the House floor against funding for renewable energy. Zinke voted four times to cut renewable energy funding, taking votes to cut \$50 million, \$13 million, and \$1.1 billion in funding from various clean energy programs, and once to cut funding for renewable energy mandates. He also voted



three times to bar the use of funds for executive orders that promoted clean energy and voted to ban the Department of Defense from buying renewable energy if it was more expensive than conventional energy. Moreover, Zinke voted to exclude wind and solar production from a bill that allowed for expedited federal permitting for new energy production, meaning he supported speeding up permitting for new fossil fuel projects but not renewables. Zinke also voted to require the Government Accountability Office to publish a report on the adverse effects of wind energy development in the North Atlantic Planning Area.

► **Zinke Opposed Taking Action To Address Climate Change Or Protect The Environment:** Zinke voted dozens of times against addressing climate change and protecting the environment. He claimed climate change was “not proven science” and that “climate has always changed” while claiming that plastic pollution was more concerning than greenhouse gas emissions. Zinke also took dozens of votes against regulations concerning greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution by power plants, voted to cut the EPA’s funding by 40 percent, and took numerous other votes against climate change initiatives, protecting the ozone, protecting clean water from mining spills, and more.

- **Zinke Repeatedly Downplayed The Importance Of Climate Change In His Public Statements:** When asked about climate change in 2014, Zinke said, “It’s not a hoax, but it’s not proven science either.” He continued to voice skepticism of climate science in 2016, saying, “The climate is changing; I don’t think you can deny that. But climate has always changed... I don’t think there’s any question that man has had an influence... What that influence is, exactly, is still under scrutiny.” More recently in 2022, Zinke repeatedly argued that oil and gas would need to be a part of the U.S. energy mix for at least the next 50 years. That year, the Sidney Herald reported that Zinke “said he’d rather see greenhouse gas-emitting projects developed under America’s regulatory framework than in poorer countries with laxer standards, and said he’s more concerned about the environmental impacts associated with poverty and plastics pollution in oceans than carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere.” Zinke also criticized the Inflation Reduction Act, which was the largest federal climate package ever passed in the U.S., as a “wish list for the climate change people.”

Zinke also cosponsored a bill calling for the Paris Climate Agreement to be submitted to the Senate for consideration – which would have required two-thirds support by the Senate, thereby opening the agreement to being killed by Republicans. Zinke also sponsored a bill declaring that a carbon tax would be harmful to the U.S. economy. He also cosponsored five bills to nullify various environmental rules or require reports concerning the costs of federal environmental laws. These bills included attempts to block EPA standards for vehicles, heaters and furnaces, and the ozone, alongside bills to require reports on the cost of environmental laws on electricity bills and the cost of environmental reviews required by the National Environmental Protection Act.:

► **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Conducted A “Soviet Style Purge” Of Senior Climate Staff And Removed References To Climate Change In Official Reports:** Zinke was open about his disdain for the career civil servants at the Interior Department, claiming that 30 percent of the department was disloyal and comparing the agency to a pirate ship. Zinke further tanked morale by arbitrarily reassigning senior executive staff from crucial climate roles to positions they had no experience with, earning him an inspector general investigation and a whistleblower complaint. Staff reassignment was only one part of Zinke’s efforts to decenter climate change at Interior; under Zinke, the department’s website was stripped of climate change references and official reports omitted mentions of “human-caused climate change.”

- **Zinke Complained That 30 Percent Of Interior Department Staff Were Disloyal And Tanked Morale After He Reassigned Dozens Of Senior Employees In Alleged Retaliation For Their Work On Climate Change:** When Zinke arrived at the Interior Department, he claimed that he had “30 percent of the crew that is not loyal to the flag,” comparing the department to a pirate ship. Experienced civil servants reviled Zinke’s remarks, including a series of former top Interior executives under presidents Nixon, Ford, Bush, Obama, and others who wrote a letter defending department employees who “do not swear personal allegiance to individual

secretaries or to anyone else.” Democratic Rep. Raúl Grijalva called for Zinke to apologize to his staff and reminded Zinke, as a former Navy SEAL, that he “should be well aware that loyalty is earned.”

Rather than attempting to win over his staff, Zinke faced an inspector general investigation after he unilaterally and arbitrarily reassigned 35 senior department executives, 16 of whom told investigators they viewed their reassignments as retaliation. While the investigators were unable to conclude whether the staffers were reassigned as retribution, former climate scientist and department employee Joel Clement filed a whistleblower complaint and went to the press, claiming that he and other senior employees had been reassigned to less important roles because they worked on climate change at the department. Clement was reassigned from protecting an Alaskan village from rising sea levels to overseeing oil and gas lease audits and described Zinke’s reassignments as a “Soviet-style purge” which afflicted “dozens of executives in one fell swoop.”

- **Zinke Removed Climate Change References From Official Reports And The Interior Department Website:** In February 2017, the Interior Department’s website featured information about climate change effects like rising sea levels, pervasive wildfires, and endangered wildlife. The following month, the website’s content changed to omit all but one mention of “climate change,” replacing informative content with links to other agency websites on climate change. After the switch, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Vice Ranking Member Rep. Don Beyer called on Zinke to take climate change seriously, recalling when Zinke was “once reasonable” when the two served together in Congress. The censorship continued despite public backlash, with Democrats calling for an investigation after a 2018 National Park Service report omitted any references to human-caused climate change. Zinke denied that he had any role in changing the report.
- ▶ **Zinke Supported Policies To Expand Mineral Mining While Taking Tens Of Thousands In Campaign Cash From The Industry:** Zinke repeatedly supported easing restrictions and expanding leasing on public lands for mineral mining while raking in \$64,000 in campaign donations from the industry over his congressional career. Zinke self-described as a “pro-mining guy,” and as Interior secretary, he renewed leases for mineral mining on public lands – including for a South American-owned company with ties to the Trump family – and eased restrictions on mineral mining near protected spaces. In Congress, Zinke sponsored and voted for legislation to block mining bans, expand leasing, and expedite permitting for mineral mining on public land.
- **Throughout His Congressional Career, Zinke Received More Than \$64,000 From The Mining Industry:** OpenSecrets found that over the course of his congressional candidacy, Zinke’s campaign accepted \$64,000 in contributions from mining industry companies and their employees.
- **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Renewed Leases For Mineral Mining For Foreign-Owned Mining Companies And Eased Restricting On Mineral Mining, Decreasing Protections For Preserved Land:**
  - **Zinke Authorized Copper And Nickel Mining In A Previously Protected Wilderness Area In Minnesota:** In December 2017, Zinke’s Interior Department renewed leases for copper and nickel mining on the border of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which had been ruled out by the Obama administration. The lease was owned by a Chilean mining firm belonging to the family of billionaire Andrés Luksic, who rented a home to Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, in Washington. The decision shocked some U.S. officials. Democratic Minnesota Rep. Betty McCollum said that Zinke had assured her earlier that week that he was committed to letting science guide the federal mining decision, but “Twenty-four hours later, [Zinke] broke his word and issued mining leases footsteps from the BWCA to a foreign-owned mining company.” McCollum called Zinke’s previous assurances “worthless and deceitful.”
  - **Zinke Authorized Sulfide Ore And Copper Mining In Minnesota, Over The Advice Of The Forest Service:** In July 2018, Zinke overruled a Forest Service decision that banned industrial sulfide ore copper mining near the boundary waters wilderness in Minnesota. The decision was criticized as one that would

negatively impact the “most visited wilderness area in the nation,” where local communities relied on the nearly 4,500 jobs generated by the outdoor recreation industry.

- **Zinke Authorized Mining On Previously Restricted Land Near Multiple National Parks:** In March 2018, Zinke announced that the Bureau of Land Management would ease mining restrictions on 1.3 million acres of land bordering Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks. The land had previously been more tightly regulated. Conservationists expressed concerns that industrial mining interests would push for road construction in areas of previously preserved wilderness.
- **In October 2018, Zinke Described Himself As A “Pro-Mining Guy”:** Zinke stated, “I’m a Pro mining guy. I love hardrock mining.” In 2021, Zinke similarly said, “I am pro-mining,” caveating that he did not support mining adjacent to Yellowstone.
- **In Congress, Zinke Repeatedly Sponsored And Voted For Legislation To Ease Mineral Mining Restrictions And Expand Leasing Of Public Land:**
  - **Zinke Tried To Block A Ban On Nickel Mining In Minnesota:** In 2023, Zinke introduced an amendment to block the Department of Interior from imposing a 20-year mining ban in northeast Minnesota where there was a large nickel deposit. Zinke argued, “This mine has critical minerals that are necessary in combat in defense of this country.”
  - **Zinke Cosponsored Two Bills To Expand Mining On Federal Land:** In 2023, Zinke cosponsored two bills to expand leasing for mineral mining on public land. Specifically, Zinke co-sponsored H.R. 923, a bill requiring the executive branch to receive congressional approval before delaying oil, gas, or mineral leases or permits on federal lands. In March 2023, Zinke co-sponsored H.R. 1, a bill expanding and expediting the production of oil, gas, and minerals on federal lands.
  - **Zinke Cosponsored Two Bills To Expedite Permitting For Mining On Federal Land:** In April 2015, Zinke co-sponsored H.R. 1937, a bill expediting the federal permitting process for domestic mining, and, in January 2023, Zinke co-sponsored H.R. 209, a bill expediting the federal permitting process for mining on federal lands.
  - **Zinke Tried To Ensure Mining Continued In A Region Of New Mexico:** In July 2023, Zinke co-sponsored H.R. 4374, a bill nullifying the withdrawal of certain federal lands in San Juan County, New Mexico, from mining claims.
  - **Zinke Voted Twice In Committee In Favor Of Mineral Leasing On Public Lands:** In July 2023, Zinke voted to preserve language that reinstated hardrock mineral leases in the Superior National Forest, and Zinke voted to preserve language removing restrictions on mineral and geothermal leasing in Northern Minnesota.

# Key Findings

# Section 1: Zinke Is Bad For Montana



## Zinke Has Left Montana Behind, Living In His \$3.9 Million California Mansion

### A Mountain Of Evidence Indicated That Zinke Lived In Santa Barbara

- **A Mountain Of Evidence Indicated That Zinke Lived In Santa Barbara, Not Montana:** A wide array of press coverage and public records indicated that Zinke spent much of his time in Santa Barbara, including:

- **Property Records:** Press coverage from Politico and other outlets noted that the Santa Barbara home property, which was owned solely by Zinke's wife, had a homestead tax exemption, indicating that it was Lolita Zinke's primary residence. This was still true as of July 2024. In contrast, Zinke did not claim a primary residence tax deduction on his home in Whitefish, where he ostensibly lived full-time when not in D.C.

Moreover, from 2021 to 2024, Zinke listed his wife's California home as his mailing address on six distinct property records, with his adult children and wife listing California addresses on an additional six distinct records that did not involve Zinke himself. Specifically, in 2021, both the quit claim deed and mortgage for Zinke's property in Whitefish were signed by Zinke and his wife from Santa Barbara, California. Moreover, from 2022 to 2024, Zinke's mailing address was listed as his Santa Barbara address on four property records for one of his properties in Whitefish. These records included the deed for the property itself, the property report card, the assessor's website, and a property appraisal notice.

Five other property records indicated that Zinke's wife and adult children lived in California. Additionally, between 2021 and 2024, five property records for property in Lupfer Heights, Montana, that was owned by Zinke's wife and his sons, Konrad and Frederick, indicated that their mailing address was in Santa Barbara. These records included the deed for the property itself, two property appraisal notices, the property report card, and the assessor's website.

- **Campaign Finance Filings:** In 2020, Zinke's address was listed in Santa Barbara, California, when he was paid speaker fees by the St. Lucie County Republican Executive Committee in Florida – a fact that has not been covered by the press. Additionally, a 2022 Politico story noted that Zinke's wife had listed her address as being in Santa Barbara multiple times after Zinke resigned from the Trump Administration.
- **An SEC Filing:** Press coverage noted that an SEC filing of Zinke's consulting contract with U.S. Gold Corp. listed his mailing address in Santa Barbara, while also listing his "Main Office" in Whitefish.
- **Instagram:** Press coverage noted that Zinke appeared numerous times alongside his wife on her Instagram account, with many of the posts being tagged from Santa Barbara. In one post, Zinke's wife called him her "Quarenteammate" in Santa Barbara, indicating that Zinke did not live in Montana during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **In-Person Reporting:** In one Politico article about Zinke's residency, the reporter wrote that they had visited Zinke's alleged primary residence in Montana, and that, "Exiting the property, Nikita Packard identified herself as Zinke's son's 22-year-old girlfriend and told a POLITICO photographer that she lived in the house, but that Zinke did not. Packard did not say where the former secretary resides permanently, and she did not respond to later attempts to confirm details. A former tenant of Zinke's, who until 2019 lived at a rental property of his next door and who asked not to be named for privacy reasons, described interacting with the Zinkes but said they did not appear to live in the Snowfrog building full-time. [...] The former Zinke tenant told me the Snowfrog had been used as a multiunit rental property, and two other Montana sources said they had heard the same."



## 2020: Zinke’s Address Was Listed In Santa Barbara, California When He Was Paid Speaker Fees By A County’s Republican Executive Committee In St. Lucie County, Florida

2020: Zinke’s Address Was Listed In Santa Barbara, California When He Was Paid Speaker Fees By A County’s Republican Executive Committee In St. Lucie County, Florida. [St. Lucie County Campaign Finance via Illumis Search, accessed 7/18/24]

Ryan Zinke St. Lucie County Contributions					
Recipient	Recipient Address	Date	Candidate	Amount	Recipient Type
Ryan Zinke	Santa Barbara CA	06/10/2020	Republican Executive Committee 062210	\$2,853.20	LDD 2020SpeakerFees

[St. Lucie County Campaign Finance via Illumis Search, accessed 7/18/24]

## 2021-2024: Zinke Listed His Wife’s California Home As His Mailing Address On Six Distinct Property Records, With His Children And Wife Listing California Addresses On An Additional Six Distinct Records

### *Zinke’s Wife Had A Homestead Exemption On Her Home At 1292 Las Manos Ln In Santa Barbara, California*

2018 – 2024: Lolita Zinke Had A \$7,000 Homeowner Exemption On Her Home In Santa Barbara. According to the County of Santa Barbara Online Property Tax System, Lolita Zinke had a \$7,000 homeowner exemption on her home from 2018 to 2023. [County of Santa Barbara Online Property Tax System, accessed 7/16/24]

Cancelled	No	No	No	No	No	No
Bill Date	09/07/2023	09/13/2022	09/15/2021	09/14/2020	09/16/2019	09/14/2018
Bill Number	20231025886	20221025906	20211025923	20201025953	20191025998	20181026036
Value Type	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
Bill Type	Secured	Secured	Secured	Secured	Secured	Secured
TaxYear-BillYear	2023-2023	2022-2022	2021-2021	2020-2020	2019-2019	2018-2018
Land	\$109,923	\$107,768	\$105,655	\$104,572	\$102,522	\$100,512
Improvements	\$157,308	\$154,224	\$151,200	\$149,650	\$146,716	\$143,840
Trade Fixtures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Penalties	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Gross Value	\$267,231	\$261,992	\$256,855	\$254,222	\$249,238	\$244,352
HomeOwner Exemp	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000

[County of Santa Barbara Online Property Tax System, accessed 7/16/24]

## Press Coverage Highlighted Numerous Pieces Of Evidence That Zinke Lived In Santa Barbara, Rather Than Montana



## ***Zinke's Wife Claimed A Homestead Tax Exemption On Her Property In Santa Barbara, While Zinke Did Not Claim One On His Alleged Primary Residence In Whitefish***

**May 2022: When Zinke Ran For Election, The Zinkes Used Their Santa Barbara Address As A Mailing Address And They Had A Homeowner Exemption Property Tax Deduction On Their California Home, Which California Law Stated Had To Be For The “Place At Which They Intend To Live Permanently.”**

Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former Trump Interior secretary now running for Congress again in Montana, has long faced questions about whether he lives in the state or in California. Now, new tax records uncovered by POLITICO show that Zinke’s wife has designated the home she inherited years ago from her parents in Santa Barbara as her primary residence, as he wages a comeback campaign a thousand-plus miles north and east. When Zinke filed his candidacy papers with the Federal Election Commission, he listed his family house in Whitefish, Montana, as his place of residence. But he and his wife have used Lola Zinke’s home in Santa Barbara as a mailing address for fundraising invitations, Lola’s own campaign contributions and a business contract his consulting firm filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Meanwhile, a tax filing submitted with the Santa Barbara county government shows a homeowner exemption for the California home for the fiscal year that started last July. The exemption, which offers a \$7,000 deduction on property value assessments, applies to homes that ‘must have been the principal place of residence of the owner’ at the beginning of the calendar year. ‘Where a husband and wife have more than one residence, their principal residence is the residence at the place at which they intend to live permanently,’ according to a California state statute.” [Politico, [5/13/22](#)]

- **May 2022: Politico Reported That Zinke’s Wife, Lola Zinke, Had Claimed A Home In California As Her Primary Residence To Obtain A \$7,000 Deduction On Property Value Assessments For Tax Purposes.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Lola Zinke, the wife of Montana congressional candidate Ryan Zinke, designated a home in California as her primary residence for tax purposes, according to a new report from Politico, that is sure to provide fodder for political opponents. In an interview Friday with the Montana State News Bureau, Ryan Zinke said the residence is her legal primary residence but that his legal residence is and has been in Montana. Lola Zinke has a long family history at the California property and currently operates a business there. A tax filing obtained by Politico shows that last August Lola Zinke received a homeowner tax exemption for the home in Santa Barbara County. The exemption offers a \$7,000 deduction on property value assessments, with regulations stating that homes ‘must have been the principal place of residence of the owner’ at the beginning of the calendar year.” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]
- **Zinke Did Not Have A Homestead Declaration On His Home In Whitefish, Montana.** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former Trump Interior secretary now running for Congress again in Montana, has long faced questions about whether he lives in the state or in California. Now, new tax records uncovered by POLITICO show that Zinke’s wife has designated the home she inherited years ago from her parents in Santa Barbara as her primary residence, as he wages a comeback campaign a thousand-plus miles north and east. [...] But Zinke’s residence could be a big political issue as he tries to rejoin Congress. In Montana, there’s enough wariness of outsiders that Democrats in 2018 tagged then-GOP Senate candidate and now-Rep. Matt Rosendale as ‘Maryland Matt’ — even though he’d moved to Montana a decade-and-a-half earlier. The Zinkes have listed the California home as their mailing address several times since he decamped from Interior in January 2018. Examples include federal campaign donation forms and an SEC filing of his consulting business’ contract with mining company US Gold Corp. Ryan Zinke lists a home in Whitefish as his address on his campaign paperwork. County tax records show that Whitefish home as being the mailing address for Continental Divide International LLC, the consulting firm that Zinke operates, Great Northern Veterans Peace Park, the non-profit Zinke’s family runs, and other businesses. But a search through the recorder’s office at Flathead County, where Whitefish is located, shows no homestead declaration for a primary residence for Zinke.” [Politico, [5/13/22](#)]

***An SEC Filing Of Zinke’s Consulting Contract With U.S. Gold Corp Listed The Couple’s Santa Barbara Home As His Mailing Address***

**Politico: “The Zinkes Have Listed The California Home As Their Mailing Address Several Times Since He Decamped From Interior In January 2018. Examples Include Federal Campaign Donation Forms And An SEC Filing Of His Consulting Business’ Contract With Mining Company US Gold Corp.”** Politico reported, “But Zinke’s residence could be a big political issue as he tries to rejoin Congress. In Montana, there’s enough wariness of outsiders that Democrats in 2018 tagged then-GOP Senate candidate and now-Rep. Matt Rosendale as ‘Maryland Matt’ — even though he’d moved to Montana a decade-and-a-half earlier. The Zinkes have listed the California home as their mailing address several times since he decamped from Interior in January 2018. Examples include federal campaign donation forms and an SEC filing of his consulting business’ contract with mining company US Gold Corp.” [Politico, [5/13/22](#)]

### ***Zinke Repeatedly Appeared In Santa Barbara On His Wife’s Instagram Account***

**October 2021: Locals Said That Zinke Did Not Have A Noticeable Presence In Whitefish, And Zinke’s Wife Made An Instagram Post Calling Zinke Her “Quarenteammate” In Santa Barbara.** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke likes to tout his fifth-generation Montana roots. [...] But his opponents have seized on a weak point for a politician running as a son of Montana. Instagram photos of the Zinkes in Montana. ‘We really haven’t seen him in Montana,’ said Cora Neumann, a Democrat from Bozeman who is one of four candidates running against Zinke so far. [...] Since then, several locals I spoke with said he has not been a noticeable presence in Whitefish. Lolita Zinke’s photos on Instagram show that in recent years she and her family have bought Christmas trees, celebrated Easter, worked on backyard renovations and gone horseback riding in and around the beachside enclave of Santa Barbara, which is two hours north of Los Angeles and home to celebrities including Ellen DeGeneres and Meghan Markle. The Zinkes also appear to have quarantined together in Santa Barbara, with Lolita posting a photo of a shirtless Zinke on Memorial Day 2020, alongside a caption referring to him as ‘my quarenteammate’ and the hashtags #godblessamerica #workoutmotivation and, puzzlingly, #bengazi. (The Instagram account is private, but Lolita accepted my request to follow her from an account where I identify myself as a journalist.) Lolita was born and raised in Santa Barbara. Property records show she owns two parcels on more than 10 acres in a community locals call The Mesa because of the table-like formation the hill makes as it juts out over the Pacific Ocean.” [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

### ***Zinke’s Son’s Girlfriend Told A Reporter That She Lived In Zinke’s Montana Home And That Zinke Did Not, Which Zinke’s Campaign Denied, Despite Multiple Sources Claiming That The Property Was A Rental***

**October 2021: Zinke’s Son’s Girlfriend Said That She Lived In Zinke’s Montana Home But That Zinke Did Not, And A Former Tenant Of Zinke Said That The Zinkes Did Not Live In Their Snowfrog Building Full-Time.** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke likes to tout his fifth-generation Montana roots. [...] But his opponents have seized on a weak point for a politician running as a son of Montana. Instagram photos of the Zinkes in Montana. ‘We really haven’t seen him in Montana,’ said Cora Neumann, a Democrat from Bozeman who is one of four candidates running against Zinke so far. [...] In 2013, Zinke petitioned the city of Whitefish to let him convert the home he and his wife had built into a bed-and-breakfast; that didn’t happen, but a sign outside still advertises the building as The Snowfrog Inn. On a 98-degree day over the summer, there were several cars and trucks parked in the driveway of the building. Exiting the property, Nikita Packard identified herself as Zinke’s son’s 22-year-old girlfriend and told a POLITICO photographer that she lived in the house, but that Zinke did not. Packard did not say where the former secretary resides permanently, and she did not respond to later attempts to confirm details. A former tenant of Zinke’s, who until 2019 lived at a rental property of his next door and who asked not to be named for privacy reasons, described interacting with the Zinkes but said they did not appear to live in the Snowfrog building full-time.” [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

- **Politico: “The Former Zinke Tenant Told Me The Snowfrog Had Been Used As A Multiunit Rental Property, And Two Other Montana Sources Said They Had Heard The Same. But In Comments To Politico, The Zinke Campaign Said One Portion Of The Property Had Been Rented Only ‘Briefly’ When**



**Zinke Was At Interior And That Packard ‘Does Not And Never Has Lived At The Zinkes’ Home’ And Was Likely Visiting Zinke’s Son.”** The Politico reported, “Speaking on behalf of the campaign, a consultant said the idea that Zinke does not live in Montana is ‘absurd.’ ‘It’s flat out wrong. All the Pinocchios,’ Heather Swift wrote through a Twitter direct message. ‘He travelled a lot for work and pleasure but he still lived in Montana. It’s not a hard concept.’ Swift said Zinke’s permanent residence for years has been the site of the Snowfrog Inn. The former Zinke tenant told me the Snowfrog had been used as a multiunit rental property, and two other Montana sources said they had heard the same. But in comments to POLITICO, the Zinke campaign said one portion of the property had been rented only ‘briefly’ when Zinke was at Interior and that Packard ‘does not and never has lived at the Zinkes’ home’ and was likely visiting Zinke’s son. The campaign did not respond when asked whether Zinke lives at the Snowfrog full-time.” [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

## **In Response, Zinke Claimed That His Wife Lived In California And He Lived In Montana, An Explanation That One Law Professor Called “A Hard Sell To Any Tax Authority”**

### **Zinke Claimed That His Wife Lived In California Full Time And That He Lived In Montana Full Time, Claiming That The California Property Was Owned Solely By His Wife And That They Both Traveled Back And Forth To See Each Other**

**May 2022: Politico Reported That Zinke’s Wife, Lola Zinke, Had Claimed A Home In California As Her Primary Residence To Obtain A \$7,000 Deduction On Property Value Assessments For Tax Purposes.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Lola Zinke, the wife of Montana congressional candidate Ryan Zinke, designated a home in California as her primary residence for tax purposes, according to a new report from Politico, that is sure to provide fodder for political opponents. In an interview Friday with the Montana State News Bureau, Ryan Zinke said the residence is her legal primary residence but that his legal residence is and has been in Montana. Lola Zinke has a long family history at the California property and currently operates a business there. A tax filing obtained by Politico shows that last August Lola Zinke received a homeowner tax exemption for the home in Santa Barbara County. The exemption offers a \$7,000 deduction on property value assessments, with regulations stating that homes ‘must have been the principal place of residence of the owner’ at the beginning of the calendar year.” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]

- **In Response, Zinke Claimed That His Legal Residence Was In Montana, But His Wife’s Was In California, As She Operated A Business In California And Had A Long Family History In The State.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Lola Zinke, the wife of Montana congressional candidate Ryan Zinke, designated a home in California as her primary residence for tax purposes, according to a new report from Politico, that is sure to provide fodder for political opponents. In an interview Friday with the Montana State News Bureau, Ryan Zinke said the residence is her legal primary residence but that his legal residence is and has been in Montana. Lola Zinke has a long family history at the California property and currently operates a business there. A tax filing obtained by Politico shows that last August Lola Zinke received a homeowner tax exemption for the home in Santa Barbara County. The exemption offers a \$7,000 deduction on property value assessments, with regulations stating that homes ‘must have been the principal place of residence of the owner’ at the beginning of the calendar year.” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]
- **Zinke: “Lola Pays California Taxes, So We Operate Exactly Under The Law Within The Guidelines Of The Homestead Act... It Wasn’t Mine, It Was Lola’s.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Politico further reports that the Zinkes had listed the California home as their mailing address on various legal forms. [...] The issue of how strong Ryan Zinke’s ties are to Montana has been a long-simmering political issue in the state, with political opponents questioning how much time he spends in California compared to Whitefish. [...] Lola Zinke inherited the Santa Barbara property years ago following the death of her mother. Ryan Zinke said his



wife is the sole owner of the property, while the couple owns properties in Whitefish that have been in Ryan Zinke's family for years. The former Secretary of the Interior also owns property as part of a family partnership in Whitefish. 'Lola pays California taxes, so we operate exactly under the law within the guidelines of the Homestead Act,' Ryan Zinke said Friday, adding that the property became her legal primary residence when she took over the title. 'It wasn't mine, it was Lola's.'" [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]

- **Zinke Said He Did Spend Time At The California Property Working On Wildfire Mitigation And That He And His Wife Went Back And Forth Between Montana And California, Calling His Wife "A Person In Her Own Right."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Ryan Zinke does go to the property, where he says he has done a lot of work on things like wildfire mitigation. Ryan Zinke said the couple has been supportive of each other, going back and forth between Montana and California, or meeting in other places to allow them both to pursue career goals and maintain ties to both their families' properties. 'I don't think a husband worth his merit would do anything less,' he said. '... She loves me and I'm her husband but she loves that property too.' While publicly Lola Zinke often thought of as only his wife, Ryan Zinke said she is an accomplished attorney and business woman. 'Lola's a person in her own right,' he said. '... She's a force of nature.' The Zinkes' main property in Whitefish is his grandmother's former home, which was remodeled as a bed and breakfast. Ryan Zinke said it took several years working through city zoning and the couple had planned to open the business before he was nominated as Interior secretary. 'That has been our residence,' he said. The Zinkes also own adjacent property in Whitefish and Ryan Zinke owns property with his sister as well, he said.'" [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]

**Zinke: "The Idea That I'm Not A Montanan, That's Absurd. ... What Became, I Think, Inappropriate, Is ... My Wife Has Her Property In Santa Barbara, Which She Inherited, And My Wife Has Also Has A Right To Work."** The Independent Record reported, "It was clear in a post-election interview that dings over his residency were top of mind for Zinke. 'The idea that I'm not a Montanan, that's absurd. ... What became, I think, inappropriate, is ... my wife has her property in Santa Barbara, which she inherited, and my wife has also has a right to work,' Zinke said. 'We've been married almost 30 years, we've raised children in our house in Montana. ... I've been a congressman, a state (representative), same house, you know, all the all the way through. But my wife and I are both passionate about her ability to keep her family's property intact. And it's not easy.' On his poor performance in Flathead County, Zinke cited low voter turnout working in concert with the ads against him. Turnout statewide was 39.2%, while it was 35.65% in the Flathead. That's down from 41% there in the 2018 midterm and up from 29% in 2014. 'You throw enough mud, sure, it began to stick,' Zinke said." [Independent Record, 6/12/22]

- **Zinke: "We've Been Married Almost 30 Years, We've Raised Children In Our House In Montana. ... I've Been A Congressman, A State (Representative), Same House, You Know, All The All The Way Through. But My Wife And I Are Both Passionate About Her Ability To Keep Her Family's Property Intact."** The Independent Record reported, "It was clear in a post-election interview that dings over his residency were top of mind for Zinke. 'The idea that I'm not a Montanan, that's absurd. ... What became, I think, inappropriate, is ... my wife has her property in Santa Barbara, which she inherited, and my wife has also has a right to work,' Zinke said. 'We've been married almost 30 years, we've raised children in our house in Montana. ... I've been a congressman, a state (representative), same house, you know, all the all the way through. But my wife and I are both passionate about her ability to keep her family's property intact. And it's not easy.' On his poor performance in Flathead County, Zinke cited low voter turnout working in concert with the ads against him. Turnout statewide was 39.2%, while it was 35.65% in the Flathead. That's down from 41% there in the 2018 midterm and up from 29% in 2014. 'You throw enough mud, sure, it began to stick,' Zinke said." [Independent Record, 6/12/22]

## **A Law Professor At The University Of Virginia Said, “It Would Be A Hard Sell To Any Tax Authority That The Candidate And His Wife Do Not Have The Same Primary Residence (Assuming They Are Not Separated)”**

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**A Law Professor At The University Of Virginia Said, “It Would Be A Hard Sell To Any Tax Authority That The Candidate And His Wife Do Not Have The Same Primary Residence (Assuming They Are Not Separated).”** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former Trump Interior secretary now running for Congress again in Montana, has long faced questions about whether he lives in the state or in California. Now, new tax records uncovered by POLITICO show that Zinke’s wife has designated the home she inherited years ago from her parents in Santa Barbara as her primary residence, as he wages a comeback campaign a thousand-plus miles north and east. [...] A home being considered the primary residence for one spouse would normally indicate that it is the primary residence of both spouses, said Andrew Hayashi, director of the Virginia Center for Tax Law at the University of Virginia Law School. ‘The details for determining residency will depend on the state or local laws, but I would think that it would be a hard sell to any tax authority that the candidate and his wife do not have the same primary residence (assuming they are not separated),’ Hayashi said via email. The issue has become one of the main political weapons some of Zinke’s competitors in the Republican primary have used against him. ‘This is just another example of Ryan not being fully honest and transparent with the people of Montana about where exactly he lives,’ said Montana state Sen. Albert Olszewski, who is Zinke’s main rival in the June 7 primary. ‘What I’ve heard across the state is people just saying “look, Ryan doesn’t even live here, Ryan lives in California,”’ said Olszewski, who frequently mentions the residency issue in campaign stump speeches.” [Politico, [5/13/22](#)]

### **Zinke’s Wife’s House In Santa Barbara Was Far Larger, More Expensive, And Nicer Than His So-Called Primary Residence In Whitefish**

#### **2024: The Zinke’s 3 Bed, 3 Bath, 2,622 Square Foot Santa Barbara Home Had An Estimated Value Of \$3.9 Million, And May Have Been Situated On Land Worth As Much As \$25 Million**

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**Zinke’s Wife’s House In Santa Barbara Was Far More Expensive And Nicer Than Zinke’s So-Called Primary Residence In Whitefish:** Zinke’s California house was far nicer than his Montana house. Zillow indicated that the Zinkes’ Santa Barbara property had an estimated value of \$3,967,700, a value in line with Zinke’s most recent financial disclosure, which indicated the property had a value between \$1 million and \$5 million. Additionally, Zillow estimated that if the Santa Barbara property were rented, it would fetch a whopping \$12,737 per month – more than seven times the median rent in Montana, which was \$1,800 in July 2024. A Google Maps satellite view suggested that the house was also situated on a large plot of surrounding land.

In contrast, Zinke’s property in Whitefish – his primary residence, according to his voter registration, political contributions, FEC filings, spokesperson, and Zinke himself – was assessed to be worth \$910,500 in 2024, with Zillow estimating that the property would fetch rent of \$1,535 a month.

#### **2022: Zinke Reported That His Wife’s Property In Santa Barbara Was Worth Between \$1 Million And \$5 Million**

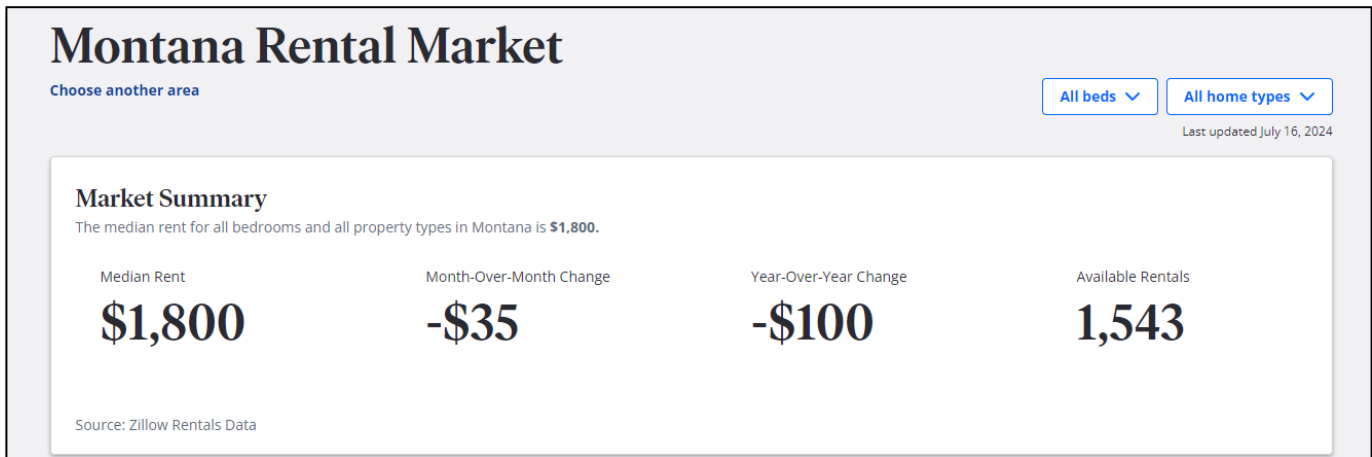
**2022: Zinke Reported That His Wife’s Property In Santa Barbara Was Worth Between \$1 Million And \$5 Million.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

Asset	Owner	Min Value	Max Value	Income Type(s)	Income Current Year	Income Preceding Year
Hand Property [RP]  LOCATION: SANTA BARBARA, CA, US  DESCRIPTION: Hand Family Residence	SP	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000	None	N/A	N/A
LC Hand Holdings [RP]  LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA, US  DESCRIPTION: Family Rental Property	SP	\$5,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rent	\$50001 - \$100000	\$50001 - \$100000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$7,833,014</b>	<b>\$33,846,000</b>		<b>\$77,508 - \$185,600</b>	<b>\$70,006 - \$165,600</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

**Montana’s Median Rent Was \$1,800 A Month**

As Of July 2024, Montana’s Median Rent Was \$1,800 A Month. [Zillow, accessed [7/18/24](#)]



[Zillow, accessed [7/18/24](#)]

**Reporting About Zinke’s Residency Indicated That His Primary Residence Was The Home That He Tried To Convert Into The Snowfrog Inn**

Politico: “In 2013, Zinke Petitioned The City Of Whitefish To Let Him Convert The Home He And His Wife Had Built Into A Bed-And-Breakfast; That Didn’t Happen, But A Sign Outside Still Advertises The Building As The Snowfrog Inn.” Politico reported, “When I contacted Zinke’s campaign to ask about his residence, I was told he still lives in his hometown of Whitefish, at the address given on his April FEC campaign filing. In July, I flew to Montana and drove to that address, a handsome, two-story, chalet-style home within walking distance of downtown. In 2013, Zinke petitioned the city of Whitefish to let him convert the home he and his wife had built into a bed-and-breakfast; that didn’t happen, but a sign outside still advertises the building as The Snowfrog Inn.

On a 98-degree day over the summer, there were several cars and trucks parked in the driveway of the building. Exiting the property, Nikita Packard identified herself as Zinke's son's 22-year-old girlfriend and told a POLITICO photographer that she lived in the house, but that Zinke did not. Packard did not say where the former secretary resides permanently, and she did not respond to later attempts to confirm details. A former tenant of Zinke's, who until 2019 lived at a rental property of his next door and who asked not to be named for privacy reasons, described interacting with the Zinkes but said they did not appear to live in the Snowfrog building full-time." [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

- **Politico: "Speaking On Behalf Of The Campaign, A Consultant Said The Idea That Zinke Does Not Live In Montana Is 'Absurd.' 'It's Flat Out Wrong. All The Pinocchios,' Heather Swift Wrote Through A Twitter Direct Message. [...] Swift Said Zinke's Permanent Residence For Years Has Been The Site Of The Snowfrog Inn."** The Politico reported, "Speaking on behalf of the campaign, a consultant said the idea that Zinke does not live in Montana is 'absurd.' 'It's flat out wrong. All the Pinocchios,' Heather Swift wrote through a Twitter direct message. 'He travelled a lot for work and pleasure but he still lived in Montana. It's not a hard concept.' Swift said Zinke's permanent residence for years has been the site of the Snowfrog Inn. The former Zinke tenant told me the Snowfrog had been used as a multiunit rental property, and two other Montana sources said they had heard the same. But in comments to POLITICO, the Zinke campaign said one portion of the property had been rented only 'briefly' when Zinke was at Interior and that Packard 'does not and never has lived at the Zinkes' home' and was likely visiting Zinke's son. The campaign did not respond when asked whether Zinke lives at the Snowfrog full-time." [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]
- **Politico: "The Former Zinke Tenant Told Me The Snowfrog Had Been Used As A Multiunit Rental Property, And Two Other Montana Sources Said They Had Heard The Same. But In Comments To Politico, The Zinke Campaign Said One Portion Of The Property Had Been Rented Only 'Briefly' When Zinke Was At Interior And That Packard 'Does Not And Never Has Lived At The Zinkes' Home' And Was Likely Visiting Zinke's Son."** The Politico reported, "Speaking on behalf of the campaign, a consultant said the idea that Zinke does not live in Montana is 'absurd.' 'It's flat out wrong. All the Pinocchios,' Heather Swift wrote through a Twitter direct message. 'He travelled a lot for work and pleasure but he still lived in Montana. It's not a hard concept.' Swift said Zinke's permanent residence for years has been the site of the Snowfrog Inn. The former Zinke tenant told me the Snowfrog had been used as a multiunit rental property, and two other Montana sources said they had heard the same. But in comments to POLITICO, the Zinke campaign said one portion of the property had been rented only 'briefly' when Zinke was at Interior and that Packard 'does not and never has lived at the Zinkes' home' and was likely visiting Zinke's son. The campaign did not respond when asked whether Zinke lives at the Snowfrog full-time." [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

### ***Zinke Himself Claimed That His Personal Residence Was The Home He Had Tried To Remodel Into A Bed And Breakfast***

**2022: Zinke Claimed That His Personal Residence In Montana Was His Grandmother's Former Home, Which He Had Attempted To Remodel As A Bed And Breakfast Before Abandoning The Plan After Years Of Working Through City Zoning.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Ryan Zinke does go to the property, where he says he has done a lot of work on things like wildfire mitigation. Ryan Zinke said the couple has been supportive of each other, going back and forth between Montana and California, or meeting in other places to allow them both to pursue career goals and maintain ties to both their families' properties. 'I don't think a husband worth his merit would do anything less,' he said. '... She loves me and I'm her husband but she loves that property too.' While publicly Lola Zinke often thought of as only his wife, Ryan Zinke said she is an accomplished attorney and business woman. 'Lola's a person in her own right,' he said. '... She's a force of nature.' The Zinkes' main property in Whitefish is his grandmother's former home, which was remodeled as a bed and breakfast. Ryan Zinke said it took several years working through city zoning and the couple had planned to open the business before he was nominated as Interior secretary. 'That has been our residence,' he said. The Zinkes also own adjacent property in Whitefish and Ryan Zinke owns property with his sister as well, he said." [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]

## **Zinke's Proposed "Solutions" To Montana's Housing Crisis Included Handouts To His Developer Donors And Longer Mortgages That Would Prevent People From Ever Fully Owning Their Homes**

### **Zinke Called For Offering 50 Year Mortgages To Solve The Housing Crisis, Which Would Force Borrowers To Pay More In Interest And Reduce Their Ability Ever Fully Own Their Homes**

## **Zinke Repeatedly Called For Offering 50 Year Mortgages As A Solution For Housing Affordability**

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**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Opening Federal Financing Programs To More Types Of Housing And Offering 50-Year Mortgages To Address Affordability.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke has also proposed ideas to address housing affordability, such as opening up federal financing programs to more types of housing, or offering 50-year mortgages. 'I hear a lot about affordable housing, just the concern that property values have gone up, that means taxes will go up, rental costs have gone up, it's the lack of ability and affordability of housing across the board,' he said in an interview." [Billings Gazette, 10/16/22]

**2022: Zinke Said 50 Year Mortgages Would Reduce Monthly Loan Payments And Would Make It So That People Would Be Able To Buy A Home.** The Billings Gazette The Billings Gazette reported, "The housing crisis is unmistakable in the Clark Fork Valley as it is for the rest of the state, and Zinke endorses cutting regulations where possible and backing purchases of condos or other multi-family units with federal mortgage programs. He also supports offering 50-year mortgages, touting the ability to bring monthly loan payments down, although critics note that overall payments would rise over the life of the loan compared to a standard 15- or 30-year mortgage. 'It doesn't mean people are going to live in a house for 50 years, it just means they're able to buy and I can tell you, most Americans, how you build long-term wealth is you own a home,' he said." [Billings Gazette, 11/6/22]

## **Critics Slammed Zinke For Backing Mortgages That Would Have Longer, Higher Interest Payments That Would Effectively Guarantee That Buyers Could Never Own Their Home**

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**Billings Gazette: "Critics Note That Overall Payments Would Rise Over The Life Of The Loan Compared To A Standard 15- Or 30-Year Mortgage."** The Billings Gazette The Billings Gazette reported, "The housing crisis is unmistakable in the Clark Fork Valley as it is for the rest of the state, and Zinke endorses cutting regulations where possible and backing purchases of condos or other multi-family units with federal mortgage programs. He also supports offering 50-year mortgages, touting the ability to bring monthly loan payments down, although critics note that overall payments would rise over the life of the loan compared to a standard 15- or 30-year mortgage. 'It doesn't mean people are going to live in a house for 50 years, it just means they're able to buy and I can tell you, most Americans, how you build long-term wealth is you own a home,' he said." [Billings Gazette, 11/6/22]

**2023: Zinke's Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Slammed His Proposal For 50-Year Mortgages In An Op-Ed, Arguing, "A 50-Year Mortgage Locks Buyers Into Longer, Higher Debt, Essentially Guarantees The Buyer Will Never Actually Own Their Home, And Limits The Equity They Will Obtain."** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, "Western Montana is facing huge population growth and increasing housing costs. For folks whose homes are valued at over \$400,000, the temporary rebate doesn't cover the permanent increase on your property taxes beginning this November. The 2023 median value of a home in Flathead, Gallatin, Madison and Missoula counties is well north of that. The tiny band-aid of a temporary rebate does nothing to help. Ryan Zinke's 'answer' is 50-year mortgages. A 50-year mortgage locks buyers into longer,





higher debt, essentially guarantees the buyer will never actually own their home, and limits the equity they will obtain. Zinke's pandering to corporate profits is nothing new, but be clear: Zinke's 'solution' does not help homeowners but ensures large corporate lenders make more money." [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 8/22/23]

- **Tranel: "Zinke's Pandering To Corporate Profits Is Nothing New, But Be Clear: Zinke's 'Solution' Does Not Help Homeowners But Ensures Large Corporate Lenders Make More Money."** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, "Western Montana is facing huge population growth and increasing housing costs. For folks whose homes are valued at over \$400,000, the temporary rebate doesn't cover the permanent increase on your property taxes beginning this November. The 2023 median value of a home in Flathead, Gallatin, Madison and Missoula counties is well north of that. The tiny band-aid of a temporary rebate does nothing to help. Ryan Zinke's 'answer' is 50-year mortgages. A 50-year mortgage locks buyers into longer, higher debt, essentially guarantees the buyer will never actually own their home, and limits the equity they will obtain. Zinke's pandering to corporate profits is nothing new, but be clear: Zinke's 'solution' does not help homeowners but ensures large corporate lenders make more money." [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 8/22/23]

## **Zinke Called For A Regulatory Holiday And Cutting Costs For Builders, A Clear Giveaway For Developers**

### **2022: Zinke Said, "The Answer To Montana's Housing Crisis Is Not More Government Housing. The Answer Is To Get Government Out Of The Way And Reduce Costs And Timelines For Builders"**

**2022: Zinke Said, "The Answer To Montana's Housing Crisis Is Not More Government Housing. The Answer Is To Get Government Out Of The Way And Reduce Costs And Timelines For Builders."** The Montana Free Press reported, "Q4: Housing costs are an increasing concern for many Montanans. What federal action would you support to promote housing affordability in Montana? Ryan Zinke (R) The answer to Montana's housing crisis is not more government housing. The answer is to get government out of the way and reduce costs and timelines for builders. The federal government can take action to promote the affordable and stable supply of building materials to include implementing a series of regulatory holidays, increasing domestic production of raw materials and minerals, and ending covid-era policies and spending that are driving up inflation. We also need meaningful permitting relief; lengthy and costly permitting processes also unnecessarily tie up construction projects." [Montana Free Press, [9/1/22](#)]

### **Zinke: "The Federal Government Can Take Action To Promote The Affordable And Stable Supply Of Building Materials To Include Implementing A Series Of Regulatory Holidays, Increasing Domestic Production Of Raw Materials And Minerals, And Ending Covid-Era Policies And Spending That Are Driving Up Inflation"**

**Zinke: "The Federal Government Can Take Action To Promote The Affordable And Stable Supply Of Building Materials To Include Implementing A Series Of Regulatory Holidays, Increasing Domestic Production Of Raw Materials And Minerals, And Ending Covid-Era Policies And Spending That Are Driving Up Inflation."** The Montana Free Press reported, "Q4: Housing costs are an increasing concern for many Montanans. What federal action would you support to promote housing affordability in Montana? Ryan Zinke (R) The answer to Montana's housing crisis is not more government housing. The answer is to get government out of the way and reduce costs and timelines for builders. The federal government can take action to promote the affordable and stable supply of building materials to include implementing a series of regulatory holidays, increasing domestic production of raw materials and minerals, and ending covid-era policies and spending that are

driving up inflation. We also need meaningful permitting relief; lengthy and costly permitting processes also unnecessarily tie up construction projects.” [Montana Free Press, [9/1/22](#)]

## **Regulatory Holidays Were Periods During Which Private Firms Were Temporarily Exempted From Regulation To Foster Investments Under Uncertain Conditions And Were Criticized For Benefiting Large Companies That Received Preferential Treatment**

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**Regulatory Holidays Were Periods During Which Private Firms Were Temporarily Exempted From Regulation To Foster Investments Under Uncertain Conditions.** According to a paper published by researchers at the University of Groningen SOM Research School, “However, in recent years stakeholders have argued that with high powered incentive regulation, firms postpone socially efficient investments in durable assets, especially in risky environments, and that a different form of regulation is necessary. For instance, in response to large investment needs, the UK electricity and gas regulator Ofgem modernized its price cap mechanism by explicitly taking into account these investment needs.<sup>2</sup> European energy directives allow specific network investments to be exempted from regulation in order to foster investments if uncertainty is large in a regime which is often called a ‘regulatory holiday’.<sup>3</sup> For the telecom sector, ETNO, the industry association representing European telecom operators, recommends relaxing access regulation, as it sees it as the main reason for European infrastructure investments lagging those in the U.S.” [University of Groningen SOM Research School, [2016](#)]

- **Regulatory Holidays Were Often Used To Finance Public Infrastructure, But Produced Monopolistic Conditions Because The Large Companies That Benefited From Regulatory Holidays Frequently Tried To Retain A Dominant Status.** According to LinkedIn, George Mouzourakis posted, “It was very interesting to learn through this article that in the course of the coalition talks between Christian Democrats and Social Democrats in Germany, a proposal from SPD was discussed, on the provision of regulatory holidays to big telcos, up to seven years it seems, if they invest in fast internet networks. And that conservative MEPs wrote to Chancellor Merkel against it. The core idea in itself is far from absurd. Historically, the vast majority of public infrastructure in many States, be it telecoms, electricity, water, you name it, has been implemented through concession agreements with special rights to one (monopoly) or more licensees. [...] The ‘special rights’ approach to development has of course one glitch: special rights prohibit effective competition, hence they are not ‘future proof’. They create a situation that has to be dealt with after the initial objective has been achieved. And, quite naturally, the ‘special rights’ holders aren’t too eager to let go their perks. [...] Can one achieve major investments in infrastructure avoiding concession of special rights to one or a handful of companies?” [LinkedIn, George Mouzourakis, [2/5/18](#)]
- **2018: After Germany Considered Exempting Large Telecom Companies From Regulation For Seven Years If They Build Faster Internet Networks, Critics Argued That Doing So Would Help Larger Companies At The Expense Of Smaller Ones.** The Euractiv reported, “Eight German conservative MEPs have written to Chancellor Angela Merkel to complain about a controversial telecoms investment plan, which crept into coalition talks this week between Christian Democrats and Social Democrats. MEPs wrote that they are concerned about ‘the threat of a remonopolised telecommunications market in Germany’, according to the letter seen by EURACTIV.com, which is dated 31 January. Their letter took aim at a proposal from the Social Democrats (SPD) to include in a potential coalition between the parties a guarantee that big telecoms firms could face no regulation for up to seven years if they invest in building fast internet networks. The SPD plan aims to speed up Germany’s telecoms infrastructure, but critics argue that smaller competing firms will suffer if large operators are not forced to follow the same rules. EURACTIV reported on Wednesday (31 January) that the SPD had included the proposal in a negotiating document. The MEPs do not mention Deutsche Telekom by name, but criticise the relaxed rules because they would help the ‘market-dominating company’. The German government owns 32% of the telecoms giant.” [Euractiv, [2/1/18](#)]



## Zinke Said He Opposed Public Housing And Wanted To Incentivize Private Sector Housing

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Private Solutions To Housing Affordability, Claiming, “I’m A Big Advocate For Private Housing, But Not Government Housing, And We Can Incentivize On The Private Side. We All Got To Work Together. But Also, The County Is Growing And It’s Going To Continue To Grow.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “‘The valley is facing the same problems as the Flathead high gas prices, we drive big trucks,’ Zinke said. ‘Inflation is out of control, mostly because of spending. Affordable housing is a big issue because people would love to come here and people would love to work here, but they can’t afford it. I’m a big advocate for private housing, but not government housing, and we can incentivize on the private side. We all got to work together. But also, the county is growing and it’s going to continue to grow. The big question we have to have to ask is, how is it going to grow?’” [Ravalli Republic, 9/1/22]

**2022: Zinke Said, “The Answer To Montana’s Housing Crisis Is Not More Government Housing. The Answer Is To Get Government Out Of The Way And Reduce Costs And Timelines For Builders.”** The Montana Free Press reported, “Q4: Housing costs are an increasing concern for many Montanans. What federal action would you support to promote housing affordability in Montana? Ryan Zinke (R) The answer to Montana’s housing crisis is not more government housing. The answer is to get government out of the way and reduce costs and timelines for builders. The federal government can take action to promote the affordable and stable supply of building materials to include implementing a series of regulatory holidays, increasing domestic production of raw materials and minerals, and ending covid-era policies and spending that are driving up inflation. We also need meaningful permitting relief; lengthy and costly permitting processes also unnecessarily tie up construction projects.” [Montana Free Press, 9/1/22]

## Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donor By Industry Was The Real Estate Industry, And His Top Donors By Employers Included Multiple Realtor And Construction Entities

### 2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donor By Industry, Excluding Retired And Political Industries, Was Real Estate, Followed By Oil & Gas

2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donor By Industry, Excluding Retired And Political Industries, Was Real Estate, Followed By Oil & Gas. [OpenSecrets, accessed 7/9/24]

**Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Industry Donors**

Industry	Total
Retired	\$4,821,986
Republican/Conservative	\$1,856,129
Real Estate	\$974,736
Leadership PACs	\$952,485
Oil & Gas	\$850,827
Securities & Investment	\$758,667
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$335,895
Candidate Committees	\$258,660
Livestock	\$237,853
Health Professionals	\$227,945
General Contractors	\$227,590



Automotive	\$215,294
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$203,384
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$183,421
Gun Rights	\$159,969
Insurance	\$142,692
Misc Finance	\$132,093
Lobbyists	\$131,202
Business Services	\$129,130
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$120,664

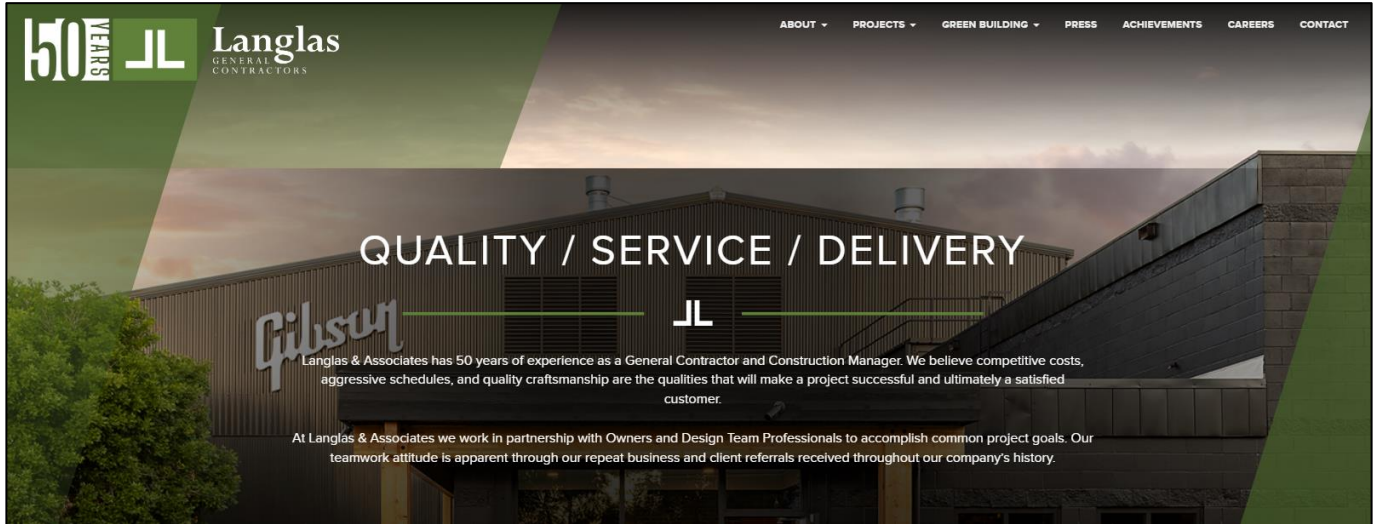
[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donors By Employer Included Langlas & Associates, The National Association Of Home Builders, Barnard Construction, And The National Associate Of Realtors

2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donors By Employer Included Langlas & Associates, The National Association Of Home Builders, Barnard Construction, And The National Association Of Realtors. [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donors			
Contributor	Individuals	PACs	Total
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

- **Langlas & Associates Was A General Contractor And Construction Manager.** [Langlas.com, accessed [7/14/24](#)]



[Langlas.com, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

## **Zinke Received Criticism By The Press And Montana Democrats For Being Absent On The Housing Crisis**

### **Zinke Was Criticized By The Daily Inter Lake For Not Having A Comprehensive Plan To Address The Housing Crisis**

**2024 – Daily Inter Lake: “Zinke Has Also Been Outspoken About The Housing Crisis, Yet Has Not Released A Comprehensive Plan Like Tranel’s.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Democratic congressional candidate Monica Tranel last month joined a chorus of calls to ban hedge funds from buying up homes as a way to alleviate the housing crisis at the federal level. [...] Tranel’s plan also seeks to provide stability for seniors by requiring Medicaid and Medicare to provide adequate reimbursements for long-term care and incentivizing the construction of more housing for seniors through tax credits and community grants, for example. Zinke has also been outspoken about the housing crisis, yet has not released a comprehensive plan like Tranel’s. The congressman blamed the issue on ‘Bidenomics’ in an April interview with NBC Montana. ‘It comes from mismanagement of the economy, when prices goes up, inflation goes up, housing costs go up, and when interest rates go up, it’s unaffordable for a lot of Montanans,’ Zinke told NBC Montana. While Zinke could not be reached for comment, his staff pointed toward previous efforts to address the housing crisis, including cosponsoring a bill to support housing for police officers, first responders and teachers.” [Daily Inter Lake, 6/7/24]

- **Daily Inter Lake: “While Zinke Could Not Be Reached For Comment, His Staff Pointed Toward Previous Efforts To Address The Housing Crisis, Including Cosponsoring A Bill To Support Housing For Police Officers, First Responders And Teachers.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Democratic congressional candidate Monica Tranel last month joined a chorus of calls to ban hedge funds from buying up homes as a way to alleviate the housing crisis at the federal level. [...] Tranel’s plan also seeks to provide stability for seniors by requiring Medicaid and Medicare to provide adequate reimbursements for long-term care and incentivizing the construction of more housing for seniors through tax credits and community grants, for example. Zinke has also been outspoken about the housing crisis, yet has not released a comprehensive plan like Tranel’s. The congressman blamed the issue on ‘Bidenomics’ in an April interview with NBC Montana. ‘It



comes from mismanagement of the economy, when prices goes up, inflation goes up, housing costs go up, and when interest rates go up, it's unaffordable for a lot of Montanans,' Zinke told NBC Montana. While Zinke could not be reached for comment, his staff pointed toward previous efforts to address the housing crisis, including cosponsoring a bill to support housing for police officers, first responders and teachers." [Daily Inter Lake, 6/7/24]

## **The Executive Director Of The Montana Democratic Party Slammed Zinke As Being “Nowhere To Be Found” On The Housing Crisis**

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**2024: Sheila Hogan, The Executive Director Of The Montana Democratic Party, Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming Zinke As “Nowhere To Be Found” On The Housing Crisis In Montana.** According to an op-ed by Sheila Hogan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, in the Ravalli Republic, “Montana has long been an affordable place for hard-working families to call home. Unfortunately, the dream of homeownership or even finding affordable rental housing has become harder and harder for many Montana families. The housing crisis is hurting our communities, and the root of this problem is the unchecked influence of out-of-state hedge funds, land speculators, and corporate landlords who have driven up prices and squeezed out local residents across our state. And at this moment of crisis, when we need leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives to protect our families and lower the cost of living for Montanans, Ryan Zinke is nowhere to be found. Zinke has failed to take meaningful action to address the housing crisis, instead prioritizing partisan politics and attacking our individual rights and freedoms. It might be easy for a millionaire like Zinke, who spends part of his time at his home in Santa Barbara, California, to ignore how costs have gone up across our state, but the reality is dire for Montana families who suddenly have to choose between paying their mortgage or rent, or putting food on the table.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/25/24]

- **Op-Ed: “Zinke Has Failed To Take Meaningful Action To Address The Housing Crisis, Instead Prioritizing Partisan Politics And Attacking Our Individual Rights And Freedoms.”** According to an op-ed by Sheila Hogan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, in the Ravalli Republic, “Montana has long been an affordable place for hard-working families to call home. Unfortunately, the dream of homeownership or even finding affordable rental housing has become harder and harder for many Montana families. The housing crisis is hurting our communities, and the root of this problem is the unchecked influence of out-of-state hedge funds, land speculators, and corporate landlords who have driven up prices and squeezed out local residents across our state. And at this moment of crisis, when we need leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives to protect our families and lower the cost of living for Montanans, Ryan Zinke is nowhere to be found. Zinke has failed to take meaningful action to address the housing crisis, instead prioritizing partisan politics and attacking our individual rights and freedoms. It might be easy for a millionaire like Zinke, who spends part of his time at his home in Santa Barbara, California, to ignore how costs have gone up across our state, but the reality is dire for Montana families who suddenly have to choose between paying their mortgage or rent, or putting food on the table.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/25/24]
- **Op-Ed: “It Might Be Easy For A Millionaire Like Zinke, Who Spends Part Of His Time At His Home In Santa Barbara, California, To Ignore How Costs Have Gone Up Across Our State, But The Reality Is Dire For Montana Families Who Suddenly Have To Choose Between Paying Their Mortgage Or Rent, Or Putting Food On The Table.”** According to an op-ed by Sheila Hogan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, in the Ravalli Republic, “Montana has long been an affordable place for hard-working families to call home. Unfortunately, the dream of homeownership or even finding affordable rental housing has become harder and harder for many Montana families. The housing crisis is hurting our communities, and the root of this problem is the unchecked influence of out-of-state hedge funds, land speculators, and corporate landlords who have driven up prices and squeezed out local residents across our state. And at this moment of crisis, when we need leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives to protect our families and lower the cost of living for Montanans, Ryan Zinke is nowhere to be found. Zinke has failed to take meaningful action to address the housing crisis, instead prioritizing partisan politics and attacking our individual rights and freedoms. It might be easy for a millionaire like Zinke, who spends part of his time at his home in Santa



Barbara, California, to ignore how costs have gone up across our state, but the reality is dire for Montana families who suddenly have to choose between paying their mortgage or rent, or putting food on the table.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/25/24]

- **Op-Ed: “We Need Leaders In Congress Who Will Hold Bad Actors, Hedge Funds, And Out-Of-State Corporations Accountable For Driving Up The Cost Of Living, Ensuring Montanans Have A Level Playing Field In The Housing Market.”** According to an op-ed by Sheila Hogan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, in the Ravalli Republic, “Leadership in the House of Representatives is urgently needed to provide federal resources to support efforts on the ground in our communities. We need leaders in Congress who will hold bad actors, hedge funds, and out-of-state corporations accountable for driving up the cost of living, ensuring Montanans have a level playing field in the housing market. Ensuring Montanans have access to affordable housing should be bipartisan. Our leaders in Congress must work together to enact policies that reflect the urgency of this crisis and ensure that every individual has access to safe and stable housing. We cannot afford to repeat the failures of the past it’s time we vote Zinke out and replace him with accountable and proactive leadership in Washington.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/25/24]

## Zinke Repeatedly Voted Against Funding For Affordable Housing

**2023-2024: Zinke Voted For HUD Appropriations Bills That Slashed Funding For Affordable Housing And Could Have Resulted In Tens Of Thousands Of Evictions**

**2023: Zinke Voted To Report The HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Eliminated Funding For Programs That Provided Grants To Encourage Local Residential Developments, Cut Public Housing Funding By \$150 Million, And Blocked Funding For A Rule To Reduce Segregation**

***2023: Zinke Voted To Report The HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Eliminated Funding For Programs That Provided Grants To Encourage Local Residential Developments, Cut Public Housing Funding By \$150 Million***

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Eliminated Funding For Programs That Provided Grants To Encourage Local Residential Developments, Including Eliminating The \$185 Million Choice Neighborhoods Program.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “provide \$8.4 billion for the Public Housing Fund, down \$150 million from fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] It would eliminate spending for the Choice Neighborhoods program, which received \$185 million in fiscal 2023. It also would eliminate spending for Yes in My Backyard, a grant program to encourage changes to local zoning and land-use to encourage residential development. [...] It also would include policy riders that would prohibit the administration from implementing a greenhouse gas performance rule for the national highway system, ban the procurement of Chinese-manufactured drones and prevent HUD from enforcing a proposed fair housing rule that would direct grantees to proactively seek to fix patterns of segregation. [...] As amended, it would no longer provide three projects with community project funding, which includes \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.; \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia; and \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Reduced Funding For The Public Housing Fund By \$150 Million From The Previous Year.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “provide \$8.4 billion for the Public Housing Fund, down \$150 million from fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] It would eliminate spending for the Choice Neighborhoods program, which received \$185 million in fiscal 2023. It also would eliminate spending for Yes in My Backyard, a grant program to encourage changes to local zoning and land-use to encourage residential development. [...] It also would include policy riders that would prohibit the administration from implementing a greenhouse gas performance rule for the national highway system, ban the procurement of Chinese-manufactured drones and prevent HUD from enforcing a proposed fair housing rule that would direct grantees to proactively seek to fix patterns of segregation. [...] As amended, it would no longer provide three projects with community project funding, which includes \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.; \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia; and \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]



## ***2023: Zinke Voted To Block The Implementation Of A Rule To Reduce Segregation In Housing And Voted Repeatedly To Eliminate Earmarks For Community Housing Projects Run By LGBT Organizations***

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Blocking HUD From Implementing A Rule To Combat Patterns Of Segregation In Housing.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Lee’s amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “remove a policy rider in the bill to bar the Department of Housing and Urban Development from implementing a proposed rule directing HUD and its grantees to ‘proactively take meaningful actions’ to fix patterns of segregation in housing as well as advance ‘fair’ housing options.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Defund Community Housing Projects Run By LGBT Organizations.** According to CQ, Zinke voted in favor of Rep. Cole’s amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to provide three projects with community project funding, including: \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia. \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The amendment was adopted, with 32 Republicans voting in favor and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

- **July 2023: Zinke Voted Against Restoring Earmarks To Community Housing Projects Run By LGBT Organizations.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Quigley’s amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “restore community project funding for three projects as follows: \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 30 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]
- **July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Removed Earmarks For Three Community Housing Programs Run By LGBT Organizations.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “provide \$8.4 billion for the Public Housing Fund, down \$150 million from fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] It would eliminate spending for the Choice Neighborhoods program, which received \$185 million in fiscal 2023. It also would eliminate spending for Yes in My Backyard, a grant program to encourage changes to local zoning and land-use to encourage residential development. [...] It also would include policy riders that would prohibit the administration from implementing a greenhouse gas performance rule for the national highway system, ban the procurement of Chinese-manufactured drones and prevent HUD from enforcing a proposed fair housing rule that would direct grantees to proactively seek to fix patterns of segregation. [...] As amended, it would no longer provide three projects with community project funding, which includes \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.; \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia; and \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

## ***2024: Zinke Voted For A HUD Appropriations Bill That Cut The Only Federal Program For New Affordable Housing By 60 Percent And Was Likely To Cause Tens Of Thousands Of Evictions***

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***DCCC: “Yesterday, Zinke Voted For The... Housing And Urban Development Appropriations Bill In Committee, Threatening The Sole Federal Program Dedicated To New Affordable Housing Construction. His Bill Could Also Potentially Force Tens Of Thousands Of Evictions”***

**DCCC: “Yesterday, Zinke Voted For The Transportation And Housing And Urban Development Appropriations Bill In Committee, Threatening The Sole Federal Program Dedicated To New Affordable Housing Construction.”** According to a press release from the DCCC, “As Montana families continue to grapple with high costs and an affordable housing crisis, Ryan Zinke wants to make it more difficult for families to get to work and afford housing. Yesterday, Zinke voted for the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill in committee, threatening the sole federal program dedicated to new affordable housing construction. His bill could also potentially force tens of thousands of evictions and totally eliminate support for the roughly 700,000 families in public housing at risk of exposure to lead-based paint.” [DCCC, Press Release, [7/11/24](#)]

- **DCCC: “His Bill Could Also Potentially Force Tens Of Thousands Of Evictions And Totally Eliminate Support For The Roughly 700,000 Families In Public Housing At Risk Of Exposure To Lead-Based Paint.”** According to a press release from the DCCC, “As Montana families continue to grapple with high costs and an affordable housing crisis, Ryan Zinke wants to make it more difficult for families to get to work and afford housing. Yesterday, Zinke voted for the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill in committee, threatening the sole federal program dedicated to new affordable housing construction. His bill could also potentially force tens of thousands of evictions and totally eliminate support for the roughly 700,000 families in public housing at risk of exposure to lead-based paint.” [DCCC, Press Release, [7/11/24](#)]

***The Fiscal 2025 Housing Appropriations Bill Cut The Home Program, Which Built New Affordable Housing, 60 Percent, Cut Public Housing Funding By \$600 Million, And Eliminated Other Programs To Expand Affordable Housing***

**2024: The Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Appropriations Bill Guttled The Only Federal Program Dedicated To New Affordable Rental And Homeownership Housing By 60 Percent, Cutting The HOME Program From \$1.25 Billion To \$500 Million.** According to the House Appropriations Committee Democrats, “The fiscal year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bill provides \$90.4 billion, including \$378 million for maritime defense programs at the Department of Transportation. [...] Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) — The bill provides a total of \$73.2 billion for HUD for fiscal year 2024 – \$2.3 billion below fiscal year 2024. The legislation: • Guts the sole Federal program dedicated to new affordable rental and homeownership housing construction by 60 percent, cutting the HOME program from \$1.25 billion to a mere \$500 million, despite a 12 percent increase in homelessness nationally.” [House Appropriations Committee Democrats, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

- **2024: The Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Appropriations Bill Eliminated A Program To Help Mayors And Governors Fund Expansions Of Affordable Housing And Eliminated The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, Which Helped Communities Redevelop Distressed Housing.** According to the House Appropriations Committee Democrats, “The fiscal year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bill provides \$90.4 billion, including \$378 million for maritime defense programs at the Department of Transportation. [...] Eliminates the Yes, In My Backyard program which helps mayors and governors fund locally driven solutions for land-use and expanding affordable housing and transit-oriented development, and the neighborhood and housing revitalization program, Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, which helps communities redevelop distressed housing and attract economic development.” [House Appropriations Committee Democrats, accessed [7/14/24](#)]



- **The Bill Also Cut \$600 Million In Public Funding Housing, A Seven Percent Cut, Which Democrats Claimed Would Force Tens Of Thousands Of Evictions.** According to the House Appropriations Committee Democrats, “The fiscal year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bill provides \$90.4 billion, including \$378 million for maritime defense programs at the Department of Transportation. [...] The bill also includes: • \$8.2 billion for Public Housing, a cut of nearly \$600 million, or 7 percent, below fiscal year 2024 and \$326 million below the President’s fiscal year 2025 request, forcing tens of thousands of evictions, while also eliminating targeted funding that reduces the harms imposed by lead-based paint hazards in public housing where the HUD Inspector General estimates nearly 700,000 public housing families reside in housing built before 1978 and are at risk of exposure.” [House Appropriations Committee Democrats, accessed [7/14/24](#)]
- **The Bill Also Eliminated Targeted Funding For Lead Paint Hazard Harm Reduction In Public Housing, Putting Nearly 700,000 Families At Risk.** According to the House Appropriations Committee Democrats, “The fiscal year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bill provides \$90.4 billion, including \$378 million for maritime defense programs at the Department of Transportation. [...] The bill also includes: • \$8.2 billion for Public Housing, a cut of nearly \$600 million, or 7 percent, below fiscal year 2024 and \$326 million below the President’s fiscal year 2025 request, forcing tens of thousands of evictions, while also eliminating targeted funding that reduces the harms imposed by lead-based paint hazards in public housing where the HUD Inspector General estimates nearly 700,000 public housing families reside in housing built before 1978 and are at risk of exposure.” [House Appropriations Committee Democrats, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

## Zinke Took Multiple Votes Against Affordable Housing On The House Floor

### 2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To Move \$100 Million Within The Budget To Promote Removing Barriers To Affordable Housing Production And Preservation

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**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To Move \$100 Million Within The Budget To Promote Removing Barriers To Affordable Housing Production And Preservation.** In November 2023, Zinke voted against: “Blunt Rochester, D-Del., that would increase by \$100 million, and decrease by the same amount, funding for the Housing and Urban Development Department’s Community Development Fund, intended to promote identifying and removing barriers to affordable housing production and preservation.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 238-185. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #610](#), 11/7/23; CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

### Zinke Voted Three Times Against Measures To Promote Equal Access For Federal Housing Programs

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**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4820 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement The Sept. 21, 2016, Department Of Housing And Urban Development Rule, “Equal Access In Accordance With An Individual’s Gender Identity In Community Planning And Development Programs.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Norman, R-S.C., amendment no. 66 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to implement the Sept. 21, 2016, Department of Housing and Urban Development rule, “Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual’s Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs.” The motion failed the House on November 7, 2023 by a vote of 212-217, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 0 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #619](#), 11/7/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/7/23](#)]



- **The Rule Ensured That The Housing And Urban Development Department Housing Programs Accommodated Transgender And Gender Non-Conforming Individuals.** “Through this final rule, HUD ensures equal access for individuals in accordance with their gender identity in programs and shelter funded under programs administered by HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD). This rule builds upon HUD’s February 2012 final rule entitled ‘Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity’ (2012 Equal Access Rule), which aimed to ensure that HUD’s housing programs would be open to all eligible individuals and families regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. The 2012 Equal Access Rule, however, did not address how transgender and gender non-conforming individuals should be accommodated in temporary, emergency shelters, and other buildings and facilities used for shelter, that have physical limitations or configurations that require and that are permitted to have shared sleeping quarters or shared bathing facilities.” [Federal Register, [9/21/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4820 To Bar Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement, Administer Or Enforce The Housing And Urban Development Department’s Equity Action Plan.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Self, R-Texas, amendment no. 74 that would bar funds provided by the bill to implement, administer or enforce the Housing and Urban Development Department’s equity action plan. The motion failed the House on November 7, 2023 by a vote of 211-219, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 0 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 7 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #621](#), 11/7/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To Decrease Funding For The Department Of Housing And Urban Development Office Of Fair Housing And Equal Opportunity By \$25.2 Million.** In November 2023, Zinke voted for: “Brecheen, R-Okla., Brecheen, R-Okla., amendment no. 30 that would decrease by \$25.2 million funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 174-252. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #607](#), 11/7/23; CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

# While Zinke's Wall Street Donors Caused Skyrocketing Housing Prices By Buying Up Single-Family Homes, Zinke Was Nowhere To Be Found

## Zinke Did Not Back Attempts To Rein In Wall Street's Buying Spree Of Single Family Homes

### Zinke Did Not Cosponsor The End Hedge Fund Control Of American Homes Act, Which Would Ban Hedge Funds And Private Equity Firms From Buying Single-Family Homes And Force Them To Sell Their Holdings

2023-2024: Zinke Did Not Cosponsor The End Hedge Fund Control Of American Homes Act. [Congress.gov, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

#### H.R.6608 - End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act

118th Congress (2023-2024) | [Get alerts](#)

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**Sponsor:** [Rep. Smith, Adam \[D-WA-9\]](#) (Introduced 12/05/2023)

**Committees:** House - Ways and Means; Financial Services

**Latest Action:** House - 12/05/2023 Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. ([All Actions](#))

**Tracker:** 📍 **Introduced** > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > Became Law

[Congress.gov, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

Cosponsor	Date Cosponsored
<a href="#">Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]*</a>	12/05/2023
<a href="#">Rep. Williams, Nikema [D-GA-5]*</a>	12/05/2023
<a href="#">Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-12]</a>	12/12/2023
<a href="#">Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]</a>	01/10/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]</a>	01/31/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-47]</a>	02/09/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]</a>	02/13/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-12]</a>	02/15/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Bush, Cori [D-MO-1]</a>	03/11/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]</a>	03/12/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7]</a>	04/09/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]</a>	05/22/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-36]</a>	06/25/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Salinas, Andrea [D-OR-6]</a>	06/26/2024

[Congress.gov, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

- **December 2023: Rep. Smith Introduced The End Hedge Fund Control Of American Homes Act In The House, Which Would Ban Hedge Funds From Buying Up Single-Family Homes And Forced Them To Sell 10 Percent Of Their Holdings Each Year Until They Were Fully Divested.** According to a press release from the Office of Representative Adam Smith, “In 2011, no single entity owned over 1,000 single-family rental units. As of June 2022, the Urban Institute estimates that large hedge funds and other institutional investors owned roughly 574,000 single-family homes. To meet investors’ return expectations, hedge funds and other investors maximize profits by imposing high rent increases, inflating fees, and delaying home maintenance and improvements, which diminishes the quality of housing over time. The End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act seeks to put an end to this harmful practice of hedge funds buying up single-family homes by banning hedge funds from owning these types of homes and requiring them to sell at least 10% of the total number of single-family homes they currently own to families per year over a 10-year period. After a 10-year full phase-out, all hedge funds will be completely banned from owning any single-family homes. The fact sheet for the End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act can be found [here](#). The bill text can be found [here](#). In addition to Smith, this bill is also cosponsored by U.S. Representatives Nikema Williams (D-GA-05) and Linda Sánchez (D-CA-38). In addition to Merkley, this bill is also cosponsored by U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-MN).” [Office of Representative Adam Smith, Press Release, [12/5/23](#)]
- **The Bill Would Require Hedge Funds And Private Equity Firms To Sell Off 10 Percent Of Their Single-Family Homes Each Year Over The Course Of A Decade And Would Tax Them If They Failed To Comply.** Vice reported, “Hedge funds, private equity firms, and investment trusts have been snatching up single-family homes all around the country for years, creating concern that homeowners themselves would be pushed even further out of the market. But a sweeping new bill introduced by U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Washington Rep. Adam Smith would, if enacted as written, essentially ban such corporate investors from the practice moving forward. The bill, which was introduced in both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday, would over a ten-year period require hedge funds and large institutional investors to completely divest from single-family home ownership. Called the End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act, the bill would require large funds to sell off 10 percent of their homes each year over a decade. ‘We shouldn’t allow private equity firms to buy up vast quantities of American homes and create a generation of lifelong renters. Congress needs to act fast and help promote access to safe, affordable housing and homeownership for American families, not Wall Street,’ Smith said in a press release. The bill would require the Internal Revenue Service to tax large funds that fail to sell off their single family homes over that timeframe.” [Vice, [12/7/23](#)]
- **The Bill Was Supported By The Private Equity Stakeholder Project, Consumer Action, And The National Consumer Law Center.** Vice reported, “Hedge funds, private equity firms, and investment trusts have been snatching up single-family homes all around the country for years, creating concern that homeowners themselves would be pushed even further out of the market. But a sweeping new bill introduced by U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Washington Rep. Adam Smith would, if enacted as written, essentially ban such corporate investors from the practice moving forward. [...] The bill would require the Internal Revenue Service to tax large funds that fail to sell off their single family homes over that timeframe. It already has some support in the house, where it is co-sponsored by the U.S. Representatives Nikema Williams and Linda Sánchez, as well as in the Senate, where it is cosponsored by Senator Tina Smith. Advocacy groups Private Equity Stakeholder Project, Consumer Action, and National Consumer Law Center have offered additional support.” [Vice, [12/7/23](#)]

## **Zinke Did Not Cosponsor The American Neighborhoods Protection Act, A Bill To Impose A \$10,000 Annual Tax Of Corporate Owners Of More Than 75 Single-Family Homes**

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**2023-2024: Zinke Did Not Cosponsor The American Neighborhoods Protection Act Of 2023.** [Congress.gov, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

**H.R.6630 - American Neighborhoods Protection Act of 2023**  
 118th Congress (2023-2024) | [Get alerts](#)

**BILL** Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Rep. Jackson, Jeff \(D-NC-14\)](#) (Introduced 12/06/2023)  
 Committees: House - Ways and Means; Financial Services  
 Latest Action: House - 12/06/2023 Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: ● **Introduced** → Passed House → Passed Senate → To President → Became Law

More on This Bill  
[Constitutional Authority and Single Subject Statements](#)  
[CBO Cost Estimates \(0\)](#)

Subject — Policy Area:  
 Taxation

Give Feedback on This Bill  
[Contact Your Member](#)

Summary (1) | Text (1) | Actions (3) | Titles (2) | Amendments (0) | **Cosponsors (1)** | Committees (2) | Related Bills (0)

**Cosponsors: H.R.6630 — 118th Congress (2023-2024)** [All Information](#) (Except Text)

Sponsor: [Rep. Jackson, Jeff \(D-NC-14\)](#) | Cosponsor statistics: 1 current - includes 1 original

Hide Filters  \* = Original cosponsor View: Expanded Sort by: First to Last

Party of Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Date Cosponsored
<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic [1]	<a href="#">Rep. Adams, Alma S. (D-NC-12)*</a>	12/06/2023

[Congress.gov, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

- **The American Neighborhoods Protection Act Would Require Corporate Owners Of More Than 75 Single-Family Homes To Pay An Annual Fee Of \$10,000 Per Home Into A Housing Trust Fund To Be Used As Down Payment Assistance.** The New York Times reported, “Democrats in Congress have introduced a bill in both houses of Congress on Tuesday to ban hedge funds from buying and owning single-family homes in the United States. [...] In separate legislation, Representatives Jeff Jackson and Alma Adams of North Carolina, both Democrats, introduced the American Neighborhoods Protection Act on Wednesday. That bill would require corporate owners of more than 75 single-family homes to pay an annual fee of \$10,000 per home into a housing trust fund to be used as down payment assistance for families.” [New York Times, [12/6/23](#)]

## 2015-2024: Zinke Did Not Issue Any Press Releases Concerning Wall Street’s Buying Up Of Residential Homes

2015-2024: Zinke Issued 294 Press Releases. [Legistorm, accessed [7/17/24](#)]

Zinke Did Not Issue Any Press Releases Concerning Wall Street. [Google.com, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

"wall street" site:zinke.house.gov

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house.gov  
<http://zinke.house.gov/media/press-releases/zinke-c...>

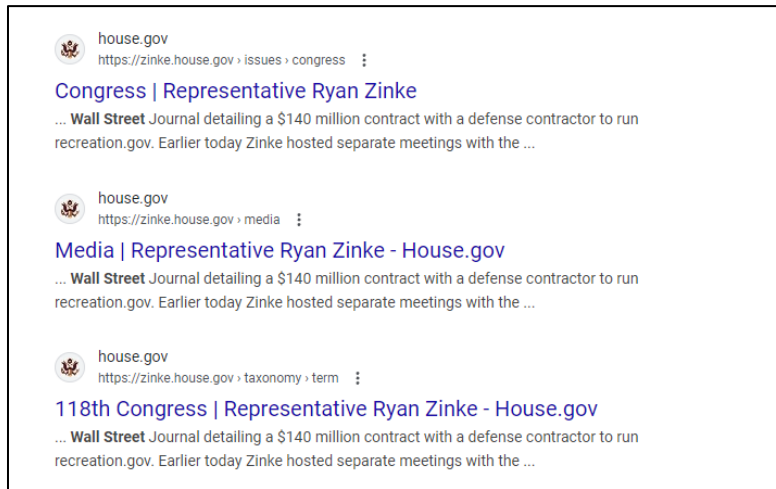
**Zinke Calls for Investigation into Recreation.gov Contract ...**  
 Apr 11, 2023 — ... **Wall Street** Journal detailing a \$140 million contract with a defense contractor to run recreation.gov. Earlier today Zinke hosted separate ...

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**Zinke Legislation to Defund, Block Glacier Park Vehicle ...**  
 Jul 21, 2023 — April 6 — bombshell report by the **Wall Street** Journal detailing a \$140 million contract with a defense contractor to run recreation.gov .

[Google.com, accessed [7/14/24](#)]





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**Congress | Representative Ryan Zinke**  
... **Wall Street** Journal detailing a \$140 million contract with a defense contractor to run recreation.gov. Earlier today Zinke hosted separate meetings with the ...

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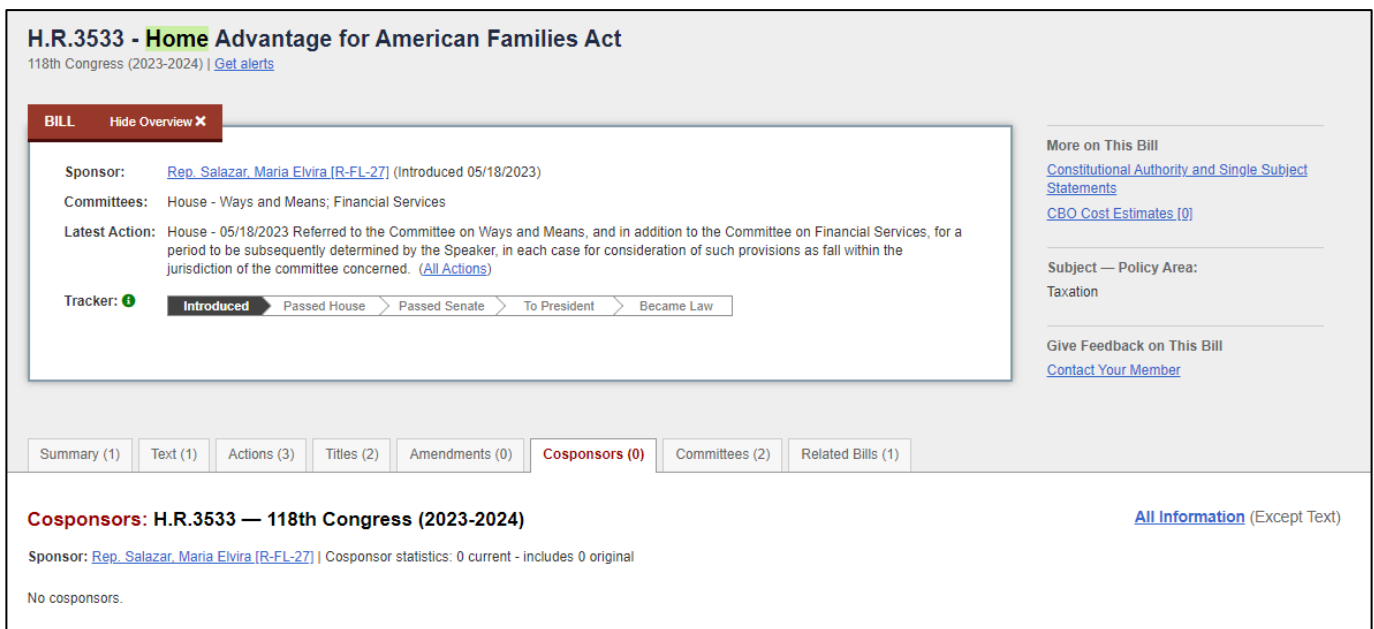
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**118th Congress | Representative Ryan Zinke - House.gov**  
... **Wall Street** Journal detailing a \$140 million contract with a defense contractor to run recreation.gov. Earlier today Zinke hosted separate meetings with the ...

[Google.com, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

## Zinke Did Not Cosponsor The Home Advantage For American Families Act, Which Would Have Doubled The Tax Paid By Foreign Investors Buying American Residential Property

**2023-2024: Zinke Did Not Cosponsor The Home Advantage For American Families Act.** [Congress.gov, accessed [7/14/24](#)]



**H.R.3533 - Home Advantage for American Families Act**  
118th Congress (2023-2024) | [Get alerts](#)

**BILL** Hide Overview ✕

**Sponsor:** [Rep. Salazar, Maria Elvira \(R-FL-27\)](#) (Introduced 05/18/2023)

**Committees:** House - Ways and Means; Financial Services

**Latest Action:** House - 05/18/2023 Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. ([All Actions](#))

**Tracker:** Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > Became Law

**More on This Bill**  
[Constitutional Authority and Single Subject Statements](#)  
[CBO Cost Estimates \(0\)](#)

**Subject — Policy Area:**  
Taxation

**Give Feedback on This Bill**  
[Contact Your Member](#)

Summary (1) | Text (1) | Actions (3) | Titles (2) | Amendments (0) | **Cosponsors (0)** | Committees (2) | Related Bills (1)

**Cosponsors: H.R.3533 — 118th Congress (2023-2024)** [All Information](#) (Except Text)

**Sponsor:** [Rep. Salazar, Maria Elvira \(R-FL-27\)](#) | Cosponsor statistics: 0 current - includes 0 original

No cosponsors.

[Congress.gov, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

- **The Home Advantage For American Families Act Included A Provision To Increase The Foreign Investment In Real Property Act Tax Rate To 30 Percent For Foreign Corporations And Individuals.** According to a press release from Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar, “Today, Rep. María Elvira Salazar (R-FL) and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced legislation to shield American real estate markets from excessive foreign demand and increase affordable housing opportunities. Lowering housing prices for local buyers will ensure that illicit money cannot permeate the Miami housing market. The bill also invests heavily

in low-income and affordable housing initiatives to address the housing crisis in Miami. ‘Miami’s housing prices are out of control, and something needs to be done to address rising prices and expand access to affordable housing,’ said Rep. Salazar. ‘This bill alleviates our housing crisis by ensuring that Miami residents come first in the marketplace.’ The ‘Home Advantage for American Families Act’ authorizes the Treasury Department to issue reports for residential real estate transactions within the top fifteen Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) to identify the natural identities of foreign buyers. It also increases the Foreign Investment in Real Property Act (FIRPTA) of 1980 withholding tax on residential real estate to 30% for both foreign corporations and foreign individuals.” [Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar, Press Release, [5/18/23](#)]

- **Press Release: “The Bill Provides An Additional 10% Of Base-Funding Set-Aside Of The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LITHC) For Single Family Home Construction Within Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) To Help States Create More Affordable Housing Opportunities That Can Accommodate A Family.”** According to a press release from the Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar, “To expand opportunities for low-income buyers in Florida’s District 27, the bill provides an additional 10% of base-funding set-aside of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LITHC) for single family home construction within Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) to help states create more affordable housing opportunities that can accommodate a family.” [Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar, Press Release, [5/18/23](#)]
- **Congressional Research Service: “The Bill Also Increases (1) From 15% To 30% The Rate Of Withholding On The Sales Proceeds Of U.S. Real Property Interests, And (2) The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit State Ceiling.”** According to Congress.gov, “This bill requires any foreign person involved in a transaction related to the sale of residential property located in any of the 15 largest metropolitan statistical areas by population to report to the Department of the Treasury information for identifying the person purchasing the property, the amount and source of the funds received by the seller, the date and nature of the transaction, and other information deemed necessary. The bill also increases (1) from 15% to 30% the rate of withholding on the sales proceeds of U.S. real property interests, and (2) the low-income housing tax credit state ceiling.” [Congress.gov, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

## **The Housing Plan Of Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Called For Disincentivizing Hedge Funds And Foreign Investors From Buying Up Housing**

**The Housing Plan Of Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Called For Banning Foreign Investors From Buying Up Housing And Agricultural Land In Montana.** According to Monicatrael.com, “Houses must be treated as homes where people who live in a community go to sleep and eat and play, not as investment vehicles for foreign and out-of-state profiteers to turn a fast buck. Out-of-state hedge funds, land speculators, and corporate landlords have made housing more expensive in Montana, and it’s time we hold them accountable for their actions. Everyone needs to play by the rules, and be held accountable if they don’t. Ban Hedge Funds from Buying Homes and Crack Down on Land Speculators and Foreign Investors We need to eliminate the incentives that push private equity firms into buying nursing homes and mobile home parks and sucking the money out of them or razing them to the ground and selling off lots at high prices. Congress should structure our tax code to discourage corporate ownership of multiple homes or housing units that are held as investment vehicles rather than as homes for people who live and work in our communities. We must level the playing field for working people and make sure everyone plays by the rules. We also need to clamp down on foreign adversaries buying up farmland and water rights in Montana. This not only takes land away from prospective Montana land owners, but also increases concerns around our national security.” [Monicatrael.com, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

## **The Securities And Investment Industry Was Zinke’s Third Largest Lifetime Donor By Industry When Discounting Retired People, Conservative Groups, And Leadership PACs**



**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donors By Industry, Excluding Retired And Political Industries, Were Real Estate, Followed By Oil & Gas, Securities And Investment, Lawyers/Law Firms, Livestock, And Health Professionals.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Industry Donors</b>	
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Total</b>
Retired	\$4,821,986
Republican/Conservative	\$1,856,129
Real Estate	\$974,736
Leadership PACs	\$952,485
Oil & Gas	\$850,827
Securities & Investment	\$758,667
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$335,895
Candidate Committees	\$258,660
Livestock	\$237,853
Health Professionals	\$227,945
General Contractors	\$227,590
Automotive	\$215,294
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$203,384
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$183,421
Gun Rights	\$159,969
Insurance	\$142,692
Misc Finance	\$132,093
Lobbyists	\$131,202
Business Services	\$129,130
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$120,664

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**The Securities And Investment Industry Included Hedge Funds, Private Equity & Investment Firms, And Venture Capital.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

### Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Commercial Banks

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Securities & Investment

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Hedge Funds

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Mortgage Bankers & Brokers

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Misc Finance

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

## Wall Street Investment Firms Were Partly Responsible For Skyrocketing Housing Prices, As They Outbid Ordinary People For Single Family Homes Out To Be Profitable Rental Investments

### 2019-Present: Wall Street Firms Including Vanguard, Blackstone, Blackrock, Goldman Sachs, Pretium Partners, J.P. Morgan, And Others Purchased Single-Family Homes Across The United States To Act As Rental Investments

**HEADLINE: “Goldman Sachs-Backed Firms Buy Entire Florida Community For \$45M.”** [New York Post, [5/11/22](#)]

**Since 2019, J.P. Morgan, Goldman Sachs, And Blackstone Have “Helped Bankroll An Industry Of More Than Two Dozen Single-Family Home Rental Companies That Are Snapping Up Existing Properties.”**

According to Toptal, “Prior to 2010, the single-family rental market was largely ignored by big institutional investors, which preferred easy-to-scale multifamily properties. But since the financial crisis—and especially since 2019—that’s changed. Financial heavyweights like J.P. Morgan Asset Management, Blackstone, and Goldman Sachs Asset Management have helped bankroll an industry of more than two dozen single-family home rental companies that are snapping up existing properties—and building new ones too. Residential real estate acquired by companies or institutions soared to 90,215 homes in the third quarter of 2021, as investors, both large and small,



accounted for 18% of single-family home sales. That's up 80.2% from the year prior, according to the online real estate firm Redfin. Nearly three-quarters of residential purchases by investors were single-family homes, while multifamily homes—a market in which investors have been significant players for decades—accounted for just a quarter of sales.” [Toptal, accessed [1/10/24](#)]

**Major Purchasers Of Residential Homes Were Backed By Private Equity Firms Such As Blackstone And Investment Managers Such As Pretium Partners.** CNBC reported, “Since the early 2010s, Tricon Residential, Progress Residential, American Homes 4 Rent and Invitation Homes have each bought thousands of homes. They’ve also added to the housing supply in some cases with built-for-rent communities. Some of these companies are financed by private equity firms such as Blackstone and investment managers such as Pretium Partners. ‘It’s almost a captive market,’ said Jordan Ash, director of labor-jobs and housing at the Private Equity Stakeholder Project. ‘They’ve been very explicit about how people are shut out of the homebuying market and are going to be perpetual renters.’” [CNBC, [2/21/23](#)]

**Wall Street Journal: “Burns Counted More Than 200 Companies And Investment Firms In The House Hunt: [...] Money Managers Including J.P. Morgan Asset Management And Blackrock Inc.”** The Wall Street Journal reported, “The coronavirus pandemic sparked a race for home-office space and yards. Occupancy rates reached records and rents are rising with home prices. The ecosystem of companies that service, finance and mimic the mega landlords is booming. Burns counted more than 200 companies and investment firms in the house hunt: computer-assisted flipper Opendoor Technologies Inc; money managers including J.P. Morgan Asset Management and BlackRock Inc, platforms such as Fundrise and Roofstock that buy and arrange for the management of rentals on behalf of individuals and builder LGI Homes Inc., which now reports wholesale home sales to bulk buyers in its quarterly results.” [Wall Street Journal, [4/4/21](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Vanguard And Wall Street Are Pumping Global Housing Markets.”** [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]

- **Tanja Fijalkowski Op-Ed: “There Are Several Factors Influencing The Housing Affordability Crisis, But... There Is One Huge, Greedy Elephant In The Room... The Housing Affordability Crisis Is Unequivocally The Product Of Wall Street’s, With A Special Shout Out To Blackrock And Vanguard, Voracious Greed.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “There are several factors influencing the housing affordability crisis, but don’t get it twisted: There is one huge, greedy elephant in the room. The rest is just confetti. Despite what prestigious media outlets say, the housing affordability crisis is unequivocally the product of Wall Street’s, with a special shout out to Blackrock and Vanguard, voracious greed. To cover their tracks, they have consistently used the reputable sources they own a controlling stake in as mouth pieces to deflect attention away from what they are doing. But peeling back the layers just a little bit reveals quite a stinky center.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]

**2019: Blackstone Sold Off Invitation Homes, With A Majority Of The Company’s Shares Being Bought By Companies Like Vanguard And J.P. Morgan.** The New York Times reported, “In 2017, Blackstone earned more than \$1.5 billion on the I.P.O. of Invitation Homes. And since then, now that median housing-sale prices have fully rebounded — up 46 percent since 2011 — Blackstone has realized even greater gains by exiting the business entirely, shedding its remaining 41 percent ownership in a series of billion-dollar second offerings from last March to November. A majority of its shares were bought by mutual funds like Vanguard and J.P. Morgan. According to The Wall Street Journal, the exit earned Blackstone \$7 billion, more than twice what it invested. Blackstone, meanwhile, is moving on — to -e-commerce warehouses, mobile homes, student housing and affordable housing around the world.” [New York Times, [3/4/20](#)]

**These Investors Had Significant Advantages Over Ordinary Homebuyers, Including Lower Interest Rates, The Ability To Pay Entirely In Cash, And The Capital To Outbid**

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**One Major Investor In Residential Homes, Invitation Homes, Had Access To Lower Interest Rates Than Normal People, And Therefore Often Outbid Normal Homebuyers By \$5,000 To \$20,000, And “Almost Always” Offered To Pay In Cash, Giving It An Advantage.** Slate reported, “The median price of an American house has increased by 28 percent over the last two years, as pandemic-driven demand and long-term demographic changes send buyers into crazed bidding wars. Might the fact that corporate investors snapped up 15 percent of U.S. homes for sale in the first quarter of this year have something to do with it? [...] Let’s focus on Invitation Homes, a \$21 billion publicly traded company that was spun off from Blackstone, the world’s largest private equity company, in 2017. Invitation Homes operates in 16 cities, with the biggest concentration in Atlanta, where it owns 12,556 houses. (Though that’s not much compared with the 80,000 homes sold in Atlanta each year, Invitation Homes bought 90 percent of the homes for sale in some ZIP codes in Atlanta in the early 2010s.) While normal people typically pay a mortgage interest rate between 2 percent and 4 percent these days, Invitation Homes can borrow money for far less: It’s getting billion-dollar loans at interest rates around 1.4 percent. In practice, this means that Invitation Homes can afford to tack on an extra \$5,000 to \$20,000 to the purchase price of every home, while getting the house at the same actual cost as a typical homeowner. While Invitation Homes uses a mixture of debt and cash from renters to buy houses, its offers are almost always all cash, which is a big leg up in a competitive market.” [Slate, [6/19/21](#)]

**Wall Street Journal: “When Real-Estate Agent Don Nugent Listed A Three-Bedroom, Two-Bath House... Offers Came Immediately, Including A \$208,000 One From A Couple... Looking For Their First Home. A Competing Bid Was Too Attractive To Pass Up. American Homes 4 Rent... Offered The Same Amount— But All Cash, No Inspection Required.”** The Wall Street Journal reported, “When real-estate agent Don Nugent listed a three-bedroom, two-bath house here on Jo Ann Drive, offers came immediately, including a \$208,000 one from a couple with a young child looking for their first home. A competing bid was too attractive to pass up. American Homes 4 Rent, a public company that had been scooping up homes in the neighborhood, offered the same amount—but all cash, no inspection required. Twelve hours after the house went on the market in April, the Agoura Hills, Calif.-based real-estate investment trust signed a contract. About a month later, it put the house back on the market, this time for rent, for \$1,575 a month. A new breed of homeowners has arrived in this middle-class suburb of Nashville and in many other communities around the country: big investment firms in the business of offering single-family homes for rent. Their appearance has shaken up sales and rental markets and, in some neighborhoods, sparked rent increases.” [Wall Street Journal, [7/21/17](#)]

- **Wall Street Journal: “A New Breed Of Homeowners Has Arrived... Big Investment Firms In The Business Of Offering Single-Family Homes For Rent. Their Appearance Has Shaken Up Sales And Rental Markets And, In Some Neighborhoods, Sparked Rent Increases.”** The Wall Street Journal reported, “When real-estate agent Don Nugent listed a three-bedroom, two-bath house here on Jo Ann Drive, offers came immediately, including a \$208,000 one from a couple with a young child looking for their first home. A competing bid was too attractive to pass up. American Homes 4 Rent, a public company that had been scooping up homes in the neighborhood, offered the same amount—but all cash, no inspection required. Twelve hours after the house went on the market in April, the Agoura Hills, Calif.-based real-estate investment trust signed a contract. About a month later, it put the house back on the market, this time for rent, for \$1,575 a month. A new breed of homeowners has arrived in this middle-class suburb of Nashville and in many other communities around the country: big investment firms in the business of offering single-family homes for rent. Their appearance has shaken up sales and rental markets and, in some neighborhoods, sparked rent increases.” [Wall Street Journal, [7/21/17](#)]

**New York Times: “Wall Street Has Come For The Starter Home. First-Time Buyers, Who Overwhelmingly Rely On Mortgages, Were Often Outmatched By Cash Buyers At The Beginning Of The Coronavirus Pandemic.”** The New York Times reported, “Wall Street has come for the starter home. First-time buyers, who overwhelmingly rely on mortgages, were often outmatched by cash buyers at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, when interest rates plummeted below 3 percent and home prices soared. Across the United States, more than a third of all sales in 2022 were in cash. [...] Investors were largely uninterested in wealthier enclaves. Instead, they targeted middle-income neighborhoods, many with larger Black and Latino populations. Bradfield Farms fit

the bill: It is in an area that, in 2020, was 35 percent Black and 11 percent Latino, according to census data. Residents include teachers, auto shop workers, receptionists, nurses and cabinetmakers. Over two years, from 2021 to 2022, investors snapped up properties in Bradfield Farms at roughly three times the rate of the citywide average of 17 percent, according to a New York Times analysis of ATTOM's data. Homeowners were inundated with calls, text messages, letters and emails from people offering to buy their homes sight unseen. The buyers closed fast and used inscrutable names that ended in LLC. 'Investors went hog-wild,' said Kelli Enos, a local real estate agent." [New York Times, [9/16/23](#)]

- **New York Times: "Over Two Years, From 2021 To 2022, Investors Snapped Up Properties In Bradfield Farms At Roughly Three Times The Rate Of The Citywide Average Of 17 Percent...Homeowners Were Inundated With Calls, Text Messages, Letters And Emails From People Offering To Buy Their Homes Sight Unseen. The Buyers Closed Fast And Used Inscrutable Names That Ended In LLC."** The New York Times reported, "Wall Street has come for the starter home. First-time buyers, who overwhelmingly rely on mortgages, were often outmatched by cash buyers at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, when interest rates plummeted below 3 percent and home prices soared. Across the United States, more than a third of all sales in 2022 were in cash. [...] Investors were largely uninterested in wealthier enclaves. Instead, they targeted middle-income neighborhoods, many with larger Black and Latino populations. Bradfield Farms fit the bill: It is in an area that, in 2020, was 35 percent Black and 11 percent Latino, according to census data. Residents include teachers, auto shop workers, receptionists, nurses and cabinetmakers. Over two years, from 2021 to 2022, investors snapped up properties in Bradfield Farms at roughly three times the rate of the citywide average of 17 percent, according to a New York Times analysis of ATTOM's data. Homeowners were inundated with calls, text messages, letters and emails from people offering to buy their homes sight unseen. The buyers closed fast and used inscrutable names that ended in LLC. 'Investors went hog-wild,' said Kelli Enos, a local real estate agent." [New York Times, [9/16/23](#)]

## **Investors Sometimes Bought Up Entire Blocks Or Neighborhoods To Serve As Rentals, And Then Pursued Aggressive Rent Increases While Failing To Address Habitability Issues For Tenants**

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**New York Times: "In A Pattern Repeated In Cities Around The Country, Corporations Focused On Modestly Priced Houses, Frequently In Neighborhoods With Large Black And Latino Populations, And Converted The Properties To Rentals. In One Neighborhood In East Charlotte, Wall Street-Backed Investors Bought Half Of The Homes That Sold In 2021 And 2022."** The New York Times reported, "The bills were introduced three months after The New York Times published a story examining the impact of corporate-backed investment on Charlotte, N.C., where, in 2022, investors purchased 17 percent of the city's homes in cash, often outcompeting first-time buyers who rely heavily on mortgages. In a pattern repeated in cities around the country, corporations focused on modestly priced houses, frequently in neighborhoods with large Black and Latino populations, and converted the properties to rentals. In one neighborhood in east Charlotte, Wall Street-backed investors bought half of the homes that sold in 2021 and 2022. On one block, all but one home that sold during that period sold in cash to an investor who rented it out. Wall Street entered the single-family rental market in the aftermath of the 2008 housing crisis, plucking up homes in foreclosure. Its influence has been growing ever since. By June 2022, institutional investors owned 3 percent of all single-family rentals nationwide, but in more affordable markets they owned a considerable market share; in Charlotte, they owned 20 percent, according to the Urban Institute. Even as the housing market slows, investors have remained active, buying 26 percent of the single-family homes that sold in June 2023, according to CoreLogic, a data analytics company." [New York Times, [12/6/23](#)]

- **New York Times: "Wall Street Entered The Single-Family Rental Market In The Aftermath Of The 2008 Housing Crisis, Plucking Up Homes In Foreclosure. Its Influence Has Been Growing Ever Since."** The New York Times reported, "The bills were introduced three months after The New York Times published a story examining the impact of corporate-backed investment on Charlotte, N.C., where, in 2022, investors purchased 17 percent of the city's homes in cash, often outcompeting first-time buyers who rely heavily on

mortgages. In a pattern repeated in cities around the country, corporations focused on modestly priced houses, frequently in neighborhoods with large Black and Latino populations, and converted the properties to rentals. In one neighborhood in east Charlotte, Wall Street-backed investors bought half of the homes that sold in 2021 and 2022. On one block, all but one home that sold during that period sold in cash to an investor who rented it out. Wall Street entered the single-family rental market in the aftermath of the 2008 housing crisis, plucking up homes in foreclosure. Its influence has been growing ever since. By June 2022, institutional investors owned 3 percent of all single-family rentals nationwide, but in more affordable markets they owned a considerable market share; in Charlotte, they owned 20 percent, according to the Urban Institute. Even as the housing market slows, investors have remained active, buying 26 percent of the single-family homes that sold in June 2023, according to CoreLogic, a data analytics company.” [New York Times, [12/6/23](#)]

- **New York Times: “By June 2022, Institutional Investors Owned 3 Percent Of All Single-Family Rentals Nationwide, But In More Affordable Markets They Owned A Considerable Market Share... Even As The Housing Market Slows, Investors Have Remained Active, Buying 26 Percent Of The Single-Family Homes That Sold In June 2023, According To CoreLogic.”** The New York Times reported, “The bills were introduced three months after The New York Times published a story examining the impact of corporate-backed investment on Charlotte, N.C., where, in 2022, investors purchased 17 percent of the city’s homes in cash, often outcompeting first-time buyers who rely heavily on mortgages. In a pattern repeated in cities around the country, corporations focused on modestly priced houses, frequently in neighborhoods with large Black and Latino populations, and converted the properties to rentals. In one neighborhood in east Charlotte, Wall Street-backed investors bought half of the homes that sold in 2021 and 2022. On one block, all but one home that sold during that period sold in cash to an investor who rented it out. Wall Street entered the single-family rental market in the aftermath of the 2008 housing crisis, plucking up homes in foreclosure. Its influence has been growing ever since. By June 2022, institutional investors owned 3 percent of all single-family rentals nationwide, but in more affordable markets they owned a considerable market share; in Charlotte, they owned 20 percent, according to the Urban Institute. Even as the housing market slows, investors have remained active, buying 26 percent of the single-family homes that sold in June 2023, according to CoreLogic, a data analytics company.” [New York Times, [12/6/23](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Goldman Sachs-Backed Firms Buy Entire Florida Community For \$45M.”** [New York Post, [5/11/22](#)]

**Private Equity Landlords Often Were Aggressive About Increasing Rent And Evicting Tenants, As Companies Like Blackstone Securitized The Homes They Owned To Obtain Credit, Meaning Rent Payments Had To Cover Both The Mortgage And Interest Payments To Blackstone Shareholders.** The New York Times reported, “Landlords can be rapacious creatures, but this new breed of private-equity landlord has proved itself to be particularly so, many experts say. That’s partly because of the imperative for growth: Private-equity firms chase double-digit returns within 10 years. To get that, they need credit: The more borrowed, the higher the returns. When credit was tight after the financial crisis, the acquiring firms, led by Blackstone, figured out a way to generate more of it by creating a new financial instrument: a single-family-rental securitization, which was a mix of residential mortgage-backed securities, collateralized by home values, and commercial real estate-backed securities, collateralized by expected rental income. In 2013, a year after Ellingwood’s home was acquired, Blackstone’s Invitation Homes securitized the first bundle of single-family rentals — 3,200 of them for 75 percent of their estimated value: \$479 million. Those who bought these bonds received 3 to 5 percent in monthly interest until their principal was returned (generally in five years). Blackstone put some of that \$479 million toward repaying the short-term credit lines it took out to buy the houses. [...] With the securitized homes, the rental income now needed to cover not only the mortgage but also the interest payments distributed to bondholders — creating an incentive to keep occupancy and rents as high as possible. In fact, Invitation Homes’ securitized bond model assumed a 94 percent paying-occupancy rate, putting pressure on the company to evict nonpaying tenants right away.” [New York Times, [3/4/20](#)]

- Tenants At Blackstone-Owned Invitation Homes’s Rentals Complained Of Excessive And Burdensome Fees And Safety Issues Due To Poor Maintenance And A Lack Of Inspections.** The New York Times reported, “Another common practice was charging burdensome fees. For each utility bill received by Invitation Homes — many single-family-rental companies, or S.F.R.s, put utilities in the company’s name and then charge the utility back to the tenant — the company levies a \$9.95 ‘conveyance’ fee. The company also piled on landscaping fees, \$100 monthly pool fees, a \$50 monthly pet fee (‘pet rents’ were up 300 percent, Invitation Homes announced in 2017, accounting for additional gains of \$1.5 million) and automatic enrollment in smart-lock services for \$18 to \$20 a month. The first month of the smart-lock service was free, so that by the time the charge appeared on the rent bill, it was too late to opt out, per the nearly 40-page lease. [...] Of all of Invitation Homes’s practices, those that most alarmed Chisholm involved habitability issues — poor maintenance and lack of inspections. In Georgia, as reported in The Atlantic last year and documented in a Face-book video, Rene Valentin and his wife and their two young children rented a home with defective piping. Their home flooded six times. Once, the water ran six inches high. They say Invitation Homes would pay neither for the removal of the mildewed carpeting nor for the family to stay in a hotel. (When contacted, the Valentins could not comment for this article because they were in negotiations with Invitation Homes.)” [New York Times, [3/4/20](#)]

## Investors Accounted For Roughly 25 Percent Of Single-Family Home Purchasing From 2021 To 2023

**From Mid-2021 Onwards, Investors Have Accounted For Around 25 Percent Of Single-Family Home Purchases.** CoreLogic reported, “The sizable U.S. home investor share seen over the past two years held steady going into the summer. In March 2023, investors accounted for 27% of all single-family home purchases; by June, that number was almost unchanged at 26%. Share of Home Purchases Made by Investors by Month Figure 1 shows the share of home purchases made by investors since January 2019. The year 2021 saw a surge in investor activity. Investors have since held a market share that averages 8 percentage points higher than in 2020. Investor activity has declined slightly since early 2023, but there is still no sign that the share will fall back to its pre-pandemic level in the near future[1]. Indeed, the most likely reason for the small drop in home investor purchases in recent months is seasonality, as owner-occupied buyers become more active in the summer.” [CoreLogic, [8/17/23](#)]



[CoreLogic, [8/17/23](#)]



**An Urban Institute Report Found That In 2011, No Single Entity Owned More Than 1,000 Single-Family Rental Homes, Whereas By June 2022, Hedge Funds And Institutional Investors Owned A Cumulative 574,000 Single-Family Homes.** Vice reported, “Merkley and Smith cite data from an Urban Institute report that said in 2011, no single entity owned more than 1,000 single-family rental homes, whereas by June 2022 hedge funds and institutional investors owned a cumulative 574,000 single-family homes. This includes large corporate owners like Invitation Homes, which owns more than 80,000 homes across the country. While corporate investors only own 5 percent of the nation’s single-family housing stock, the ownership is often concentrated in majority Black and Latino neighborhoods and in some neighborhoods, entire blocks have been purchased by investors. The practice has ramped up since the beginning of the pandemic, with 28 percent of all homes sold in 2022 going to institutional investors according to Pew Charitable Trust. In 2021, a venture-funded company backed by Jeff Bezos and other billionaires also got in on the act.” [Vice, [12/7/23](#)]

- **28 Percent Of All Homes Sold In 2022 Were Bought By Institutional Investors.** Vice reported, “Merkley and Smith cite data from an Urban Institute report that said in 2011, no single entity owned more than 1,000 single-family rental homes, whereas by June 2022 hedge funds and institutional investors owned a cumulative 574,000 single-family homes. This includes large corporate owners like Invitation Homes, which owns more than 80,000 homes across the country. While corporate investors only own 5 percent of the nation’s single-family housing stock, the ownership is often concentrated in majority Black and Latino neighborhoods and in some neighborhoods, entire blocks have been purchased by investors. The practice has ramped up since the beginning of the pandemic, with 28 percent of all homes sold in 2022 going to institutional investors according to Pew Charitable Trust. In 2021, a venture-funded company backed by Jeff Bezos and other billionaires also got in on the act.” [Vice, [12/7/23](#)]

**Q3 2021: Residential Real Estate Bought By Companies Accounted For 18 Percent Of Single-Family Home Sales, Up 80 Percent From The Previous Year.** According to Toptal, “Prior to 2010, the single-family rental market was largely ignored by big institutional investors, which preferred easy-to-scale multifamily properties. But since the financial crisis—and especially since 2019—that’s changed. Financial heavyweights like J.P. Morgan Asset Management, Blackstone, and Goldman Sachs Asset Management have helped bankroll an industry of more than two dozen single-family home rental companies that are snapping up existing properties—and building new ones too. Residential real estate acquired by companies or institutions soared to 90,215 homes in the third quarter of 2021, as investors, both large and small, accounted for 18% of single-family home sales. That’s up 80.2% from the year prior, according to the online real estate firm Redfin. Nearly three-quarters of residential purchases by investors were single-family homes, while multifamily homes—a market in which investors have been significant players for decades—accounted for just a quarter of sales.” [Toptal, accessed [1/10/24](#)]

## **This Caused Home Prices And Rent To Increase, With Advocates Warning That Companies Have “Been Very Explicit About How People Are Shut Out Of The Homebuying Market And Are Going To Be Perpetual Renters”**

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**HEADLINE: “If You Sell A House These Days, The Buyer Might Be A Pension Fund.”** [Wall Street Journal, [4/4/21](#)]

- **Wall Street Journal: “From Individuals With Smartphones And A Few Thousand Dollars To Pensions And Private-Equity Firms With Billions, Yield-Chasing Investors Are Snapping Up Single-Family Houses To Rent Out Or Flip. They Are Competing For Houses With Ordinary Americans, Who Are Armed With The Cheapest Mortgage Financing Ever, And Driving Up Home Prices.”** The Wall Street Journal reported, “From individuals with smartphones and a few thousand dollars to pensions and private-equity firms with billions, yield-chasing investors are snapping up single-family houses to rent out or flip. They are competing for houses with ordinary Americans, who are armed with the cheapest mortgage financing ever,



and driving up home prices. ‘You now have permanent capital competing with a young couple trying to buy a house,’ said John Burns, whose eponymous real estate consulting firm estimates that in many of the nation’s top markets, roughly one in every five houses sold is bought by someone who never moves in. ‘That’s going to make U.S. housing permanently more expensive,’ he said.” [Wall Street Journal, [4/4/21](#)]

- **John Burns, Owner Of John Burns Real Estate Consulting: “You Now Have Permanent Capital Competing With A Young Couple Trying To Buy A House... That’s Going To Make U.S. Housing Permanently More Expensive.”** The Wall Street Journal reported, “From individuals with smartphones and a few thousand dollars to pensions and private-equity firms with billions, yield-chasing investors are snapping up single-family houses to rent out or flip. They are competing for houses with ordinary Americans, who are armed with the cheapest mortgage financing ever, and driving up home prices. ‘You now have permanent capital competing with a young couple trying to buy a house,’ said John Burns, whose eponymous real estate consulting firm estimates that in many of the nation’s top markets, roughly one in every five houses sold is bought by someone who never moves in. ‘That’s going to make U.S. housing permanently more expensive,’ he said.” [Wall Street Journal, [4/4/21](#)]

**Slate: “The Median Price Of An American House Has Increased By 28 Percent Over The Last Two Years... Might The Fact That Corporate Investors Snapped Up 15 Percent Of U.S. Homes For Sale In The First Quarter Of This Year Have Something To Do With It?”** Slate reported, “The median price of an American house has increased by 28 percent over the last two years, as pandemic-driven demand and long-term demographic changes send buyers into crazed bidding wars. Might the fact that corporate investors snapped up 15 percent of U.S. homes for sale in the first quarter of this year have something to do with it? The Wall Street Journal reported in April that an investment firm won a bidding war to purchase an entire neighborhood worth of single-family homes in Conroe, Texas—part of a cycle of stories drumming up panic over Wall Street’s increasing stake in residential real estate. Then came the backlash, as cool-headed analysts reassured us that big investors like BlackRock remain insignificant players in the housing market compared with regular old American families.” [Slate, [6/19/21](#)]

- **Although Analysts Claimed Big Investors Were Small Players In The Housing Market, Many Investors Were Focused On Buying The Homes That Would Otherwise Of Been Obtainable For Younger, Working- And Middle-Class Households With The “Greatest Potential To Be Wealth-Building.”** Slate reported, “The Wall Street Journal reported in April that an investment firm won a bidding war to purchase an entire neighborhood worth of single-family homes in Conroe, Texas—part of a cycle of stories drumming up panic over Wall Street’s increasing stake in residential real estate. Then came the backlash, as cool-headed analysts reassured us that big investors like BlackRock remain insignificant players in the housing market compared with regular old American families. [...] That Invitation Homes is getting deals twice as good as a typical homebuyer shows that it’s not just buying any homes: It’s buying the specific houses with the greatest potential to be wealth-building for the middle class. [...] But investors are depleting the inventory of the precise houses that might otherwise be obtainable for younger, working- and middle-class households, in the cities where those workers can easily find good-paying jobs, like Atlanta (22 percent of home purchases according to Redfin data), Charlotte (22 percent), and Phoenix (20 percent). More importantly, they’re able to scour those markets scientifically and systematically to make cash offers on the most attractively priced properties.” [Slate, [6/19/21](#)]

**Jordan Ash, Director Of Labor Jobs And Housing And The Private Equity Stakeholder Project: “They’ve Been Very Explicit About How People Are Shut Out Of The Homebuying Market And Are Going To Be Perpetual Renters.”** CNBC reported, “Since the early 2010s, Tricon Residential, Progress Residential, American Homes 4 Rent and Invitation Homes have each bought thousands of homes. They’ve also added to the housing supply in some cases with built-for-rent communities. Some of these companies are financed by private equity firms such as Blackstone and investment managers such as Pretium Partners. ‘It’s almost a captive market,’ said Jordan Ash, director of labor-jobs and housing at the Private Equity Stakeholder Project. ‘They’ve been very

explicit about how people are shut out of the homebuying market and are going to be perpetual renters.” [CNBC, [2/21/23](#)]

**Madeline Bankson, Housing Research Coordinator At The Private Equity Stakeholder Project: “It’s A Thing Of Scale — They’re Reaching Near Monopoly In Some Places... They’re Shutting People Out Of The Home-Buying Process.”** The New York Times reported, “But advocates of affordable housing argue that the proliferation of single-family rentals traps would-be buyers. ‘It’s a thing of scale — they’re reaching near monopoly in some places,’ said Madeline Bankson, a housing research coordinator at the nonprofit Private Equity Stakeholder Project. ‘They’re shutting people out of the home-buying process.’” [New York Times, [9/16/23](#)]

## **Defenders Of Wall Street’s Drive To Buy Homes Misleadingly Argued That Investors Only Accounted For A Small Portion Of The Total Housing Stock, Missing That These Companies Were Purchasing A Large Percentage Of Houses That Were Actually For Sale**

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**Slate: “The Median Price Of An American House Has Increased By 28 Percent Over The Last Two Years... Might The Fact That Corporate Investors Snapped Up 15 Percent Of U.S. Homes For Sale In The First Quarter Of This Year Have Something To Do With It?”** Slate reported, “The median price of an American house has increased by 28 percent over the last two years, as pandemic-driven demand and long-term demographic changes send buyers into crazed bidding wars. Might the fact that corporate investors snapped up 15 percent of U.S. homes for sale in the first quarter of this year have something to do with it? The Wall Street Journal reported in April that an investment firm won a bidding war to purchase an entire neighborhood worth of single-family homes in Conroe, Texas—part of a cycle of stories drumming up panic over Wall Street’s increasing stake in residential real estate. Then came the backlash, as cool-headed analysts reassured us that big investors like BlackRock remain insignificant players in the housing market compared with regular old American families.” [Slate, [6/19/21](#)]

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**HEADLINE: “Vanguard And Wall Street Are Pumping Global Housing Markets.”** [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]

- **Tanja Fijalkowski Op-Ed: “There Are Several Factors Influencing The Housing Affordability Crisis, But... There Is One Huge, Greedy Elephant In The Room... The Housing Affordability Crisis Is Unequivocally The Product Of Wall Street’s, With A Special Shout Out To Blackrock And Vanguard, Voracious Greed.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “There are several factors influencing the housing affordability crisis, but don’t get it twisted: There is one huge, greedy elephant

in the room. The rest is just confetti. Despite what prestigious media outlets say, the housing affordability crisis is unequivocally the product of Wall Street's, with a special shout out to Blackrock and Vanguard, voracious greed. To cover their tracks, they have consistently used the reputable sources they own a controlling stake in as mouth pieces to deflect attention away from what they are doing. But peeling back the layers just a little bit reveals quite a stinky center." [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]

- **Fijalkowski: “About Two Years Ago, Investment Firms Started Aggressively Buying Up Residential Housing Units—The Ones Millennials Would Have Entered The Market With... Average Home Sales Prices Increased By Nearly 25%.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “About two years ago, investment firms started aggressively buying up residential housing units—the ones Millennials would have entered the market with. As everyone knows, housing prices soared. The Federal Reserve’s own data reported that between the beginning of 2020 and now—just over two years later—average home sales prices increased by nearly 25%. Reports came in that at nearly every home sale transaction, some high roller was coming in and making cash offer, 10, 20, sometimes even 30% above asking price. That high roller was Wall Street.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]
- **Fijalkowski: “Reports Came In That At Nearly Every Home Sale Transaction, Some High Roller Was Coming In And Making Cash Offer, 10, 20, Sometimes Even 30% Above Asking Price. That High Roller Was Wall Street.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “About two years ago, investment firms started aggressively buying up residential housing units—the ones Millennials would have entered the market with. As everyone knows, housing prices soared. The Federal Reserve’s own data reported that between the beginning of 2020 and now—just over two years later—average home sales prices increased by nearly 25%. Reports came in that at nearly every home sale transaction, some high roller was coming in and making cash offer, 10, 20, sometimes even 30% above asking price. That high roller was Wall Street.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]
- **Fijalkowski: “If You Owe 100 Properties And Have A Lot Of Cash, Why Not Go Into A Tight Market And Drive Up The Cost By Overbidding? Sure, You Pay More For That Particular Unit, But Do It Enough Times, And The Market Rate For Houses In The Area Goes Up.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “It’s important to understand that firstly, Wall Street already owns a lot of homes. Secondly, a few million is not a lot of money to multi billion dollar investment ‘firms.’ If you owe 100 properties and have a lot of cash, why not go into a tight market and drive up the cost by overbidding? Sure, you pay more for that particular unit, but do it enough times, and the market rate for houses in the area goes up. That means every property in your portfolio goes up, more than offsetting the amount you overpaid for a particular unit. An institution might overpay say, \$5 million dollars in bidding wars for 100 properties in a given city – but if they already own 1000 units in that city, all of which go up \$50,000 due to bidding wars at every sale, then they are up \$45 million dollars.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]
- **Fijalkowski: “An Institution Might Overpay Say, \$5 Million Dollars In Bidding Wars For 100 Properties In A Given City – But If They Already Own 1000 Units In That City, All Of Which Go Up \$50,000 Due To Bidding Wars At Every Sale, Then They Are Up \$45 Million Dollars.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “It’s important to understand that firstly, Wall Street already owns a lot of homes. Secondly, a few million is not a lot of money to multi billion dollar investment ‘firms.’ If you owe 100 properties and have a lot of cash, why not go into a tight market and drive up the cost by overbidding? Sure, you pay more for that particular unit, but do it enough times, and the market rate for houses in the area goes up. That means every property in your portfolio goes up, more than offsetting the amount you overpaid for a particular unit. An institution might overpay say, \$5 million dollars in bidding wars for 100 properties in a given city – but if they already own 1000 units in that city, all of which go up \$50,000 due to bidding wars at every sale, then they are up \$45 million dollars.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]
- **While Defenders Of Blackrock Argued That It Owned A Very Small Number Of Homes – 80,000 – Relative To The 80 Million Single-Family Homes In The Country, Fijalkowski Noted, “Eighty Thousand**

**Is Not A Lot Relative To All The Housing Units In The U.S., But It Is A Huge Percent Of The Total Number Of Homes On The Market.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “In Derek Thompson’s piece in the Atlantic, he brings up some compelling data to defend poor old Blackrock, who’s just trying to make trillion of dollars through grit and resilience. ‘The U.S. has roughly 140 million housing units, a broad category that includes mansions, tiny townhouses, and apartments of all sizes. Of those 140 million units, about 80 million are stand-alone single-family homes. Of those 80 million, about 15 million are rental properties. Of those 15 million single-family rentals, institutional investors own about 300,000; most of the rest are owned by individual landlords. Of that 300,000, BlackRock—largely through its investment in the real-estate rental company Invitation Homes—owns about 80,000,’ Thompson writes. Well, numbers don’t lie. But they can easily mislead. Sure, 80,000 houses out of 140 million is barely a drop in the bucket. Eighty thousand is not a lot relative to all the housing units in the U.S., but it is a huge percent of the total number of homes on the market. Houses that are not for sale, are not part of the equation.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]

- **Fijalkowski: “Houses That Are Not For Sale, Are Not Part Of The Equation... As Of The Date This Article Was Published, The Top Ten Largest Cities In The U.S. By Population Collectively Have 51,223 Housing Units For Sale On Zillow. Now 80,000 Isn’t So Insignificant.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “In Derek Thompson’s piece in the Atlantic, he brings up some compelling data to defend poor old Blackrock, who’s just trying to make trillion of dollars through grit and resilience. [...] Well, numbers don’t lie. But they can easily mislead. Sure, 80,000 houses out of 140 million is barely a drop in the bucket. Eighty thousand is not a lot relative to all the housing units in the U.S., but it is a huge percent of the total number of homes on the market. Houses that are not for sale, are not part of the equation. Housing prices are set by sales—not occupied homes. That changes the math significantly. Let’s instead compare this figure to houses actively for sale in the ten biggest U.S. cities by population based on Zillow listings. [...] As of the date this article was published, the top ten largest cities in the U.S. by population collectively have 51,223 housing units for sale on Zillow. Now 80,000 isn’t so insignificant.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]
- **Fijalkowski: “Now Consider That AirBnB Has Over 660,000 Housing Units In The U.S.—More Than 1250% More Than The Combined Total Of Current For-Sale Units In The Top 10 Largest Cities.[...] Surprise: Vanguard Is The Second Largest Shareholder In AirBnB.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “Now consider that AirBnB has over 660,000 housing units in the U.S.—more than 1250% more than the combined total of current for-sale units in the top 10 largest cities. These properties are primarily for short-term rental income or longer-term leases that are raised every year. Just Invitation Home’s portfolio and Zillow’s overbuying represent 156% of the total number of housing units for sales in the top ten largest U.S. cities combined. Surprise: Vanguard is the second largest shareholder in AirBnB. Between just those three ‘institutional investors,’ they are directly profiting from buying up property and converting it to income-generating assets while housing affordability crises is hitting even high-earning professionals and homelessness rates skyrocket.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]
- **Fijalkowski: “Between Just Those Three ‘Institutional Investors,’ They Are Directly Profiting From Buying Up Property And Converting It To Income-Generating Assets While Housing Affordability Crises Is Hitting Even High-Earning Professionals And Homelessness Rates Skyrocket.”** According to an op-ed by Tanja Fijalkowski in the Upside Chronicles, “Now consider that AirBnB has over 660,000 housing units in the U.S.—more than 1250% more than the combined total of current for-sale units in the top 10 largest cities. These properties are primarily for short-term rental income or longer-term leases that are raised every year. Just Invitation Home’s portfolio and Zillow’s overbuying represent 156% of the total number of housing units for sales in the top ten largest U.S. cities combined. Surprise: Vanguard is the second largest shareholder in AirBnB. Between just those three ‘institutional investors,’ they are directly profiting from buying up property and converting it to income-generating assets while housing affordability crises is hitting even high-earning professionals and homelessness rates skyrocket.” [Upside Chronicles, Op-Ed, [4/28/22](#)]





## **The Problem Is Only Getting Worse, As Analysts Expect Institutional Investors To Gobble Up 40 Percent Of Single-Family Rentals By 2030, And Wall Street Has Already Set Aside Enough Money - \$110 Billion – To Increase Their Residential Property Holdings More Than 50 Percent**

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**HEADLINE: “Wall Street Landlords Who’ve Stockpiled \$110 Billion Are Lying In Wait For Their Biggest American Home-Buying Spree Yet.”** [Business Insider, [12/22/22](#)]

- **2022: Institutional Investors Earmarked \$110 Billion – The Most Money Ever Amassed – To Purchase Single-Family Homes As Rental Investments Enough To Add 400,000 Homes To The Existing 700,000 Properties Owned By Corporate Landlords.** Business Insider reported, “Institutional real-estate investors have earmarked as much as \$110 billion to purchase or build single-family-rental homes in the coming years, according to an estimate by Zelman & Associates, a real-estate-research and investment-banking firm. The sum is the largest ever amassed by investors to acquire American houses — enough to add almost 400,000 homes to the already expansive inventory of roughly 700,000 single-family properties now controlled by corporate landlords. The investors eyeing homes include public companies that focus specifically on single-family-rental investments, such as Invitation Homes and Tricon Residential; major alternative-asset firms like Blackstone and KKR; and a growing number of wealth managers, insurance companies, and pension funds, including CalPERS, Invesco, and Pacific Life.” [Business Insider, [12/22/22](#)]
- **Rick Palacios Jr, Director Of Research At John Burns Real Estate Consulting: “It’s The Biggest Mountain Of Capital We’ve Ever Seen To Acquire Homes.”** Business Insider reported, “Institutional real-estate investors have earmarked as much as \$110 billion to purchase or build single-family-rental homes in the coming years, according to an estimate by Zelman & Associates, a real-estate-research and investment-banking firm. [...] If they achieve their ambitions, they’ll radically reshape housing in America. ‘It’s the biggest mountain of capital we’ve ever seen to acquire homes,’ said Rick Palacios Jr., the director of research at John Burns Real Estate Consulting, a housing analysis and data firm that tracks SFR investment.” [Business Insider, [12/22/22](#)]
- **2022: Institutional Investors Owned Three Percent Of Single-Family Rental Homes, With The Share Expected To Grow To 40 Percent By 2030.** Business Insider reported, “Institutional real-estate investors have earmarked as much as \$110 billion to purchase or build single-family-rental homes in the coming years, according to an estimate by Zelman & Associates, a real-estate-research and investment-banking firm. The sum is the largest ever amassed by investors to acquire American houses — enough to add almost 400,000 homes to the already expansive inventory of roughly 700,000 single-family properties now controlled by corporate landlords. [...] Institutional investors now own about 3% of the roughly 20 million single-family-rental homes in the US, according to Roofstock, an online marketplace for single-family investment properties. By 2030, MetLife Investment Management predicts that share will grow to 40%, or about 7.6 million homes. That would be nearly 9% of the roughly 88 million single-family homes in the US, according to the Census Bureau’s most recent statistics from 2020.” [Business Insider, [12/22/22](#)]

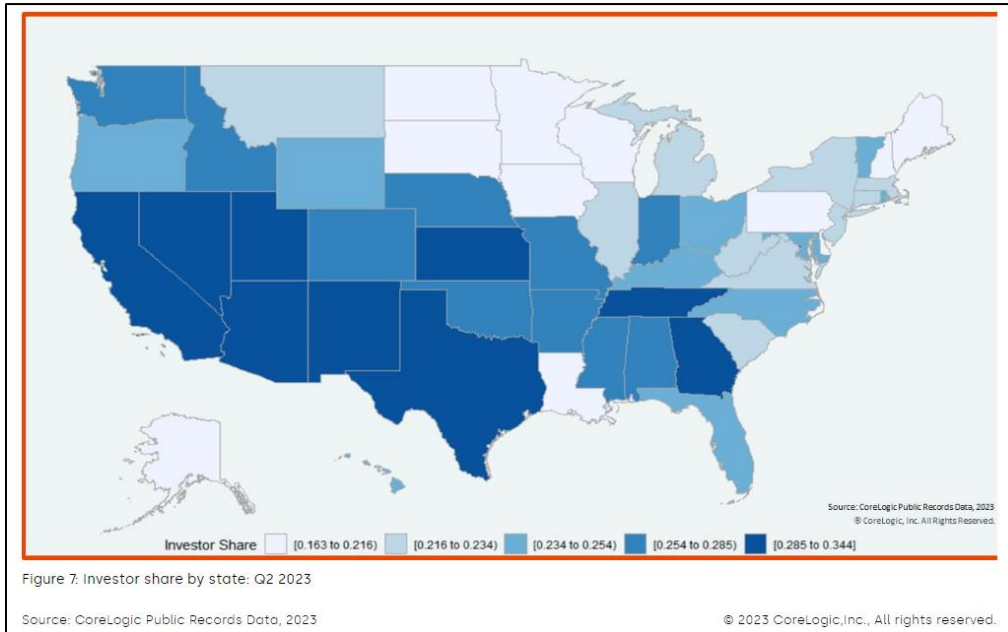
**Wall Street’s Homebuying Spree Extended To Montana, Where More Than 22 Percent Of Single-Family Homes Were Being Purchased By Investors**

**2023: Between 22.2 And 24.4 Percent Of Purchases Of Single-Family Homes In Montana Were By Investors**

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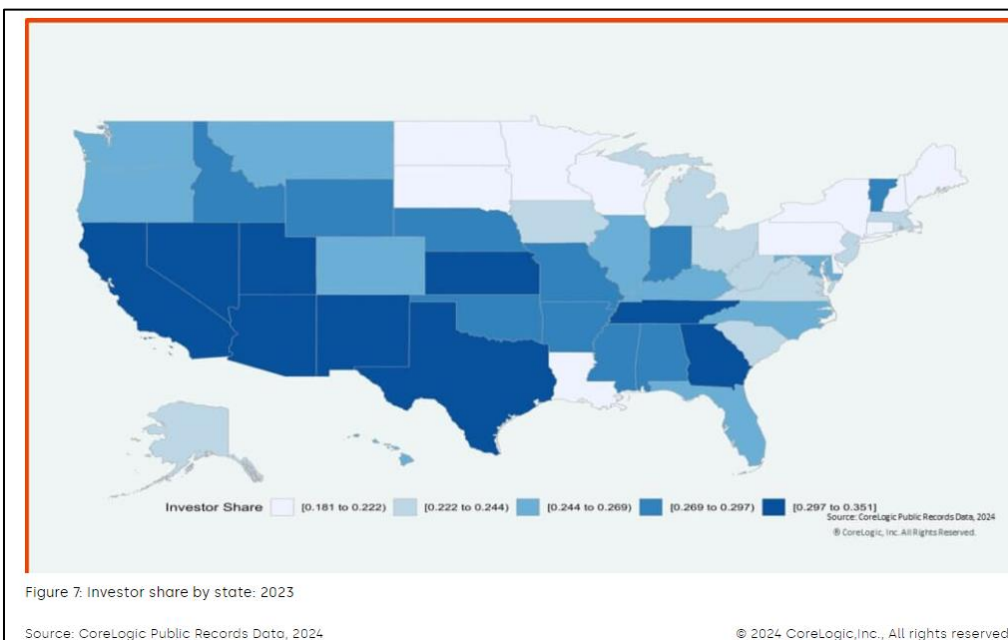


**Q2 2023: Between 21.6 And 23.4 Percent Of Purchases Of Single-Family Homes In Montana Was Driven By Investors.** CoreLogic reported, “The sizable U.S. home investor share seen over the past two years held steady going into the summer. In March 2023, investors accounted for 27% of all single-family home purchases; by June, that number was almost unchanged at 26%.” [CoreLogic, [8/17/23](#)]



[CoreLogic, [8/17/23](#)]

**Q4 2023: Between 22.2 And 24.4 Percent Of Purchases Of Single-Family Homes In Montana Was Driven By Investors.** According to CoreLogic, “The investor share of purchases climbed to almost 29% in December 2023 and could exceed 30% in 2024. The share of U.S. home investors hit a new high in December, according to CoreLogic data [1]. In October, November and December, the share of single-family home purchases that were made by investors was 28%, 27.3% and 28.7%, respectively. This eclipsed the previous all-time high of 28.3% in February 2022 and makes the investor share rising above 30% in 2024 a distinct possibility.” [CoreLogic, [4/9/24](#)]



[CoreLogic, [4/9/24](#)]

## 2022: Two Former Bozeman Mayors Blamed Wall Street Investors In An Op-Ed For Buying Up New Housing Stock

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**HEADLINE:** “Bozeman’s Affordable Housing Crisis Tied To Newcomers And Wall Street.” [Mountain Journal, Op-Ed, [6/4/22](#)]

- **Op-Ed By Two Former Bozeman Mayors: “We Don’t Have A Supply Problem In Our Market; Instead, We Have A Market That Caters To Wall Street Instead Of Answering The Needs Of Working Bozemanites.”** According to an op-ed by former Bozeman mayors Steve Kirchhoff and Jeff Krauss in the Mountain Journal, “We would like to pose a question to the Bozeman City Commission. Imagine we could wave a magic wand and dramatically increase Bozeman’s housing supply overnight. Let’s say we could wake up tomorrow to 1,000 new units of all kinds of housing. Do you think the average housing price would decrease? [...] We don’t have a supply problem in our market; instead, we have a market that caters to Wall Street instead of answering the needs of working Bozemanites. If we woke up tomorrow to 1,000 brand-new housing units, they would be snatched up by same people who are snatching them up today: 20 percent would go to wealthy people from Bozeman who can afford to move up or invest; fifty percent would go to wealthy newcomers; and the remaining thirty percent would go to out-of-state investors.” [Mountain Journal, Op-Ed, [6/4/22](#)]
- **Op-Ed: “If We Woke Up Tomorrow To 1,000 Brand-New Housing Units... 20 Percent Would Go To Wealthy People From Bozeman Who Can Afford To Move Up Or Invest; Fifty Percent Would Go To Wealthy Newcomers; And The Remaining Thirty Percent Would Go To Out-Of-State Investors.”** According to an op-ed by former Bozeman mayors Steve Kirchhoff and Jeff Krauss in the Mountain Journal, “We would like to pose a question to the Bozeman City Commission. Imagine we could wave a magic wand and dramatically increase Bozeman’s housing supply overnight. Let’s say we could wake up tomorrow to 1,000 new units of all kinds of housing. Do you think the average housing price would decrease? [...] We don’t have a supply problem in our market; instead, we have a market that caters to Wall Street instead of answering the needs of working Bozemanites. If we woke up tomorrow to 1,000 brand-new housing units, they would be snatched up by same people who are snatching them up today: 20 percent would go to wealthy people from Bozeman who can afford to move up or invest; fifty percent would go to wealthy newcomers; and the remaining thirty percent would go to out-of-state investors.” [Mountain Journal, Op-Ed, [6/4/22](#)]
- **Op-Ed: “The Same Fist Of The Investment Class Is Pounding Down The Gates And Staging Hostile Takeovers Of Housing Markets In Larger Cities Across The US. [...] If There Is An Invisible Hand Guiding The Housing Markets In ‘Hot’ US Cities And Montana Towns, It’s Studded With Diamond Rings.”** According to an op-ed by former Bozeman mayors Steve Kirchhoff and Jeff Krauss in the Mountain Journal, “The same fist of the investment class is pounding down the gates and staging hostile takeovers of housing markets in larger cities across the US. Last August The Washington Post reported that investors purchased one quarter of new housing in Phoenix, and nearly as much in Miami, Atlanta, Charlotte, and Las Vegas. If there is an invisible hand guiding the housing markets in ‘hot’ US cities and Montana towns, it’s studded with diamond rings, and it doesn’t care whether housing will be constructed for local working people or not.” [Mountain Journal, Op-Ed, [6/4/22](#)]

## **Zinke Voted To Remove Country Of Origin Labeling Requirements For Beef, Decimating Montana's Cattle Industry, And Supported The TPP, A Free Trade Agreement That Would Have Worsened The Problem**

### **Zinke Voted To Repeal Country Of Origin Labeling For Beef Imports, Crashing Montana's Cattle Industry**

#### **June 2015: Zinke Released A Press Release Touting That He Had Voted To Repeal Country Of Origin Labeling For Beef, Claiming That Doing So Would Help Montana Farmers And Ranchers**

**June 2015: Zinke Released A Press Release Touting That He Had Voted To Repeal Country Of Origin Labeling, Saying, "Repealing COOL Regulations While Still Allowing Beef, Pork And Lamb Producers To Maintain 'Made In The U.S.A.' Labels Will Return Certainty To Our Agriculture Industry And Allow Montana Farmers, Ranchers And Related Trades To Compete Globally For Years To Come."** According to a press release from the Representative Ryan Zinke, Today Montana agriculture leaders applauded Congressman Ryan Zinke for voting in favor of repealing mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) for agriculture products by voting YES on H.R. 2393, the Country of Origin Labeling Amendments Act of 2015. The measure passed with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 300-131. Montana Stockgrowers, Wool Growers and Pork Producers applauded Zinke's vote. COOL regulations were implemented on beef, pork and lamb in 2002; however earlier this year the World Trade Organization ruled in favor of a Canadian complaint that the U.S. labeling law was in violation of WTO code. This prompted the House of Representatives to act in order to prevent retaliatory tariffs against U.S. producers. Under H.R. 2393, producers are still allowed to label their meat as made in the U.S.A., however it is not required. 'I've listened to Montana farmers and ranchers, and it's clear: Maintaining strong trade relationships with our top trade partner Canada, and our other allies, is critical to the success of Montana's entire agriculture community,' said Rep. Zinke. 'In Montana we export more agriculture goods globally than every other industry combined. Repealing COOL regulations while still allowing beef, pork and lamb producers to maintain "Made in the U.S.A." labels will return certainty to our agriculture industry and allow Montana farmers, ranchers and related trades to compete globally for years to come.'" [Representative Ryan Zinke, Press Release, 6/11/15]

#### **Zinke's Vote Resulted In Cattle Markets Falling By Half, Costing Montana Ranchers Billions Of Dollars**

**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](#)]

## **2016: A Grass Range Resident Wrote A Letter To The Editor Slamming Zinke’s Vote To Rescind Country Of Origin Labeling For Beef**

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**October 2016: Grass Range Resident Gilles Stockton Criticized Zinke’s 2015 Vote To Rescind Country-Of-Origin Labeling Of Retail Beef For Allegedly Crashing The Cattle Market.** According to a letter to the editor submitted by Gilles Stockton of Grass Range to the Great Falls Tribune, “Most voters are unaware that, in 2015, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke voted to rescind country-of-origin labeling of retail beef. This action resulted in a surge of beef imports, contributing to a crash in the cattle market. Prices for feeder calves this fall are 42 percent lower than last year. This amounts to an average of \$600 less per calf for the 1.2 million feeder calves Montana ranchers sell annually. In terms of Montana’s economy, about three-quarters of a billion dollars is not available to ranch families to purchase Christmas presents for their kids, a newer car, upgrades on worn-out machinery or a night out on the town with the spouse. This is money that is not flowing through Montana’s economy and affects everyone. To put this in perspective, this fall there are a lot of political attack ads accusing Democratic candidates of somehow causing the closure of coal mines even though it is not plausible that these candidates had any influence or effect on low international coal prices, the actual reason why coal companies have declared bankruptcy. We should understand that coal mining contributes less to Montana’s economy than does ranching. I don’t know how any other single congressional vote could have had a greater negative consequence to Montana as did Zinke’s rescinding of country-of-origin labeling. – Gilles Stockton, Grass Range.” [Great Falls Tribune, Letter to the Editor, 10/24/16]

- **Stockton: “Most Voters Are Unaware That, In 2015, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Voted To Rescind Country-Of-Origin Labeling Of Retail Beef. This Action Resulted In A Surge Of Beef Imports, Contributing To A Crash In The Cattle Market.”** According to a letter to the editor submitted by Gilles Stockton of Grass Range to the Great Falls Tribune, “Most voters are unaware that, in 2015, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke voted to rescind country-of-origin labeling of retail beef. This action resulted in a surge of beef imports, contributing to a crash in the cattle market. Prices for feeder calves this fall are 42 percent lower than last year. This amounts to an average of \$600 less per calf for the 1.2 million feeder calves Montana ranchers sell annually. In terms of Montana’s economy, about three-quarters of a billion dollars is not available to ranch families to purchase Christmas presents for their kids, a newer car, upgrades on worn-out machinery or a night out on the town with the spouse. This is money that is not flowing through Montana’s economy and affects everyone. To put this in perspective, this fall there are a lot of political attack ads accusing Democratic candidates of somehow causing the closure of coal mines even though it is not plausible that these candidates had any influence or effect on low international coal prices, the actual reason why coal companies have declared bankruptcy. We should understand that coal mining contributes less to Montana’s economy than does ranching. I don’t know how any other single congressional vote could have had a greater negative consequence to Montana as did Zinke’s rescinding of country-of-origin labeling. – Gilles Stockton, Grass Range.” [Great Falls Tribune, Letter to the Editor, 10/24/16]
- **Stockton: “I Don’t Know How Any Other Single Congressional Vote Could Have Had A Greater Negative Consequence To Montana As Did Zinke’s Rescinding Of Country-Of-Origin Labeling.”** According to a letter to the editor submitted by Gilles Stockton of Grass Range to the Great Falls Tribune,

“Most voters are unaware that, in 2015, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke voted to rescind country-of-origin labeling of retail beef. This action resulted in a surge of beef imports, contributing to a crash in the cattle market. Prices for feeder calves this fall are 42 percent lower than last year. This amounts to an average of \$600 less per calf for the 1.2 million feeder calves Montana ranchers sell annually. In terms of Montana’s economy, about three-quarters of a billion dollars is not available to ranch families to purchase Christmas presents for their kids, a newer car, upgrades on worn-out machinery or a night out on the town with the spouse. This is money that is not flowing through Montana’s economy and affects everyone. To put this in perspective, this fall there are a lot of political attack ads accusing Democratic candidates of somehow causing the closure of coal mines even though it is not plausible that these candidates had any influence or effect on low international coal prices, the actual reason why coal companies have declared bankruptcy. We should understand that coal mining contributes less to Montana’s economy than does ranching. I don’t know how any other single congressional vote could have had a greater negative consequence to Montana as did Zinke’s rescinding of country-of-origin labeling. – Gilles Stockton, Grass Range.” [Great Falls Tribune, Letter to the Editor, 10/24/16]

## **The Repeal Of Country Of Origin Labeling Led To A Sharp Drop In Prices And Profits For Domestic Cattle Ranchers**

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**2019: A Plunge In Cattle Prices Occurred Around The Same Time That Country Of Origin Labeling Requirements For Beef Were Repealed By Congress Following A World Trade Organization Ruling.** The Washington Post reported, “The controversy dates to 2008, when Congress required mandatory labels for beef and pork. But when the labeling rules were in effect, only animals that were born, raised and slaughtered in the United States qualified as ‘Product of USA.’ [...] Mexico and Canada, which ship about 2 million live cattle each year to the United States, complained to the WTO that the measure was an impermissible trade barrier. In 2012, the organization agreed. The Barack Obama administration rewrote the regulation, but two years later the global trading body vetoed that approach and authorized Mexico and Canada to levy \$1 billion in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports if the labeling requirement was not dropped. Today, as long as the cattle is processed in an American plant, it can carry a ‘USDA’ label. The Wishons say that has hurt their business as cattle from Mexico and Canada flood the market. Congress swiftly repealed the measure. Bullard said that a plunge in cattle prices that occurred around the same time demonstrates that the end of labeling hurt ranchers.” [Washington Post, [5/3/19](#)]

- **Washington Post: “Today, As Long As The Cattle Is Processed In An American Plant, It Can Carry A ‘USDA Label. The Wishons Say That Has Hurt Their Business As Cattle From Mexico And Canada Flood The Market.”** The Washington Post reported, “The controversy dates to 2008, when Congress required mandatory labels for beef and pork. But when the labeling rules were in effect, only animals that were born, raised and slaughtered in the United States qualified as ‘Product of USA.’ [...] Mexico and Canada, which ship about 2 million live cattle each year to the United States, complained to the WTO that the measure was an impermissible trade barrier. In 2012, the organization agreed. The Barack Obama administration rewrote the regulation, but two years later the global trading body vetoed that approach and authorized Mexico and Canada to levy \$1 billion in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports if the labeling requirement was not dropped. Today, as long as the cattle is processed in an American plant, it can carry a ‘USDA’ label. The Wishons say that has hurt their business as cattle from Mexico and Canada flood the market. Congress swiftly repealed the measure. Bullard said that a plunge in cattle prices that occurred around the same time demonstrates that the end of labeling hurt ranchers.” [Washington Post, [5/3/19](#)]
- **Washington Post: “From \$79 Per 100 Pounds In December 2009, Prices Soared To A Peak Of \$171 In November 2014, Before Plunging To \$94 In Late 2016 And Recovering Now To About \$115.”** The Washington Post reported, “As cattle prices rose and fell in recent years, the Wishons became convinced they were the victims of foreign forces, including the WTO and large meatpackers. From \$79 per 100 pounds in December 2009, prices soared to a peak of \$171 in November 2014, before plunging to \$94 in late 2016 and recovering now to about \$115. Bill Bullard, chief executive of the 5,000-member R-CALF, said mandatory product labeling would allow domestic cattle to command higher prices.” [Washington Post, [5/3/19](#)]



- **Washington Post: “Bill Bullard, Chief Executive Of The 5,000-Member R-CALF, Said Mandatory Product Labeling Would Allow Domestic Cattle To Command Higher Prices.”** The Washington Post reported, “As cattle prices rose and fell in recent years, the Wishons became convinced they were the victims of foreign forces, including the WTO and large meatpackers. From \$79 per 100 pounds in December 2009, prices soared to a peak of \$171 in November 2014, before plunging to \$94 in late 2016 and recovering now to about \$115. Bill Bullard, chief executive of the 5,000-member R-CALF, said mandatory product labeling would allow domestic cattle to command higher prices.” [Washington Post, [5/3/19](#)]

**Senator Jon Tester Press Release: “In 2015, Congress Repealed The Law Requiring The Labels For Beef, Reducing The Competitive Advantage For American-Made Beef Products—A Decision Tester Opposed. That Decision Has Been Blamed For Tumbling Prices And Forcing American Producers To Compete With Foreign Meat Without Any Way Of Showing Where Product Comes From.”** According to a press release from the Office of Jon Tester, “COOL regulations are currently in effect for several products, including chicken; lamb; goat; farm-raised and wild caught fish and shellfish; and most nuts. But in 2015, Congress repealed the law requiring the labels for beef, reducing the competitive advantage for American-made beef products—a decision Tester opposed. That decision has been blamed for tumbling prices and forcing American producers to compete with foreign meat without any way of showing where product comes from.” [Office of Jon Tester, Press Release, [5/13/20](#)]

**Op-Ed By Rhonda Perry, Executive Director Of The Missouri Rural Crisis Center: “Immediately After Country Of Origin Labeling Was Rescinded, The Price Of Cattle Plummeted And Cow/Calf Producers’ Profit Dropped By 30%, The Largest One-Year Drop In History.”** According to an op-ed by Rhonda Perry, executive director of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, in the Missouri Independent, “The implementation of country of origin labeling led to an increase in the prices paid to American farmers, underscoring its positive impact on domestic agriculture. It turns out that consumers want to — and will — choose American products, supporting American farmers and economies. However, the resulting drop in prices paid to U.S. cattle farmers since country of origin labeling was rescinded has been no less drastic. Immediately after country of origin labeling was rescinded, the price of cattle plummeted and cow/calf producers’ profit dropped by 30%, the largest one-year drop in history. When you look at the 2022 Census of Agriculture, the economic effects go even further. The 2022 Ag Census reports a shocking loss of cattle producers: from 2017-2022, the U.S. lost 150,569 cattle operations, and Missouri alone lost 9,954 cattle operations (which is 20% of MO cattle operations). This is wealth extracted from our communities and bound for distant shores.” [Missouri Independent, [6/12/24](#)]

- **Perry: “When You Look At The 2022 Census Of Agriculture, The Economic Effects Go Even Further. The 2022 Ag Census Reports A Shocking Loss Of Cattle Producers: From 2017-2022, The U.S. Lost 150,569 Cattle Operations... This Is Wealth Extracted From Our Communities And Bound For Distant Shores.”** According to an op-ed by Rhonda Perry, executive director of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, in the Missouri Independent, “The implementation of country of origin labeling led to an increase in the prices paid to American farmers, underscoring its positive impact on domestic agriculture. It turns out that consumers want to — and will — choose American products, supporting American farmers and economies. However, the resulting drop in prices paid to U.S. cattle farmers since country of origin labeling was rescinded has been no less drastic. Immediately after country of origin labeling was rescinded, the price of cattle plummeted and cow/calf producers’ profit dropped by 30%, the largest one-year drop in history. When you look at the 2022 Census of Agriculture, the economic effects go even further. The 2022 Ag Census reports a shocking loss of cattle producers: from 2017-2022, the U.S. lost 150,569 cattle operations, and Missouri alone lost 9,954 cattle operations (which is 20% of MO cattle operations). This is wealth extracted from our communities and bound for distant shores.” [Missouri Independent, Op-Ed, [6/12/24](#)]

## **2015: Columnist Mike Jopek Criticized Zinke For His Vote To Rescind Country Of Origin Labeling**

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**June 2015: Columnist Mike Jopek Criticized Zinke For Repealing COOL For Imported Meats.** According to a column by Mike Jopek in the Flathead Beacon, “In a disappointment for eaters across America, the House passed a bill repealing a previous U.S. law mandating that meat imported from other countries contain a label delineating the origin. Congressman Ryan Zinke voted to repeal country of origin labeling or COOL for imported meat products like cuts of beef, ground pork or beef, and poultry. Meat labels indicate to consumers in which country the animal was born, raised and slaughtered. With meat processed and imported from all over the world, consumers may soon have no right to know this morsel of food information. House Speaker John Boehner said that unless Congress repeals our COOL laws, American exporters might be faced with billions in retaliatory tariffs. National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson said that Canada and Mexico have yet to prove any monetary losses from U.S. meat labeling laws. That’s a forthcoming international dispute process. Supporters of meat labeling contend that over 60 countries have their own versions of COOL. Referring to the stalled Trans-Pacific Partnership international trade agreement being fast-tracked through Congress, President Barak Obama earlier said that no trade agreement is going to force us to change our laws. Zinke voted to give Obama fast-track authorization to negotiate the TPP. Zinke supported a companion customs bill, which prohibits things like climate change initiatives in trade but also adds six additional people to oversee negotiations. On the same day, Zinke opposed the bill to provide aid to any displaced U.S. workers.” [Flathead Beacon, Column, [6/24/15](#)]

## **May 2022: Zinke Claimed That He Supported Country-Of-Origin Labeling Requirements For Beef**

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**May 2022: Zinke Claimed That He Supported Country-Of-Origin Labeling Requirements For Beef.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Republicans vying in the primary for Montana’s new western U.S. House district from left: Mitch Heuer, Al Olszewski, Mary Todd, Matt Jette and Ryan Zinke. Montana’s primary election is June 7. All four agreed that country-of-origin labeling should be required for beef, a policy that has recently found bipartisan support from Montana’s congressional delegation. Congress repealed country-of-origin labeling for beef and pork in 2015 after pressure from the World Trade Organization. Olszewski used the opportunity, as he did repeatedly during the debate, to point to his status as the only candidate on the stage with prior legislative experience. He carried a bill related to the issue during the 2019 legislative session, although it failed to pass.” [Billings Gazette, [5/23/22](#)]

## Zinke Took \$7,500 From A CCP-Owned Company That Bought Farmland In The U.S. While Saying China Was An “Adversary”

**2021-2024: Zinke Accepted \$7,500 From Syngenta, A Company Owned By The Chinese State-Owned Company Chemchina Which Owned 1,500 Acres Of U.S. Farmland**

### 2021-2024: Zinke Accepted \$7,500 From Syngenta’s Corporate PAC

2021-2024: Zinke Accepted \$7,500 From Syngenta’s Corporate 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 Company Which Owned 1,500 Acres Of U.S. Farmland And Was Owned By Chemchina, A State-Owned Chinese Company

**Syngenta Was A Company Which Owned 1,500 Acres Of U.S. Farmland And Was Owned By ChemChina, A State-Owned Chinese Company.** The American Journal News reported, “Financial disclosures show multiple Republican congresspeople who criticized China have also taken campaign cash from a state-owned Chinese company. Syngenta AG is a Switzerland based provider of agricultural technologies and chemicals. In 2017, the company was acquired by the China National Chemical Corporation, also known as ChemChina. [...] Syngenta owns approximately 1500 acres of U.S farmland.” [American Journal News, [3/4/24](#)]

**2017: ChemChina Completed A \$43 Billion Acquisition Of Syngenta.** The Reuters reported, “ChemChina [CNCC.UL] has won more than enough support from Syngenta shareholders to clinch its \$43 billion takeover of the Swiss pesticides and seeds group, the two companies said on Friday. The deal, announced in February 2016, was prompted by China’s desire to use Syngenta’s portfolio of top-tier chemicals and patent-protected seeds to improve domestic agricultural output. It is China’s biggest foreign takeover to date.” [Reuters, [5/5/17](#)]

- ChemChina Was A Chinese State-Owned Enterprise And Was Designated As A Chinese Military Company By The U.S. Department Of Defense In 2022.** The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported, “Attorney General Tim Griffin announced Tuesday he is ordering a Chinese-state owned company to divest its ownership of farmland in Arkansas. Syngenta Seeds, LLC, a company that makes genetically modified corn, wheat, soybeans, vegetable and sunflower seeds, owns about 160 acres of farmland in Craighead County through a subsidiary, Northrup King Seed Co., according to the Attorney General’s Office. In May 2017, China National Chemical Corporation, also known as ChemChina, acquired 80.7% of the company’s shares according to a Syngenta news release. The company lists its legal addresses in Wilmington, Del., and Basel, Switzerland, according to its federal disclosure, saying ‘the landowner entity’ changed from Switzerland to China in 2017. In 2022 the U.S. Department of Defense listed ChemChina as a Chinese Military Company that operates in the United States.” [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, [10/18/23](#)]

## **2023 – Zinke: “There Is No Difference Between A Business And The Communist Party If They Are Both Chinese”**

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**2023 – Zinke: “There Is No Difference Between A Business And The Communist Party If They Are Both Chinese.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Biden has also failed to adequately deal with China and the Chinese Communist Party, Zinke said, highlighting the administration’s handling of an errant Chinese spy balloon that flew over Montana as it crossed the continent. A U.S. Air Force F-22 shot the balloon down over the waters off of South Carolina in February. Zinke also raised concerns about the social media platform TikTok. Gov. Greg Gianforte signed a bill banning TikTok in the state earlier this year, though the move is being challenged in court. The ban is set to go into effect in January. ‘There is no difference between a business and the Communist Party if they are both Chinese,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/4/23]

### **Zinke Made Contradictory Statements About China, Calling Them A “Competitor, Not An Enemy,” Before Later Calling Them An “Adversary” And “Not Our Competitor”**

## **Zinke In June 2017: “I View China As A Competitor, Not An Enemy”**

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**Zinke In June 2017: “I View China As A Competitor, Not An Enemy.”** According to an interview with Ryan Zinke on CNN, Zinke was asked “Are you concerned that now China can take the reins and step into the leadership position?” Zinke replied, “You know, I view China as a competitor, not an enemy. I view Russia as an aggressor, not an enemy.” [CNN, Interview, 6/2/17]

## **2023: Zinke Called China A “Near Adversarial” Nation**

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**2023: Zinke Called China A “Near Adversarial” Nation.** The Sidney Herald reported, “decentralizing federal agencies away from Washington, D.C. The remainder of the town hall focused primarily on foreign policy, particularly as it relates to immigration and fentanyl. Sheehy joined the other panelists in rattling sabers at China a ‘near adversarial’ nation, as Zinke put it and Mexico, a ‘failed narco state,’ per Whitaker.” [Sidney Herald, 8/8/23]

## **Zinke: “Make No Mistake: China Is Not Our Competitor... China Is An Adversary”**

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**Zinke: “Make No Mistake: China Is Not Our Competitor... China Is An Adversary.”** The American Journal News reported, “Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA) used her first speech before the House Committee on Armed Services in 2023 to highlight the national security threat posed by China. She later accused President Joe Biden of being weak on China. ‘The Commander in Chief’s blatant disregard for our biggest geopolitical competitor is extremely concerning,’ Kiggans said. ‘Underestimating China is very misguided.’ Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) shared a similar sentiment. ‘Make no mistake: China is not our competitor,’ Zinke said. ‘China is an adversary.’” [American Journal News, [3/4/24](#)]

## **2024: Zinke Said, “China Is Not Our Friend. They Are A Competitor At Best, Enemy At Worst And I Would Say Right Now They Are Clearly Our Adversary**

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**2024: Zinke Said, “China Is Not Our Friend. They Are A Competitor At Best, Enemy At Worst And I Would Say Right Now They Are Clearly Our Adversary.”** The Belgrade News reported, “A measure to send \$8.12 billion in U.S. military aid to Taiwan and the Pacific amid Chinese saber rattling also passed the House with support from Zinke and opposition from Rosendale. ‘China is not our friend. They are a competitor at best, enemy



at worst and I would say right now they are clearly our adversary. With weak leadership in the White House, they see the opportunity so many of our adversaries are capitalizing on. The United States territories and compact states extend deep into the Pacific and are on the front lines of a conflict with China. The U.S. cannot afford to cede territory in the Pacific because the next stop is right here on mainland soil,' Zinke said.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]



## **Zinke Caused The Largest Ever Reduction In Public Land In U.S. History By Shrinking Numerous National Monuments So That Energy Companies Could Drill On Previously Protected Land**

### **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Successfully Pushed To Shrink Multiple National Monuments, Including Reducing The Size Of One By A Whopping 85 Percent**

#### **May 2017: Zinke Released A List Of 27 National Antiquities Act Monuments To Review**

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**April 2017: Trump Signed An Executive Order Directing Zinke To Review All National Monuments Created After 1996 That Were Either Larger Than 100,000 Acres Or Were Expanded “Without Adequate Public Outreach” In The Hopes Of Shrinking Or Revoking Some Of The Monuments.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “California’s attorney general argued Thursday that President Trump has no legal authority to revoke or modify national monuments created by previous administrations. In an 11-page letter to the Interior Department, state Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra vowed ‘to take any and all legal action necessary’ to preserve six California monuments, including one in Los Angeles’ backyard, that the Trump Administration may attempt to revoke or shrink. In April, Trump signed an executive order directing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review all national monuments that were created since 1996 and are larger than 100,000 acres, or were expanded ‘without adequate public outreach.’” [Los Angeles Times, 6/9/17]

- **May 2017: Zinke’s Interior Department Released A List Of 27 National Monuments That Would Be Reviewed Under The Department’s Directed Review Of The Antiquities Act.** The Denver Post reported, “Canyons of the Ancients in southwest Colorado is up for review by the Interior Department, despite assurances from Gov. John Hickenlooper that it was unlikely any state monument designations since 1996 would be scrutinized. Last week, Hickenlooper met with Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke to discuss public lands. ‘I am confident that the federal administration will work with the State of Colorado and our federal delegation to ensure our national monuments remain protected,’ Hickenlooper posted on his Facebook page the next day. The Interior Department on Friday issued a list of 27 national monuments that would be reviewed. The department also said it would solicit public comment on the national monument designations. Public comment is not required when presidents create monuments under the Antiquities Act.” [Denver Post, 5/6/17]

#### **Zinke Recommended Shrinking Bears Ears National Monument By 85 Percent & Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument By Half**

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#### ***Zinke Recommended Shrinking Bears Ears National Monument By 85 Percent***

**August 2017: Zinke Recommended Shrinking Four National Monuments, Including Bears Ears National Monument And Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.** The New York Times reported, “Parts of this sprawling region of red-rock canyons and at least three other national monuments would lose their strict protection and could be reopened for new mining or drilling under proposals submitted to President Trump by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday, according to congressional aides and others who have been briefed on the report. Environmentalists, ranchers, tribal governments and Western lawmakers had been watching closely to see if Mr. Zinke would propose changing the borders of the Bears Ears National Monument, which President Barack Obama established at the end of his term, and other scenic and historic areas under federal protection. In recent days, Mr. Zinke had been considering a dramatic reduction to Bears Ears, to approximately 160,000 acres from



1.35 million, according to multiple people familiar with the process. No president has ever reduced a monument by such a large amount.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]

- **New York Times: “Parts Of This Sprawling Region Of Red-Rock Canyons And At Least Three Other National Monuments Would Lose Their Strict Protection And Could Be Reopened For New Mining Or Drilling Under Proposals Submitted To President Trump By Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.”** The New York Times reported, “Parts of this sprawling region of red-rock canyons and at least three other national monuments would lose their strict protection and could be reopened for new mining or drilling under proposals submitted to President Trump by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday, according to congressional aides and others who have been briefed on the report. Environmentalists, ranchers, tribal governments and Western lawmakers had been watching closely to see if Mr. Zinke would propose changing the borders of the Bears Ears National Monument, which President Barack Obama established at the end of his term, and other scenic and historic areas under federal protection. In recent days, Mr. Zinke had been considering a dramatic reduction to Bears Ears, to approximately 160,000 acres from 1.35 million, according to multiple people familiar with the process. No president has ever reduced a monument by such a large amount.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]

### ***Zinke Recommended Shrinking Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument By 50 Percent***

**December 2017: Trump Formally Ordered The Reduction Of Bears Ears National Monument By 85 Percent And Grand Staircase-Escalante To About 50 Percent Of Their Original Respective Sizes.** The New York Times reported, “President Trump sharply reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah on Monday by some two million acres, the largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation’s history. The administration shrank Bears Ears National Monument, a sprawling region of red rock canyons, by 85 percent, and cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size. The move, a reversal of protections put in place by Democratic predecessors, comes as the administration pushes for fewer restrictions and more development on public lands. The decision to reduce Bears Ears is expected to set off a legal battle that could alter the course of American land conservation, putting dozens of other monuments at risk and possibly opening millions of preserved public acres to oil and gas extraction, mining, logging and other commercial activities.” [New York Times, 12/4/17]

- **At Trump’s Request, Zinke Shrunk The Bear Ears National Monument By 85 Percent And The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument By 50 Percent.** According to an op-ed by Jon Waterman, a former National Park Ranger, in the New York Times, “At the president’s bidding Mr. Zinke had shrunk two national monuments in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, by 85 percent and about 50 percent, which will open the way for the newly unprotected land to be exploited by mining and fossil fuel companies. Despite his departure, these pro-development park policies remain unchanged.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 11/22/19]

### **Zinke Submitted Proposals To Shrink At Least Two Additional Monuments And Modify At Least Ten Others**

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#### ***Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument***

**August 2017: Zinke Submitted A Proposal To The White House That Recommended The Trump Administration Modify 10 National Monuments And Shrink At Least Four, Including Gold Butte In Nevada, Cascade-Siskiyou In Oregon, And Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante In Utah.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “In that original review, submitted to the White House in August 2017, Ryan Zinke, former secretary of the Interior, recommended the administration modify 10 national monuments and shrink at least four Western sites. Zinke had been instructed to conduct the survey by President Trump, in an executive order issued in April 2017. Trump told the department to investigate 27 monuments that had been created over the previous two decades, arguing that his predecessors had overstepped the authority granted to them by the Antiquities Act. [...] In



his memo to the White House, Zinke recommended shrinking the boundaries of four national monuments: Gold Butte in Nevada, Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon, and Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah. Reducing the protected acreage, Zinke argued, would restore ‘traditional uses,’ such as grazing, mining, hunting and timber production.” [Los Angeles Times, 2/22/19]

### ***Gold Butte National Monument***

**September 2017: Zinke Recommended Reducing The Size Of Gold Butte National Monument And Recommended To Change Management To Allow For “Traditional Use,” Including Mining, Drilling, And Cattle Grazing.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke recommends changing the size of Gold Butte, a region of Nevada described by Mr. Obama as a place of ‘chiseled red sandstone, twisting canyons and tree-clad mountains’ amid flat stretches of the Mojave Desert that hold ‘irreplaceable’ scientific resources. The designation was supported by Nevada Democrats, including Senator Harry Reid, but roundly criticized by Republicans as another ‘unilateral land-grab.’ The monument sits in the same county as the ranch of Cliven Bundy, the cattleman who has become a symbol of opposition to federal control of public lands. The secretary recommends revising the monument’s boundaries ‘to protect historic water rights’ but does not specify new borders. He also recommends changing management to allow for ‘traditional use,’ which could include mining, drilling and increased grazing.” [New York Times, 9/19/17]

**August 2017: Zinke Submitted A Proposal To The White House That Recommended The Trump Administration Modify 10 National Monuments And Shrink At Least Four, Including Gold Butte In Nevada, Cascade-Siskiyou In Oregon, And Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante In Utah.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “In that original review, submitted to the White House in August 2017, Ryan Zinke, former secretary of the Interior, recommended the administration modify 10 national monuments and shrink at least four Western sites. Zinke had been instructed to conduct the survey by President Trump, in an executive order issued in April 2017. Trump told the department to investigate 27 monuments that had been created over the previous two decades, arguing that his predecessors had overstepped the authority granted to them by the Antiquities Act. [...] In his memo to the White House, Zinke recommended shrinking the boundaries of four national monuments: Gold Butte in Nevada, Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon, and Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah. Reducing the protected acreage, Zinke argued, would restore ‘traditional uses,’ such as grazing, mining, hunting and timber production.” [Los Angeles Times, 2/22/19]

### ***Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument***

**September 2017: Zinke Recommended Allowing Commercial Fishing In The Northeast Canyons And Seamounts National Monument.** The New York Times reported, “Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Current size: 3.14 million acres Designated by Barack Obama, 2016 Recommendation: Modify management plan Mr. Zinke calls on the president to alter the monument’s proclamation to allow for commercial fishing. Current management prohibits this, with the exception of red crab and American lobster fisheries. Designated by Mr. Obama in 2016, the monument sits about 130 miles southeast of Cape Cod, Mass. In his declaration, Mr. Obama noted that the protected area is home to at least 54 species of coral that ‘together with other structure-forming fauna such as sponges and anemones, create a foundation for vibrant deep-sea ecosystems.’ ‘These habitats,’ he noted, ‘are extremely sensitive to disturbance from extractive activities.’” [New York Times, 9/19/17]

### ***Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument***

**September 2017: Zinke’s Monument Reduction Plan Proposed Reducing The Boundaries Of The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument To Allow For Commercial Fishing To Resume.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “The Zinke plan, if adopted, will have limited effect in California. Only one of the monuments targeted, the Cascade-Siskiyou on the Oregon border, has land in the state. Zinke did not specify in his 19-page memorandum how the boundaries of that or any of the other public lands targeted should be changed. But the impact on the West overall would be dramatic. The other monuments Zinke is proposing to shrink include Bears



Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah, which together encompass 3.2 million acres. Zinke is also urging a downsizing of the nearly 297,000-acre Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada. Under Zinke's plan, the boundaries of the 584,000-square-mile Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument would be reduced so that commercial fishing could resume in the territory. The monument, which encompasses seven atolls and islands, is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as 'one of the last frontiers and havens for wildlife in the world.'" [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

- **September 2017: The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument Was Described By The U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service As "One Of The Last Frontiers And Havens For Wildlife In The World."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "The Zinke plan, if adopted, will have limited effect in California. Only one of the monuments targeted, the Cascade-Siskiyou on the Oregon border, has land in the state. Zinke did not specify in his 19-page memorandum how the boundaries of that or any of the other public lands targeted should be changed. But the impact on the West overall would be dramatic. The other monuments Zinke is proposing to shrink include Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah, which together encompass 3.2 million acres. Zinke is also urging a downsizing of the nearly 297,000-acre Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada. Under Zinke's plan, the boundaries of the 584,000-square-mile Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument would be reduced so that commercial fishing could resume in the territory. The monument, which encompasses seven atolls and islands, is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as 'one of the last frontiers and havens for wildlife in the world.'" [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

## ***Rose Atoll Marine National Monument***

**September 2017: Zinke's Monument Reduction Plan Proposed Resuming Commercial Fishing In The Rose Atoll Marine National Monument.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Under Zinke's plan, the boundaries of the 584,000-square-mile Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument would be reduced so that commercial fishing could resume in the territory. The monument, which encompasses seven atolls and islands, is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as 'one of the last frontiers and havens for wildlife in the world.' Zinke also wants commercial fishing to resume within the 13,451-square-mile Rose Atoll Marine National Monument near American Samoa, which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration describes as 'one of the most pristine atolls in the world.' Like Pacific Remote Islands, it provides refuge to a number of endangered and threatened species. The White House is refusing to comment and has not said when it will make a final determination. '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,' Zinke wrote in his memo to President Trump, who ordered the review of the monuments. He concluded that Trump has the authority to unilaterally change the boundaries of monuments." [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

- **September 2017: The National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration Described Rose Atoll Marine National Monument As "One Of The Most Pristine Atolls In The World," With The Monument Providing Refuge To Multiple Endangered And Threatened Species.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Under Zinke's plan, the boundaries of the 584,000-square-mile Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument would be reduced so that commercial fishing could resume in the territory. The monument, which encompasses seven atolls and islands, is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as 'one of the last frontiers and havens for wildlife in the world.' Zinke also wants commercial fishing to resume within the 13,451-square-mile Rose Atoll Marine National Monument near American Samoa, which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration describes as 'one of the most pristine atolls in the world.' Like Pacific Remote Islands, it provides refuge to a number of endangered and threatened species. The White House is refusing to comment and has not said when it will make a final determination. '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,' Zinke wrote in his memo to President Trump, who ordered the review of the monuments. He concluded that Trump has the authority to unilaterally change the boundaries of monuments." [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]



## ***Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area***

**2018: Zinke Testified Against The Rim Of The Valley Corridor Preservation Act, Which Would Have Doubled The Size Of The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, In A Senate Committee Hearing.** The Orange County Register reported, “The Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, authored by Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, more than doubles the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by adding 191,000 acres in a ring of wild lands surrounding the San Fernando Valley. [...] His proposal also ran into a roadblock during the Trump administration in 2018 when Zinke and Paul Daniel Smith, then acting chief of the National Park Service, testified in a Senate committee ‘the Department does not support enacting this proposed expansion at this time.’” [Orange County Register, 3/1/21]

## ***After Facing Backlash From Outdoor Retailers Like Patagonia, Zinke Said He Did Not “Yield To Pressure, Only Higher Principle”***

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**December 2017: Zinke Was “Defiant” During A Conference Call With Reporters About Monument Reduction Plans, Saying, “I Don’t Yield To Pressure, Only Higher Principle. And Sound Public Policy Is Not Based On Threats Of Lawsuits. It’s Doing What’s Right.”** The Denver Post reported, “Patagonia replaced its usual home page Monday night with a stark message declaring, ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ The message called Trump’s actions to shrink Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments ‘illegal’ and the largest elimination of protected land in American history. Outdoor retailer REI also criticized Trump but in less harsh language. Zinke took a defiant tone in a conference call with reporters, saying, ‘I don’t yield to pressure, only higher principle. And sound public policy is not based on threats of lawsuits. It’s doing what’s right.’ Zinke argued that Bears Ears is still larger than Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks combined even after being downsized to about 202,000 acres (315 square miles) while Grand Staircase Escalante retains about 1 million acres (about 1,500 square miles.)” [Denver Post, 12/6/17]

**Zinke’s Actions Were Perfectly Designed To Benefit Oil, Gas, Coal, And Uranium Companies That Wanted To Drill On Land That Had Previously Been Protected As A National Monument**

## ***Mining & Oil Interests Lobbied The Interior Department To Shrink Bears Ears National Monument, Which Zinke Denied Had Anything To Do With His Proposals***

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### ***Energy Fuels Resources USA Wrote A Letter To The Interior Department Highlighting Uranium Deposits Within The Monument’s Bounds Two Weeks After Zinke Toured The Monument***

**December 2017: Documents Obtained By The Washington Post Showed That Energy Fuels Resources USA Urged The Trump Administration To Limit Bears Ears Monument To The Smallest Size Necessary To Protect Key Areas To Make It Easier To Access Uranium Ore.** The Denver Post reported, “But the nation’s sole uranium processing mill sits directly next to the boundaries President Barack Obama designated a year ago when he established Bears Ears. The documents show that Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc., a subsidiary of a Canadian firm, urged the Trump administration to limit the monument to the smallest size needed to protect key objects and areas, such as archeological sites, to make it easier to access radioactive ore. Energy Fuels Resources did not just weigh in on national monuments through public comment letters. According to federal lobbying records, the company spent \$30,000 to hire a team of lobbyists at Faegre Baker Daniels led by Andrew Wheeler, who is awaiting Senate confirmation as the Environmental Protection Agency’s deputy secretary to work on the matter and other federal policies.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]



- **December 2017: A Uranium Company Had Launched A Lobbying Campaign To Shrink Bears Ears National Monument In Order To Obtain The Area's Uranium Deposits.** The Denver Post reported, "A uranium company launched a concerted lobbying campaign to scale back Bears Ears National Monument, saying such action would give it easier access to the area's uranium deposits and help it operate a nearby processing mill, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and top Utah Republicans have said repeatedly that questions of mining or drilling played no role in President Donald Trump's announcement Monday that he was cutting the site by more than 1.1 million acres, or 85 percent. Trump also signed a proclamation nearly halving the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, which is also in southern Utah and has significant coal deposits. 'This is not about energy,' Zinke told reporters Tuesday. 'There is no mine within Bears Ears.'" [Denver Post, 12/9/17]
- **Denver Post: "Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers Adamantly Denies That His Company Played A Major Role In The Decision To Shrink The Monument In Southeast Utah From 1.35 Million Acres To Two Smaller Monuments Of A Combined 228,000 Acres."** The Denver Post reported, "A uranium company that is headquartered in Colorado 'lobbied extensively' for President Donald Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, according to an investigation in last Sunday's New York Times. The implications of the story written by Hiroko Tabuchi were staggering: an area of long held federal land only recently protected by President Barack Obama at the end of his administration for its significance to five Native American tribes could one day be pocked with uranium mines. Tabuchi found that there are more than 300 uranium mining claims inside Obama's boundaries for the national monument, nearly a third of which are tied to the Lakewood based Energy Fuels Resources. 'The vast majority of those claims fall neatly outside the new boundaries of Bears Ears,' Tabuchi wrote. Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers adamantly denies that his company played a major role in the decision to shrink the monument in southeast Utah from 1.35 million acres to two smaller monuments of a combined 228,000 acres." [Denver Post, 1/21/18]
- **January 2018: Energy Fuels Wrote A Letter To The Interior Department Two Weeks After Zinke Visited Bears Ears National Monument Which Said There Were Other Known Uranium Deposits Within The Monument.** The New York Times reported, "Curtis Moore, an Energy Fuels spokesman, said the company had played only a small part in the decision to shrink Bears Ears. The company proposed scaling back the monument by just 2.5 percent, he said, and was prepared to support a ban within the rest of the original boundaries. Yet two weeks after Mr. Zinke's visit, Energy Fuels wrote to the Interior Department arguing there were many other known uranium deposits within Bears Ears 'that could provide valuable energy and mineral resources in the future' and urging the department to shrink the monument away from any 'existing or future operations.' A bill introduced last month by Representative John Curtis, Republican of Utah, would codify Mr. Trump's cuts to the monument while banning further drilling or mining within the original boundaries. But environmental groups say the bill has little chance of passing at all, let alone before the monument is scaled back next month." [New York Times, 1/13/18]

### ***Over 300 Uranium Mining Claims Existed Within The Original Obama-Era Bears Ears National Monument Boundaries, The Majority Of Which Were Reportedly Outside Of Zinke's New Boundaries***

**January 2018: A New York Times Investigation Found That There Were Over 300 Uranium Mining Claims Inside The Original Obama-Era Boundaries Of Bears Ears National Monument.** The Denver Post reported, "A uranium company that is headquartered in Colorado 'lobbied extensively' for President Donald Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, according to an investigation in last Sunday's New York Times. The implications of the story written by Hiroko Tabuchi were staggering: an area of long held federal land only recently protected by President Barack Obama at the end of his administration for its significance to five Native American tribes could one day be pocked with uranium mines. Tabuchi found that there are more than 300 uranium mining claims inside Obama's boundaries for the national monument, nearly a third of which are tied to the Lakewood based Energy Fuels Resources. 'The vast majority of those claims fall neatly outside the new boundaries of Bears



Ears,' Tabuchi wrote. Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers adamantly denies that his company played a major role in the decision to shrink the monument in southeast Utah from 1.35 million acres to two smaller monuments of a combined 228,000 acres.” [Denver Post, 1/21/18]

- **The Investigation Found That A Majority Of The 300 Uranium Mining Claims Originally Inside Bears Ears National Monument Were “Neatly Outside” Zinke’s New Boundaries.** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company that is headquartered in Colorado ‘lobbied extensively’ for President Donald Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, according to an investigation in last Sunday’s New York Times. The implications of the story written by Hiroko Tabuchi were staggering: an area of long held federal land only recently protected by President Barack Obama at the end of his administration for its significance to five Native American tribes could one day be pocked with uranium mines. Tabuchi found that there are more than 300 uranium mining claims inside Obama’s boundaries for the national monument, nearly a third of which are tied to the Lakewood based Energy Fuels Resources. ‘The vast majority of those claims fall neatly outside the new boundaries of Bears Ears,’ Tabuchi wrote. Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers adamantly denies that his company played a major role in the decision to shrink the monument in southeast Utah from 1.35 million acres to two smaller monuments of a combined 228,000 acres.” [Denver Post, 1/21/18]
- **Denver Post: “A Uranium Company That Is Headquartered In Colorado ‘Lobbied Extensively’ For President Donald Trump To Reduce The Size Of Bears Ears National Monument. [...] There Are More Than 300 Uranium Mining Claims Inside Obama’s Boundaries For The National Monument, Nearly A Third Of Which Are Tied To The Lakewood Based Energy Fuels Resources.”** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company that is headquartered in Colorado ‘lobbied extensively’ for President Donald Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, according to an investigation in last Sunday’s New York Times. The implications of the story written by Hiroko Tabuchi were staggering: an area of long held federal land only recently protected by President Barack Obama at the end of his administration for its significance to five Native American tribes could one day be pocked with uranium mines. Tabuchi found that there are more than 300 uranium mining claims inside Obama’s boundaries for the national monument, nearly a third of which are tied to the Lakewood based Energy Fuels Resources. ‘The vast majority of those claims fall neatly outside the new boundaries of Bears Ears,’ Tabuchi wrote. Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers adamantly denies that his company played a major role in the decision to shrink the monument in southeast Utah from 1.35 million acres to two smaller monuments of a combined 228,000 acres.” [Denver Post, 1/21/18]

### ***An Aide To Sen. Orrin Hatch Sent A Proposed Boundary Change To Bears Ears National Monument To Interior Referencing Oil And Gas Potential, Which Was Later Included Nearly Verbatim In Trump’s Final Announcement***

**March 2018: Internal Agency Documents Obtained By The New York Times Revealed That The Interior Department Focused On The Potential For Oil And Gas Exploration When Making The Decision To Shrink The Boundaries Of Bear Ears National Monument.** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

- **March 2017: An Aide To Republican Senator Orrin Hatch Of Utah Sent A Proposed Boundary Change For The Bear Ears Monument To A Senior Interior Department Official.** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]
- **The Aide’s Email Referenced The Ability For Utah To Harvest Oil And Natural Gas Deposits Under The New Boundaries, Saying The Proposal Would “Resolve All Known Mineral Conflicts.”** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]
- **December 2017: The Proposal Sent By The Aide Was Incorporated Almost Exactly Into The Reductions That Trump Announced.** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

## ***Zinke Denied That Bears Ears National Monument Boundary Shrinking Had Anything To Do With Oil, Gas, Or Mining Interests***

**December 2017: Zinke Told Reporters At Trump’s Announcement Of The Monument Reduction That “This Is Not About Energy. There Is No Mine Within Bears Ears.”** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company launched a concerted lobbying campaign to scale back Bears Ears National Monument, saying such action would give it easier access to the area’s uranium deposits and help it operate a nearby processing mill, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and top Utah Republicans have said repeatedly that questions of mining or drilling played no role in President Donald Trump’s announcement Monday that he was cutting the site by more than 1.1 million acres, or 85 percent. Trump also signed a proclamation nearly halving the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, which is also in southern Utah and has significant coal deposits. ‘This is not about energy,’ Zinke told reporters Tuesday. ‘There is no mine within Bears Ears.’” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]

- **2017: Zinke Claimed That There Was “Not Much” Oil And Gas Potential In The Bear Ears Area, So “Bear Ears Isn’t Really About Oil And Gas.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke has said that the agency review process made no presumptions about the outcomes. ‘We want to make sure that everyone’s voice is heard,’ Mr. Zinke said at a news conference in May during a visit to Bears Ears. He has also disputed that the review of Bears Ears was related to the potential for energy production, suggesting that the agency’s own surveys showed there was not a great deal of potential there. ‘We also have a pretty good idea of, certainly, the oil and gas potential — not much!’ Mr. Zinke said last year. ‘So Bears Ears isn’t really about oil and gas.’” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

## **The Interior Department Emphasized Access To New Coal Reserves To Shrink Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

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**March 2018: Internal Agency Documents Obtained By The New York Times Showed That The Interior Department Focused On Gaining Access To Coal Reserves When Deciding To Shrink The Size Of The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.** The New York Times reported, “The internal Interior Department emails — more than 25,000 pages in total — were obtained by The New York Times after it sued the agency in federal court with the assistance of the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic at Yale University Law School. [...] The internal Interior Department emails and memos also show the central role that concerns over gaining access to coal reserves played in the decision by the Trump administration to shrink the size of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by about 47 percent, to just over 1 million acres. Mr. Zinke’s staff developed a series of estimates on the value of coal that could potentially be mined from a section of Grand Staircase called the Kaiparowits plateau. As a result of Mr. Trump’s action, major parts of the area are no longer a part of the national monument.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

- **Zinke’s Staff Estimated The Value Of Coal That Could Be Mined From The Monument, With Several Memos Asking Staff To Prepare Reports And Reviews Of The Natural Resources Available Within The Monument.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke’s staff developed a series of estimates on the value of coal that could potentially be mined from a section of Grand Staircase called the Kaiparowits plateau. As a result of Mr. Trump’s action, major parts of the area are no longer a part of the national monument. ‘The Kaiparowits plateau, located within the monument, contains one of the largest coal deposits in the United States,’ an Interior Department memo, issued in the spring of 2017, said. About 11.36 billion tons are ‘technologically recoverable,’ it projected. From the start of the Interior Department review process, agency officials directed staff to figure out how much coal, oil and natural gas — as well as grass for cattle grazing and timber — had been put essentially off limits, or made harder to access, by the decision to designate the areas as national monuments. One memo, for example, asked Interior staff to prepare a report on each national monument, with a yellow highlighter on the documents emphasizing the need to examine in detail ‘annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any).’ It was followed up by a reminder to staff in June to also look at how the decision to create new



National Monuments in Utah might have hurt area mines. ‘Sorry about this, but this came from DOI late yesterday,’ Timothy Fisher, the leader of the National Monuments and Conservation Areas program at Interior wrote to his colleagues, referring to the Department of Interior headquarters in Washington. ‘Are there mines or processing facilities near or adjacent to a National Monument?’ he wrote. He also asked how the protection of the federal lands may have affected mining.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

- **For Instance, One Memo Directed Interior Department Staff To Prepare A Report On How The Decision To Create The National Monument Harmed Mining In The Area.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke’s staff developed a series of estimates on the value of coal that could potentially be mined from a section of Grand Staircase called the Kaiparowits plateau. As a result of Mr. Trump’s action, major parts of the area are no longer a part of the national monument. ‘The Kaiparowits plateau, located within the monument, contains one of the largest coal deposits in the United States,’ an Interior Department memo, issued in the spring of 2017, said. About 11.36 billion tons are ‘technologically recoverable,’ it projected. From the start of the Interior Department review process, agency officials directed staff to figure out how much coal, oil and natural gas — as well as grass for cattle grazing and timber — had been put essentially off limits, or made harder to access, by the decision to designate the areas as national monuments. One memo, for example, asked Interior staff to prepare a report on each national monument, with a yellow highlighter on the documents emphasizing the need to examine in detail ‘annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any).’ It was followed up by a reminder to staff in June to also look at how the decision to create new National Monuments in Utah might have hurt area mines. ‘Sorry about this, but this came from DOI late yesterday,’ Timothy Fisher, the leader of the National Monuments and Conservation Areas program at Interior wrote to his colleagues, referring to the Department of Interior headquarters in Washington. ‘Are there mines or processing facilities near or adjacent to a National Monument?’ he wrote. He also asked how the protection of the federal lands may have affected mining.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

## **Accidentally Released Emails Showed “Thousands Of Pages” Of Proof Showing That Zinke Had Emphasized Logging, Ranching, & Energy Development When Reclassifying Monuments**

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**Washington Post: “The Thousands Of Pages Of Email Correspondence Chart How Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke And His Aides Instead Tailored Their Survey Of Protected Sites To Emphasize The Value Of Logging, Ranching And Energy Development That Would Be Unlocked If They Were Not Designated National Monuments.”** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Department officials intentionally dismissed evidence of the benefits of national monuments last year as they sought to justify shrinking them. Juliet Eilperin reports: ‘The thousands of pages of email correspondence chart how Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and his aides instead tailored their survey of protected sites to emphasize the value of logging, ranching and energy development that would be unlocked if they were not designated national monuments. ... Estimates of increased tourism revenue, analyses showing that existing restrictions had not hurt fishing operators and agency reports finding that less vandalism occurred as a result of monument designations were all set aside.’” [Washington Post, [7/24/18](#)]

- **Washington Post: “Estimates Of Increased Tourism Revenue, Analyses Showing That Existing Restrictions Had Not Hurt Fishing Operators And Agency Reports Finding That Less Vandalism Occurred As A Result Of Monument Designations Were All Set Aside.”** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Department officials intentionally dismissed evidence of the benefits of national monuments last year as they sought to justify shrinking them. Juliet Eilperin reports: ‘The thousands of pages of email correspondence chart how Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and his aides instead tailored their survey of protected sites to emphasize the value of logging, ranching and energy development that would be unlocked if they were not designated national monuments. ... Estimates of increased tourism revenue, analyses showing that existing restrictions had not hurt fishing operators and agency reports finding that less vandalism occurred as a result of monument designations were all set aside.’” [Washington Post, [7/24/18](#)]



- **July 2018: Emails Mistakenly Released By The Department Of The Interior Revealed That Zinke Deliberately Omitted Information Supporting The Tourism, Cultural, And Archaeological Value Of National Monuments In A Survey Of The Monuments.** The Denver Post reported, “Then, based on emails mistakenly released by the Interior Department, you exposed Secretary Ryan Zinke’s true identity: the Once ler, the greedy antagonist who cuts down all the Truffula Trees. The emails confirmed that information supporting the tourism, cultural and archaeological value of our national monuments was intentionally left out of the survey of monuments. Instead, ‘Ryan Zinke and his aides tailored their survey of protected sites to emphasize the value of logging, ranching and energy development that would be unlocked,’ should these lands lose their monument designation. They even admitted that they kept these ‘references out of public view because they were ‘revealing (the) strategy’ behind the review.’ Anyone who wants to get a glimpse of what our national monuments will look like once Ryan ‘Once ler’ Zinke has extracted and exploited their resources (unless our modern Lorax fares better than Dr. Seuss’ ... unless) should have a look at the last few pages of The Lorax .” [Denver Post, 7/29/18]
- **Zinke And His Aides Instead Used The Survey To “Emphasize The Value Of Logging, Ranching, And Energy Development That Would Be Unlocked” If The Sites Were Reclassified.** The Denver Post reported, “Then, based on emails mistakenly released by the Interior Department, you exposed Secretary Ryan Zinke’s true identity: the Once ler, the greedy antagonist who cuts down all the Truffula Trees. The emails confirmed that information supporting the tourism, cultural and archaeological value of our national monuments was intentionally left out of the survey of monuments. Instead, ‘Ryan Zinke and his aides tailored their survey of protected sites to emphasize the value of logging, ranching and energy development that would be unlocked,’ should these lands lose their monument designation. They even admitted that they kept these ‘references out of public view because they were ‘revealing (the) strategy’ behind the review.’ Anyone who wants to get a glimpse of what our national monuments will look like once Ryan ‘Once ler’ Zinke has extracted and exploited their resources (unless our modern Lorax fares better than Dr. Seuss’ ... unless) should have a look at the last few pages of The Lorax .” [Denver Post, 7/29/18]

## **Zinke’s Actions Were Investigated For Directly Benefiting Utah State Representative Mike Noel’s Personal Oil Interests On Land He Owned That Was Previously Protected As A Monument**

### **Utah State Rep. Mike Noel Praised A Smaller Bears Ears Monument As A Victory For The State**

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**August 2017: Utah Republican State Rep. Mike Noel Said That Shrinking Bears Ears Monument Would Be A Victory For The State.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Trump said in April that the goal of the review was to end ‘another egregious use of federal power’ and give the states more say in how public lands are used. Mike Noel, a Republican state representative in Utah, said that shrinking Bears Ears would be ‘a victory for our state.’ Federal management of land in his state had constrained drilling, mining and grazing, he said, adding that Washington had no business setting aside so much land. ‘When you turn the management over to the tree-huggers, the bird and bunny lovers and the rock lickers, you turn your heritage over,’ Mr. Noel said. Democratic lawmakers who oversee federal land management and whose districts include some of the monuments under review expressed dismay at the process and at Mr. Zinke’s decision not to make his recommendations public on Thursday.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]

- **Noel: “When You Turn The Management Over To The Tree-Huggers, The Bird And Bunny Lovers And The Rock Lickers, You Turn Your Heritage Over.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Trump said in April that the goal of the review was to end ‘another egregious use of federal power’ and give the states more say in how public lands are used. Mike Noel, a Republican state representative in Utah, said that shrinking Bears Ears would be ‘a victory for our state.’ Federal management of land in his state had constrained drilling, mining and grazing, he said, adding that Washington had no business setting aside so much land. ‘When you



turn the management over to the tree-huggers, the bird and bunny lovers and the rock lickers, you turn your heritage over,' Mr. Noel said. Democratic lawmakers who oversee federal land management and whose districts include some of the monuments under review expressed dismay at the process and at Mr. Zinke's decision not to make his recommendations public on Thursday." [New York Times, 8/24/17]

## **Zinke Was Investigated For Benefiting Noel's Financial Interests, But Was Cleared Of Wrongdoing**

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### ***2018: Zinke Was Investigated For Allegedly Excluding Land From The New Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument Boundaries To Favor Noel***

**2018: Zinke Was Investigated For His Decision To Shrink The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, On The Basis That The Decision May Have Improperly Benefited A Republican State Representative Whose Land Was Excluded From The Monument.** The New York Times reported, "Other investigations have delved into policy matters, such as Mr. Zinke's decision to dramatically shrink the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. The inspector general's office is looking into whether the review was conducted in a way that improperly benefited a Republican state representative whose land was removed from the boundaries of the monument." [New York Times, 10/31/18]

- **November 2018: The Inspector General Cleared Zinke Of Wrongdoing In The Investigation Over The Monument Shrinkage.** The New York Times reported, "A government watchdog agency has cleared Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke of wrongdoing following an inquiry into whether he redrew the boundaries of a national monument in Utah to avoid the nearby land holdings of a Republican state lawmaker and supporter of President Donald Trump." [New York Times, 11/27/18]

### ***2018: Zinke Was Cleared Of Wrongdoing In The Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument Investigation***

**2018: Zinke Was Cleared In An Inspector General Investigation Concerning Whether He Redrew The Boundaries Of Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument To Benefit A Republican State Representative, Mike Noel, Who Had Criticized The Monument's Designation And Owned Land Near And Within The Boundary.** The Billings Gazette reported, "In 2018, Zinke was cleared in an OIG investigation into whether the redrawing of the boundaries of Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument benefited a Republican state representative. State Rep. Mike Noel, a critic of the monument's designation, owned land near and within the boundary. Investigations found Noel was not provided preferential treatment and that Zinke and other officials did not know about his financial interest in the area, CBS News reported." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## **Zinke Drew Criticism For "Ring-Fencing" National Monuments With New Oil, Gas, And Uranium Leases On The Land Surrounding Multiple Monuments**

### **Zinke Was Accused Of "Ring Fencing" National Monuments By Surrounding Them With Potentially Damaging Oil, Gas, And Uranium Leases**

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**Zinke Was Accused Of "Ring Fencing" National Monuments By Surrounding Them With Potentially Damaging Oil, Gas, And Uranium Leases.** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, "To make matters worse, Zinke's actions often cut the public out of the decision making for the management of public lands. [...] He recommended shrinking national monuments and



is surrounding several with ill advised leases for oil, gas, and uranium often at bargain basement prices. ‘Ring fencing’ monuments with mineral extraction exposes them to increased environmental risks and denies them a buffer of more compatible ranching and conservation uses of adjacent lands.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

## **March 2018: The Interior Department Sold A Collection Of Leases Next To Hovenweep National Monument For Less Than \$3 An Acre, Over Pleas From The National Park Service**

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**March 2018: The Interior Department Sold A Collection Of Leases Next To Hovenweep National Monument For Less Than \$3 An Acre, Over Pleas From The National Park Service.** The New York Times reported, “Not just environmental groups are concerned. In Utah, the National Park Service, itself a division of the Interior Department, tried to stop the sale of a collection of leases next to the Hovenweep National Monument, known for its mesas, ravines and recovered ruins of prehistoric villages. Its pleas were ignored, and the department sold those parcels for as little as \$3 an acre in March.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

## **March 2018: Zinke Announced A Last-Minute Postponement Of An Oil And Gas Lease Sale For Land Near A Sacred Tribal Site In New Mexico, Following Protests From Tribal Officials And Conservationists Worried About The Harm To Cultural Artifacts**

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**March 2018: Zinke Announced A Last-Minute Postponement Of An Oil And Gas Lease Sale For Land Near A Sacred Tribal Site In New Mexico, Following Protests From Tribal Officials And Conservationists Worried About The Harm To Cultural Artifacts.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday abruptly postponed an oil and gas lease sale for parcels near Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a sacred tribal site in northwestern New Mexico, saying a detailed analysis of more than 5,000 cultural sites will be done before lots are designated for auction. The proposed lease sale, which includes 25 parcels covering 4,434 acres within New Mexico’s Rio Arriba, Sandoval and San Juan counties, has sparked an outcry from tribal officials and conservationists. They argue that drilling near a UNESCO World Heritage Site could damage prized cultural artifacts.” [Denver Post, 3/3/18]

- **Zinke Said That A More Detailed Analysis Of Nearby Cultural Sites Needed To Occur Before The Sales Went Forward.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday abruptly postponed an oil and gas lease sale for parcels near Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a sacred tribal site in northwestern New Mexico, saying a detailed analysis of more than 5,000 cultural sites will be done before lots are designated for auction. The proposed lease sale, which includes 25 parcels covering 4,434 acres within New Mexico’s Rio Arriba, Sandoval and San Juan counties, has sparked an outcry from tribal officials and conservationists. They argue that drilling near a UNESCO World Heritage Site could damage prized cultural artifacts.” [Denver Post, 3/3/18]

## **Zinke Was Slammed For Auctioning Oil And Gas Rights On 94,000 Acres Of Land Near The Dinosaur National Monument In Utah, Endangering A Key Fossil Site**

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**October 2017: Zinke’s Bureau Of Land Management Announced That It Would Auction Oil And Gas Rights For 94,000 Acres Of Land Near The Dinosaur National Monument In Utah.** The New York Times reported, “Changes loom near remote Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. It’s a rough region of 1,000-foot cliffs and canyons, two wild rivers — the Green and the Yampa — ancient rock art and archaeological evidence of 10,000 years of human history. The park, which straddles the Utah-Colorado border, affords visitors backcountry camping, white-water rafting and, most famously, spectacular dinosaur fossils. The Bureau of Land Management has announced that in December it will auction gas and oil drilling rights on 94,000 acres, or 146 square miles, of

land, some of it near the park's entrance road. Pumpjacks, drill rigs and other equipment would be visible from the park's visitor center, which is 2.5 miles from one lease parcel, according to critics. The B.L.M. has said that equipment would not intrude on the average visitor's field of view. The agency said it would take steps to minimize visibility, including light shields, noise mufflers and 'placement of exhaust systems to direct noise away from noise sensitive areas' and 'avoiding unnecessary flaring of gas.' Ozone pollution from such energy development already exceeds federal Clean Air Act limits in the monument area." [New York Times, 10/18/17]

- **New York Times: "Pumpjacks, Drill Rigs And Other Equipment Would Be Visible From The Park's Visitor Center, Which Is 2.5 Miles From One Lease Parcel, According To Critics."** The New York Times reported, "Changes loom near remote Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. It's a rough region of 1,000-foot cliffs and canyons, two wild rivers — the Green and the Yampa — ancient rock art and archaeological evidence of 10,000 years of human history. The park, which straddles the Utah-Colorado border, affords visitors backcountry camping, white-water rafting and, most famously, spectacular dinosaur fossils. The Bureau of Land Management has announced that in December it will auction gas and oil drilling rights on 94,000 acres, or 146 square miles, of land, some of it near the park's entrance road. Pumpjacks, drill rigs and other equipment would be visible from the park's visitor center, which is 2.5 miles from one lease parcel, according to critics. The B.L.M. has said that equipment would not intrude on the average visitor's field of view. The agency said it would take steps to minimize visibility, including light shields, noise mufflers and 'placement of exhaust systems to direct noise away from noise sensitive areas' and 'avoiding unnecessary flaring of gas.' Ozone pollution from such energy development already exceeds federal Clean Air Act limits in the monument area." [New York Times, 10/18/17]
- **Ozone Pollution From Similar Oil And Gas Development Near The Dinosaur National Monument Had Already Exceeded Federal Clean Air Act Limits In The Monument's Area.** The New York Times reported, "Changes loom near remote Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. It's a rough region of 1,000-foot cliffs and canyons, two wild rivers — the Green and the Yampa — ancient rock art and archaeological evidence of 10,000 years of human history. The park, which straddles the Utah-Colorado border, affords visitors backcountry camping, white-water rafting and, most famously, spectacular dinosaur fossils. The Bureau of Land Management has announced that in December it will auction gas and oil drilling rights on 94,000 acres, or 146 square miles, of land, some of it near the park's entrance road. Pumpjacks, drill rigs and other equipment would be visible from the park's visitor center, which is 2.5 miles from one lease parcel, according to critics. The B.L.M. has said that equipment would not intrude on the average visitor's field of view. The agency said it would take steps to minimize visibility, including light shields, noise mufflers and 'placement of exhaust systems to direct noise away from noise sensitive areas' and 'avoiding unnecessary flaring of gas.' Ozone pollution from such energy development already exceeds federal Clean Air Act limits in the monument area." [New York Times, 10/18/17]

**October 2017: Canadian Paleontologist Scott Sampson Had Overseen Much Of The Monument's Early Dinosaur Research And Was Worried That Opening The Area To Extraction Could Threaten The Area's Fossil Findings.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, ordered by Trump to reassess the biggest national monuments named since 1996, has proposed shrinking Grand Staircase-Escalante. Whatever area is removed would be open to coal mining, oil drilling and mineral extraction. The fossil beds here are scattered across land that also holds an estimated 62 billion tons of coal. 'My fear is that opening up the monument to energy extraction will threaten our ability to uncover the secrets that we know must still be buried in the monument,' said Scott Sampson, a Canadian paleontologist who oversaw much of the early dinosaur research in the monument. Trump, who has vowed to revive the coal industry, is tapping into Utah's longstanding resentment of federal control of public lands. The state's Republican leaders support Zinke's recommendation. They were furious at Clinton for creating the monument, which killed a proposed coal mine. Today's poor market for coal casts doubt on prospects for mining any time soon. No specific proposal has emerged publicly. Regardless, environmental groups are preparing lawsuits to thwart any attempt to curb protections of Grand Staircase-Escalante and nine other monuments, as Zinke proposed in August in a report to Trump." [Los Angeles Times, 10/27/17]



- **Sampson: “My Fear Is That Opening Up The Monument To Energy Extraction Will Threaten Our Ability To Uncover The Secrets That We Know Must Still Be Buried In The Monument.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, ordered by Trump to reassess the biggest national monuments named since 1996, has proposed shrinking Grand Staircase-Escalante. Whatever area is removed would be open to coal mining, oil drilling and mineral extraction. The fossil beds here are scattered across land that also holds an estimated 62 billion tons of coal. ‘My fear is that opening up the monument to energy extraction will threaten our ability to uncover the secrets that we know must still be buried in the monument,’ said Scott Sampson, a Canadian paleontologist who oversaw much of the early dinosaur research in the monument. Trump, who has vowed to revive the coal industry, is tapping into Utah’s longstanding resentment of federal control of public lands. The state’s Republican leaders support Zinke’s recommendation. They were furious at Clinton for creating the monument, which killed a proposed coal mine. Today’s poor market for coal casts doubt on prospects for mining any time soon. No specific proposal has emerged publicly. Regardless, environmental groups are preparing lawsuits to thwart any attempt to curb protections of Grand Staircase-Escalante and nine other monuments, as Zinke proposed in August in a report to Trump.” [Los Angeles Times, 10/27/17]

## **Zinke’s Decision To Shrink National Monuments Was Widely Condemned As The Largest Ever Reduction Of Public Land In U.S. History**

### **Zinke Was Criticized By Columnists And Reporters For The “Largest Reduction Of Public Lands” In U.S. History**

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#### ***Independent Record Columnist Jock Conyngham Called Zinke’s Boundary Reduction Proposals “The Largest Reduction Of Public Lands Ever” In Shrinking “Nearly 2 Million Acres”***

**Independent Record Columnist Jock Conyngham: “I Choked On My Coffee When I Saw Ryan Zinke’s Campaign Piece Lying About His Record On Public Lands... Zinke Has — Through His Statements, Actions, Votes And Policies — Joined The Assault On America’s Public Lands And The Strong Drive To Transfer Or Sell The Lands That Support Out Hunting, Fishing, And Outdoor Culture.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “When someone who rigs his fly rod backwards promises you that he supports our public lands, think twice. I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ The truth is that Zinke has — through his statements, actions, votes and policies — joined the assault on America’s public lands and the strong drive to transfer or sell the lands that support out hunting, fishing, and outdoor culture. Zinke seems to think that Montanans will forget his support for multiple public land giveaways in his checkered political past. Well, we haven’t. Here are a few highlights from Zinke’s real record on public lands: — As a Montana state senator, Zinke signed a pledge showing his support for transferring public lands to the states, leading inevitably to the sale of Montana’s public lands to private interests. — On Zinke’s first day in Congress, he voted to change House rules to make it easier to transfer federal public lands to the highest bidder. — At the Interior Department, Zinke oversaw the administration’s largest reduction of public lands ever by shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante by nearly 2 million acres. The management plans also included selling off hundreds of acres while prioritizing oil and gas development.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

- **Conyngham: “At The Interior Department, Zinke Oversaw The Administration’s Largest Reduction Of Public Lands Ever By Shrinking The Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante By Nearly 2 Million Acres. The Management Plans Also Included Selling Off Hundreds Of Acres While Prioritizing Oil And Gas Development.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “When someone who rigs his fly rod backwards promises you that he supports our public lands, think



twice. I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ The truth is that Zinke has — through his statements, actions, votes and policies — joined the assault on America’s public lands and the strong drive to transfer or sell the lands that support out hunting, fishing, and outdoor culture. Zinke seems to think that Montanans will forget his support for multiple public land giveaways in his checkered political past. Well, we haven’t. Here are a few highlights from Zinke’s real record on public lands: — As a Montana state senator, Zinke signed a pledge showing his support for transferring public lands to the states, leading inevitably to the sale of Montana’s public lands to private interests. — On Zinke’s first day in Congress, he voted to change House rules to make it easier to transfer federal public lands to the highest bidder. — At the Interior Department, Zinke oversaw the administration’s largest reduction of public lands ever by shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante by nearly 2 million acres. The management plans also included selling off hundreds of acres while prioritizing oil and gas development.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

- **Conyngham: “His Cozy Relationship With Oil And Gas Has Come At The Expense Of Our Public Lands. When Given The Choice, He Always Throws Our Public Lands Under The Bus.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ [...] Time and time again, his cozy relationship with oil and gas has come at the expense of our public lands. When given the choice, he always throws our public lands under the bus. He is currently under investigation for a sweetheart real estate deal backed by the chairman of Halliburton, America’s largest oil-services company — all ironed out while he was at the helm of the Interior Department. Ethics experts call this a classic conflict of interest: the one benefiting financially from an energy company also regulates that industry on behalf of the American people.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

### ***The Ravalli Republic Characterized Zinke’s Monument Reduction Proposals As The “Largest Reduction Of Federal Land Protection In U.S. History”***

**2022: Zinke Claimed To Support Public Lands, But Was Criticized While Serving As Interior Secretary For Scrapping Obama-Era Rules Related To Oil, Gas, And Mining And Implemented The Largest Reduction Of Federal Land Protection In U.S. History.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Campaign billboards in the valley tout Zinke’s support for public lands, a message he reiterated while in Hamilton. ‘I’m a big Teddy Roosevelt believer and oddly enough he was about 100 years ago,’ he said. ‘We live in the shadow of Roosevelt, because our outdoor experience in Montana comes from his labor is his legacy. So now we have that same responsibility to have the courage to look at the next 100 years and make sure the reason why we’re in Montana stays the reason why we’re in Montana.’ Zinke was often criticized for his handling of public lands during his tenure as Interior Secretary. During his time at the lead, the Department of the Interior tossed Obama-era rules related to oil, gas and mining and implemented the largest reduction of federal land protection in U.S. history.” [Ravalli Republic, 9/1/22]

- **Ravalli Republic: “In Montana, ‘Mr. Zinke Has Struck A Different Note’ On Public Lands, Halting The Sale Of Oil And Gas Leases Near Yellowstone National Park And Urging Protections For Montana’s Upper Missouri River Breaks And Badger-Two Medicine.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Zinke was often criticized for his handling of public lands during his tenure as Interior Secretary. During his time at the lead, the Department of the Interior tossed Obama-era rules related to oil, gas and mining and implemented the largest reduction of federal land protection in U.S. history. But even as the New York Times has pointed out in 2018, in Montana, ‘Mr. Zinke has struck a different note’ on public lands, halting the sale of oil and gas leases near Yellowstone National Park and urging protections for Montana’s Upper Missouri River Breaks and Badger-Two Medicine.” [Ravalli Republic, 9/1/22]

### ***The Interior Department Was Sued Three Times By Tribal Groups And Patagonia, Alleging The Shrinking Boundaries Were Illegal***



**December 2017: At Least Three Lawsuits Had Been Filed Challenging The Monument Reduction In Both The Grand Staircase And Bears Ears National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, “At least three lawsuits so far have been filed challenging the president’s decision. One lawsuit, filed in District Court in Washington, D.C., on Monday — by the Wilderness Society, Great Old Broads for Wilderness and eight other groups — is in defense of Grand Staircase. It named Mr. Trump, Mr. Zinke and Brian Steed, of the Bureau of Land Management, as defendants, saying Mr. Trump exceeded his authority under the Constitution and the Antiquities Act that established the monuments. A second suit also challenges the Grand Staircase decision, filed by paleontologists. A third lawsuit challenges the Bears Ears decision, and was filed by the five tribes who supported that monument: the Navajo, the Hopi, the Ute Mountain Ute, the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, and the Zuni. It questions Mr. Trump’s authority to use the Antiquities Act to modify or replace national monuments created by his predecessors.” [New York Times, 12/5/17]

**December 2017: A Coalition Of The Hopi, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, And Zuni Tribes And The Navajo Nation Sued To Challenge The Proposed Reductions To Bears Ears National Monument.** The Denver Post reported, “Environmental and conservation groups and a coalition of tribes filed lawsuits Monday that ensure Trump’s announcement is far from the final word in the yearslong battle over public lands in Utah and other Western states. The court cases are likely to drag on for years. A coalition of the Hopi, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute and Zuni tribes and the Navajo Nation sued late Monday to challenge the Bears Ears reduction, which cuts monument status for the rugged land in southeastern Utah by about 85 percent. Bears Ears features thousands of American Indian artifacts, including ancient cliff dwellings and petroglyphs. The tribes argue that federal law gives presidents only the ability to create a national monument, not the ability to downsize one.” [Denver Post, 12/6/17]

**December 2017: Outdoor Retailers, Including Patagonia And REI, Spoke Out Against Trump’s Plan To Reduce Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, “Patagonia, REI and other outdoor clothing and equipment retailers are speaking out against President Trump’s plan to slash the size of two national monuments in Utah by some two million acres. Mr. Trump on Monday announced that his administration would shrink Bears Ears National Monument, a region of red rock canyons, by 85 percent, and cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size. ‘The president stole your land,’ Patagonia said in a pop-up message on its website. ‘In an illegal move, the president just reduced the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history.’ Patagonia has been at the forefront of the outdoor recreation industry as the sector becomes increasingly politicized by the actions of Mr. Trump this year. On Tuesday, the company’s general counsel, Hilary Dessouky, said through a spokeswoman that the company planned to file a lawsuit on Wednesday challenging the president’s shrinking of the national monument.” [New York Times, 12/5/17]

- **December 2017 – Patagonia Pop-Up Message: “The President Stole Your Land. In An Illegal Move, The President Just Reduced The Size Of Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. This Is The Largest Elimination Of Protected Land In American History.”** The New York Times reported, “Patagonia, REI and other outdoor clothing and equipment retailers are speaking out against President Trump’s plan to slash the size of two national monuments in Utah by some two million acres. Mr. Trump on Monday announced that his administration would shrink Bears Ears National Monument, a region of red rock canyons, by 85 percent, and cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size. ‘The president stole your land,’ Patagonia said in a pop-up message on its website. ‘In an illegal move, the president just reduced the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history.’ Patagonia has been at the forefront of the outdoor recreation industry as the sector becomes increasingly politicized by the actions of Mr. Trump this year. On Tuesday, the company’s general counsel, Hilary Dessouky, said through a spokeswoman that the company planned to file a lawsuit on Wednesday challenging the president’s shrinking of the national monument.” [New York Times, 12/5/17]

**May 2018: Patagonia, The Outdoor Retailer, Sued Trump And Zinke For Their Decision To Shrink National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, “Working with a handful of local groups and the law firm Hogan

Lovells, Patagonia filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Washington. The lawsuit named as defendants Mr. Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the secretary of agriculture, the director of the Bureau of Land Management and the chief of the Forest Service. And the argument was simple: The Antiquities Act of 1906 gave presidents the power to create national monuments. But it did not grant the power to reduce them. ‘For as much authority as it gave to the president to create these monuments, Congress gave the president no authority to revoke or modify those monuments,’ the lawsuit reads. ‘Congress is the sole authority that can undertake such changes.’ Patagonia’s activism has made the company plenty of enemies over the years. Developers, the fossil fuel industry and lawmakers have all gone after the company, and this time was no exception. As Patagonia ramped up its campaign, the Trump administration hit back. Mr. Zinke and Republicans in Congress accused Patagonia of playing politics to sell more clothes, and the hashtag #BoycottPatagonia began circulating on Twitter.” [New York Times, 5/5/18]

- **Patagonia Argued That The Executive Branch Lacked The Authority Under The Antiquities Act To Shrink National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, “Working with a handful of local groups and the law firm Hogan Lovells, Patagonia filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Washington. The lawsuit named as defendants Mr. Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the secretary of agriculture, the director of the Bureau of Land Management and the chief of the Forest Service. And the argument was simple: The Antiquities Act of 1906 gave presidents the power to create national monuments. But it did not grant the power to reduce them. ‘For as much authority as it gave to the president to create these monuments, Congress gave the president no authority to revoke or modify those monuments,’ the lawsuit reads. ‘Congress is the sole authority that can undertake such changes.’ Patagonia’s activism has made the company plenty of enemies over the years. Developers, the fossil fuel industry and lawmakers have all gone after the company, and this time was no exception. As Patagonia ramped up its campaign, the Trump administration hit back. Mr. Zinke and Republicans in Congress accused Patagonia of playing politics to sell more clothes, and the hashtag #BoycottPatagonia began circulating on Twitter.” [New York Times, 5/5/18]

## **Zinke’s Proposal Was Called “A Slap In The Face” To Tribal Groups, With Whom He Met For Allegedly One Hour Despite Spending Days With Republican Politicians**

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### ***Earth Justice Attorney Heidi McIntosh Called Zinke’s Monument Review “A Slap In The Face” To Tribal Communities***

**May 2017: Environmental Law Firm Earth Justice Managing Attorney Heidi McIntosh Criticized Zinke’s Review Of Federal Monuments.** The Denver Post reported, “It also asks the department to weigh whether the designation includes ‘historic landmarks, historic or prehistoric structures (or) other objects of historic or scientific interest.’ Canyons of the Ancients, which draws about 30,000 visitors a year to the Four Corners region, includes an estimated 6,000 Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings and rock paintings. ‘It is clear that neither the president nor Zinke have a very good understanding of the Antiquities Act or the importance of the Antiquities Act in protecting places like Canyons of the Ancients,’ said Heidi McIntosh, managing attorney for the Denver office of environmental law firm Earth justice. ‘I think they will get an earful from Coloradans and people from other places about how precious these places really are.’” [Denver Post, 5/6/17]

- **McIntosh: “It Is Clear That Neither The President Nor Zinke Have A Very Good Understanding Of The Antiquities Act Or The Importance Of The Antiquities Act In Protecting Places Like Canyons Of The Ancients.”** The Denver Post reported, “It also asks the department to weigh whether the designation includes ‘historic landmarks, historic or prehistoric structures (or) other objects of historic or scientific interest.’ Canyons of the Ancients, which draws about 30,000 visitors a year to the Four Corners region, includes an estimated 6,000 Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings and rock paintings. ‘It is clear that neither the president nor Zinke have a very good understanding of the Antiquities Act or the importance of the Antiquities Act in protecting places like Canyons of the Ancients,’ said Heidi McIntosh, managing attorney for the Denver office

of environmental law firm Earth justice. ‘I think they will get an earful from Coloradans and people from other places about how precious these places really are.’” [Denver Post, 5/6/17]

**June 2017: Heidi McIntosh, A Lawyer For The Environmental Group Earthjustice, Criticized Zinke’s Recommendation To Scale Back Bears Ears National Monument As A “Slap In The Face To The Five Sovereign Tribes Who Share Sacred Ties To This Land.”** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday proposed significantly scaling back the borders of a national monument in southeastern Utah, in a legally unprecedented move that opponents say violates a century-old law signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. [...] ‘Make no mistake: Unilaterally shrinking the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument would not only be a slap in the face to the five sovereign tribes who share sacred ties to this land, it would violate both the Antiquities Act and the separation of powers doctrine,’ said Heidi McIntosh, a lawyer for the advocacy group Earthjustice. ‘The president simply lacks the authority to change a national monument designation under the Antiquities Act, our country’s century-old law that protects some of our most scenic and historic landscapes.’” [New York Times, 6/12/17]

- **McIntosh: “Unilaterally Shrinking The Boundaries [...] Would Not Only Be A Slap In The Face To The Five Sovereign Tribes Who Share Sacred Ties To This Land, It Would Violate Both The Antiquities Act And The Separation Of Powers Doctrine.”** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday proposed significantly scaling back the borders of a national monument in southeastern Utah, in a legally unprecedented move that opponents say violates a century-old law signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. [...] ‘Make no mistake: Unilaterally shrinking the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument would not only be a slap in the face to the five sovereign tribes who share sacred ties to this land, it would violate both the Antiquities Act and the separation of powers doctrine,’ said Heidi McIntosh, a lawyer for the advocacy group Earthjustice. ‘The president simply lacks the authority to change a national monument designation under the Antiquities Act, our country’s century-old law that protects some of our most scenic and historic landscapes.’” [New York Times, 6/12/17]

### ***Author Stephen Trimble Wrote In An Op-Ed That Zinke Spent “Just One Hour” With Tribal Leaders And “Several Days With” Republican Politicians***

**June 2017: Author Stephen Trimble Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For His Recommendation To Shrink Bears Ears National Monument As “One More Act Of Disrespect And Arrogance In A Story That Began In 1492.”** According to an op-ed by author Stephen Trimble in the Los Angeles Times, “Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke plans to advise President Trump to shrink Utah’s Bears Ears National Monument to a scatter of isolated sites. The secretary’s recommendation, announced last week, is one more act of disrespect and arrogance in a story that began in 1492. In December, President Obama proclaimed the Bears Ears monument, adding new protections for cultural resources on 1.35 million acres of public land in San Juan County, Utah, while preserving traditional uses for both Indians and ranchers. Native nations—especially the Hopi, Navajo, Zuni and two Ute tribes that make up the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition—led the campaign for the creation of the monument on what for them is ancestral, sacred land.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 6/19/17]

- **Trimble: “When Zinke Came To Utah In May On A ‘Listening Tour,’ He Spent Just One Hour With The Leaders Of The Inter-Tribal Coalition And Several Days With Politicians Ferociously Intent On Undoing Obama’s Legacy.”** According to an op-ed by author Stephen Trimble in the Los Angeles Times, “When Zinke came to Utah in May on a ‘listening tour,’ he spent just one hour with the leaders of the Inter-Tribal Coalition and several days with politicians ferociously intent on undoing Obama’s legacy. One of them, Utah Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, dismissed seven years of grass-roots work by Indian people, in Indian country, who gathered the data necessary to propose significant protection for Bears Ears. The tribes, the GOP senator said, were ‘manipulated’ by the ‘far left.’ ‘The Indians,’ he said, ‘they don’t fully understand that a lot of the things that they currently take for granted on those lands, they won’t be able to do.... Just take my word for it.’” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 6/19/17]



- **Trimble Criticized Zinke For Meeting With Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, Who Claimed That “The Indians... They Don’t Fully Understand That A Lot Of The Things That They Currently Take For Granted On those Lands, They Won’t Be Able To Do... Just Take My Word For It.”** According to an op-ed by author Stephen Trimble in the Los Angeles Times, “When Zinke came to Utah in May on a ‘listening tour,’ he spent just one hour with the leaders of the Inter-Tribal Coalition and several days with politicians ferociously intent on undoing Obama’s legacy. One of them, Utah Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, dismissed seven years of grass-roots work by Indian people, in Indian country, who gathered the data necessary to propose significant protection for Bears Ears. The tribes, the GOP senator said, were ‘manipulated’ by the ‘far left.’ ‘The Indians,’ he said, ‘they don’t fully understand that a lot of the things that they currently take for granted on those lands, they won’t be able to do.... Just take my word for it.’” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 6/19/17]
- **Trimble: “But The Most Important Reason To Decry Zinke’s Capitulation To Utah’s Anti-Public-Lands Politicians Is That Diminishing The Monument Would Break Yet Another Government Commitment To The Native Nations.”** According to an op-ed by author Stephen Trimble in the Los Angeles Times, “Many reasons exist to cherish and sustain Bears Ears National Monument. Until the monument designation, this was the most important unprotected archaeological district in North America. It’s an untapped treasure of recreational, paleontological and ecologic resources, and conservation biologists have clearly established the importance of preserving it as a large landscape rather than isolated parcels. But the most important reason to decry Zinke’s capitulation to Utah’s anti-public-lands politicians is that diminishing the monument would break yet another government commitment to the Native nations. The American people, Congress and the president should insist that Bears Ears remains the monument envisioned by Navajo leader Willie Grayeyes, a place for Native people ‘to be respected, to be heard and to be understood.’” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 6/19/17]

### ***Wilderness Society Acting California Director Called Zinke’s Plans An “Unprecedented Assault On Our Public Lands”***

**August 2017: Wilderness Society Acting California Director Daniel Rossman Criticized Zinke For Placing California Monuments On The List For Review Despite Never Visiting California.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Zinke’s assurance that no monuments would be eliminated was little solace to advocates who expected to get clarity on Trump’s plan Thursday. Instead, they were told no further details would be disclosed about which monuments would be downsized and how significantly. The secrecy added yet more public confusion to what has often seemed a scattershot review. Throughout it, Zinke has made a very public show of riding on horseback to inspect some lands threatened, and ignoring others altogether, despite pleas from local politicians to visit and hear them out about why changing the borders would be detrimental. ‘Despite placing six of our national monuments in the cross-hairs, he never visited California,’ said Daniel Rossman, acting California director for the Wilderness Society. ‘It is unconscionable, on this deadline for final recommendations, that Secretary Zinke continues to leave the American people in the dark.’” [Los Angeles Times, 8/25/17]

- **Rossman: “Despite Placing Six Of Our National Monuments In The Cross-Hairs, He Never Visited California. It Is Unconscionable, On This Deadline For Final Recommendations, That Secretary Zinke Continues To Leave The American People In The Dark.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Zinke’s assurance that no monuments would be eliminated was little solace to advocates who expected to get clarity on Trump’s plan Thursday. Instead, they were told no further details would be disclosed about which monuments would be downsized and how significantly. The secrecy added yet more public confusion to what has often seemed a scattershot review. Throughout it, Zinke has made a very public show of riding on horseback to inspect some lands threatened, and ignoring others altogether, despite pleas from local politicians to visit and hear them out about why changing the borders would be detrimental. ‘Despite placing six of our national monuments in the cross-hairs, he never visited California,’ said Daniel Rossman, acting California director for the Wilderness Society. ‘It is unconscionable, on this deadline for final recommendations, that Secretary Zinke continues to leave the American people in the dark.’” [Los Angeles Times, 8/25/17]





### **September 2017: Wilderness Society President Jamie Williams Criticized Zinke's Recommendations To Shrink National Monument Protections As "An Unprecedented Assault On Our Parks And Public Lands."**

The Denver Post reported, "President Donald Trump ordered a review of 27 sites earlier this year after complaining about a 'massive land grab' by Obama and other former presidents. 'It's gotten worse and worse and worse, and now we're going to free it up, which is what should have happened in the first place,' Trump said in April. National monument designations add protections for lands known for their natural beauty with the goal of preserving them for future generations. The restrictions aren't as stringent as for national parks but include limits on mining, timber cutting and recreational activities such as riding off road vehicles. No president has tried to eliminate a monument, but boundaries have been trimmed or redrawn 18 times, according to the National Park Service. Zinke's recommendations 'represent an unprecedented assault on our parks and public lands,' said Jamie Williams, president of the Wilderness Society." [Denver Post, 9/19/17]

### ***Public Comments Overwhelmingly Opposed Shrinking***

**August 2017: The Interior Department Received Over 2.4 Million Public Comments Regarding The Review Of National Monument Status, With The Majority Supporting Current Designations.** The Denver Post reported, "The order targeted designations of at least 100,000 acres made by former presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Zinke later added a monument in Maine. Trump is no fan of the 1906 Antiquities Act, declaring in April that it 'does not give the federal government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it's time that we ended this abusive practice.' But Interior's review has come up against vehement pushback. The department received more than 2.4 million public comments with an overwhelming majority supporting the current designations. Zinke recently announced he would recommend no changes for six of the monuments on the list. These are among the most vulnerable to revision, reduction or even reversal." [Denver Post, 8/23/17]

**September 2017: Over 90 Percent Of The 2.7 Million Americans Who Provided Public Comment On Zinke's Monument Review Opposed Shrinking Monument Borders.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "At stake are millions of acres of unique geological formations, rare archaeological artifacts and pristine landscapes and seascapes. Trump had complained that past presidents abused their authority to put land off-limits to development and designated ever-growing swaths of property as monuments at the behest of environmentalists. The review of the monuments undertaken by Zinke drew fury from Native American groups, conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts and political leaders. More than 90% of the 2.7 million Americans who weighed in on the monument review in written comments to the Interior Department were opposed to shrinking borders. Zinke acknowledged the intense opposition in his report to Trump, but attributed it to 'a well-orchestrated national campaign organized by multiple organizations.'" [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

### ***The New York Times Editorial Board Criticized Zinke's Monument Reduction Proposal For "Shredding What Little Is Left" Of Zinke's Environmental Reputation***

**December 2017: The New York Times Editorial Board Criticized Zinke For Revoking Nearly Two Million Acres From Federal Protection.** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, "The lawsuits have already begun, pursued not only by Native American tribes and environmental groups, but also by Patagonia, the big outdoors company. The outcome of these suits (and they will take time) will affect not only the Utah monuments but also eight others Mr. Zinke has recommended for more modest downsizing or for changes in the way they are managed. Among these are a marine monument in the Pacific that was established by Mr. Bush and added to by Mr. Obama, and another in the Atlantic, established by Mr. Obama. The order has also shredded what little is left of Mr. Zinke's reputation in the environmental community. Mr. Zinke, it will be recalled, rode a horse to work at the Interior Department on his first day on the job, in plain imitation of Teddy Roosevelt, a comparison that he has since invoked several times but that now seems ludicrous. As president, Mr. Roosevelt gave federal protection to 230 million acres (including 18 national monuments). Mr. Zinke, only 10 months into the job, is



already in negative territory to the tune of about two million acres, with more coming.” [New York Times, Editorial, 12/9/17]

- **NYT Editorial Board: “The Outcome Of These Suits (And They Will Take Time) Will Affect Not Only The Utah Monuments But Also Eight Others Mr. Zinke Has Recommended For More Modest Downsizing Or For Changes In The Way They Are Managed.”** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “The lawsuits have already begun, pursued not only by Native American tribes and environmental groups, but also by Patagonia, the big outdoors company. The outcome of these suits (and they will take time) will affect not only the Utah monuments but also eight others Mr. Zinke has recommended for more modest downsizing or for changes in the way they are managed. Among these are a marine monument in the Pacific that was established by Mr. Bush and added to by Mr. Obama, and another in the Atlantic, established by Mr. Obama. The order has also shredded what little is left of Mr. Zinke’s reputation in the environmental community. Mr. Zinke, it will be recalled, rode a horse to work at the Interior Department on his first day on the job, in plain imitation of Teddy Roosevelt, a comparison that he has since invoked several times but that now seems ludicrous. As president, Mr. Roosevelt gave federal protection to 230 million acres (including 18 national monuments). Mr. Zinke, only 10 months into the job, is already in negative territory to the tune of about two million acres, with more coming.” [New York Times, Editorial, 12/9/17]
- **NYT Editorial Board: “The Order Has Also Shredded What Little Is Left Of Mr. Zinke’s Reputation In The Environmental Community. Mr. Zinke, It Will Be Recalled, Rode A Horse To Work At The Interior Department On His First Day On The Job, In Plain Imitation Of Teddy Roosevelt, A Comparison That He Has Since Invoked Several Times But That Now Seems Ludicrous.”** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “The lawsuits have already begun, pursued not only by Native American tribes and environmental groups, but also by Patagonia, the big outdoors company. The outcome of these suits (and they will take time) will affect not only the Utah monuments but also eight others Mr. Zinke has recommended for more modest downsizing or for changes in the way they are managed. Among these are a marine monument in the Pacific that was established by Mr. Bush and added to by Mr. Obama, and another in the Atlantic, established by Mr. Obama. The order has also shredded what little is left of Mr. Zinke’s reputation in the environmental community. Mr. Zinke, it will be recalled, rode a horse to work at the Interior Department on his first day on the job, in plain imitation of Teddy Roosevelt, a comparison that he has since invoked several times but that now seems ludicrous. As president, Mr. Roosevelt gave federal protection to 230 million acres (including 18 national monuments). Mr. Zinke, only 10 months into the job, is already in negative territory to the tune of about two million acres, with more coming.” [New York Times, Editorial, 12/9/17]
- **NYT Editorial Board: “As President, Mr. Roosevelt Gave Federal Protection To 230 Million Acres (Including 18 National Monuments). Mr. Zinke, Only 10 Months Into The Job, Is Already In Negative Territory To The Tune Of About Two Million Acres, With More Coming.”** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “The lawsuits have already begun, pursued not only by Native American tribes and environmental groups, but also by Patagonia, the big outdoors company. The outcome of these suits (and they will take time) will affect not only the Utah monuments but also eight others Mr. Zinke has recommended for more modest downsizing or for changes in the way they are managed. Among these are a marine monument in the Pacific that was established by Mr. Bush and added to by Mr. Obama, and another in the Atlantic, established by Mr. Obama. The order has also shredded what little is left of Mr. Zinke’s reputation in the environmental community. Mr. Zinke, it will be recalled, rode a horse to work at the Interior Department on his first day on the job, in plain imitation of Teddy Roosevelt, a comparison that he has since invoked several times but that now seems ludicrous. As president, Mr. Roosevelt gave federal protection to 230 million acres (including 18 national monuments). Mr. Zinke, only 10 months into the job, is already in negative territory to the tune of about two million acres, with more coming.” [New York Times, Editorial, 12/9/17]

***NYT Opinion Columnist Timothy Egan Said Zinke Was “Upending A Century Of Bipartisan Values” In His Quest To Shrink Monuments***

**January 2018: New York Times Opinion Columnist Timothy Egan Criticized Zinke For “Upending A Century Of Bipartisan Values” Toward Conservation For A “Trumpian Culture War.”** According to NYT opinion columnist Timothy Egan, reported, “Last month, the secretary attacked Patagonia, the outdoor retailer, after it protested the largest rollback of public land protection in our history with a website home page of a black screen and stark message: ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ It is your land, all 400 million acres of it, though you wouldn’t know by the way the Trump administration has ceded control to the private predators from the oil, gas, coal and uranium industries. It is also your water, the near entirety of the outer continental shelf that Trump is opening to extractive drilling. Almost a dozen states have protested. The waters off the coast of Mar-a-Lago, in Florida, were given an exemption after Zinke met with the governor, who said drilling was bad for tourism. Your public servant at work. Zinke is upending a century of bipartisan values as part of a Trumpian culture war. When asked why the president shrank national monuments in the Southwest by two million acres, Zinke said it was a way to strike back against ‘an elitist sort of hunter and fisherman.’ Huh?” [New York Times, Column, 1/19/18]

- **Egan: “It Is Your Land, All 400 Million Acres Of It, Though You Wouldn’t Know By The Way The Trump Administration Has Ceded Control To The Private Predators From The Oil, Gas, Coal And Uranium Industries. It Is Also Your Water, The Near Entirety Of The Outer Continental Shelf That Trump Is Opening To Extractive Drilling”** According to NYT opinion columnist Timothy Egan, reported, “Last month, the secretary attacked Patagonia, the outdoor retailer, after it protested the largest rollback of public land protection in our history with a website home page of a black screen and stark message: ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ It is your land, all 400 million acres of it, though you wouldn’t know by the way the Trump administration has ceded control to the private predators from the oil, gas, coal and uranium industries. It is also your water, the near entirety of the outer continental shelf that Trump is opening to extractive drilling. Almost a dozen states have protested. The waters off the coast of Mar-a-Lago, in Florida, were given an exemption after Zinke met with the governor, who said drilling was bad for tourism. Your public servant at work. Zinke is upending a century of bipartisan values as part of a Trumpian culture war. When asked why the president shrank national monuments in the Southwest by two million acres, Zinke said it was a way to strike back against ‘an elitist sort of hunter and fisherman.’ Huh?” [New York Times, Column, 1/19/18]
- **Egan: “When Asked Why The President Shrank National Monuments In The Southwest By Two Million Acres, Zinke Said It Was A Way To Strike Back Against ‘An Elitist Sort Of Hunter And Fisherman.’ Huh?”** According to NYT opinion columnist Timothy Egan, reported, “Last month, the secretary attacked Patagonia, the outdoor retailer, after it protested the largest rollback of public land protection in our history with a website home page of a black screen and stark message: ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ It is your land, all 400 million acres of it, though you wouldn’t know by the way the Trump administration has ceded control to the private predators from the oil, gas, coal and uranium industries. It is also your water, the near entirety of the outer continental shelf that Trump is opening to extractive drilling. Almost a dozen states have protested. The waters off the coast of Mar-a-Lago, in Florida, were given an exemption after Zinke met with the governor, who said drilling was bad for tourism. Your public servant at work. Zinke is upending a century of bipartisan values as part of a Trumpian culture war. When asked why the president shrank national monuments in the Southwest by two million acres, Zinke said it was a way to strike back against ‘an elitist sort of hunter and fisherman.’ Huh?” [New York Times, Column, 1/19/18]

## **Zinke's Tenure As Interior Secretary Was A Disaster For National Parks, Drawing Widespread Condemnation And Putting Yellowstone At Risk**

### **2017: Zinke Proposed More Than Doubling The Entrance Fees At The Busiest National Parks As Interior Secretary**

#### **October 2017: Zinke Proposed Increasing The Peak Season Gate Fee At The 17 Busiest National Parks From \$30 To \$70 And Eliminating The \$20 Daily Pass**

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**October 2017: Zinke Announced An Increased Peak Season Gate Fee At The 17 Busiest National Parks From \$30 To \$70.** The Denver Post reported, "A year after celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with record crowds, the National Park Service is proposing steep increases in entry fees, more than doubling the peak season gate fee to \$70 at Rocky Mountain National Park and the 16 other busiest parks. The 'targeted fee increases' are intended to fund overdue improvements to aging infrastructure, including park roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, restrooms and visitor centers, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a statement announcing the proposal. 'We need to have the vision to look at the future of our parks and take action in order to ensure that our grandkids' grandkids will have the same if not better experience than we have today,' Zinke said. 'Shoring up our parks' aging infrastructure will do that. 'Rocky Mountain National Park two years ago raised the cost of its weekly vehicle pass to \$30 from \$20. On Jan. 1, the park raised the annual pass fee to \$60 from \$50 but kept its weekly vehicle pass at \$30.'" [Denver Post, 10/25/17]

- **Zinke's Plan Would Have Eliminated The \$20 Daily Pass, Which Was A Cost Effective Option For People On Day Trips.** According to an op-ed in the Denver Post, "Last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced plans to increase fees at 17 national parks, mostly in the West. The list included Rocky Mountain National Park, right in Denver's backyard. Rates would have more than doubled to \$70 for cars during peak season. Bikers, pedestrians and motorcyclists also would have seen increases this year. At Rocky Mountain, a weekly vehicle pass costs \$30 during the peak season of June to October. Jumping to \$70, then, is a significant increase. The plan also would have eliminated the \$20 daily pass, a cost effective option for day trippers." [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 4/6/18]

#### **Zinke's Move Was Slammed By The Center For Western Priorities' Spokesperson As "A Move To Make America's Most Popular National Parks Less Accessible To Middle And Lower Income Families"**

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**November 2017: The Center For Western Priorities' Aaron Weiss Criticized Zinke For Raising National Park Entrance Fees To Address A Maintenance Backlog.** The Denver Post reported, "The push to raise fees 16 of the 17 parks already raised entrance prices in 2015 after several months of public review is part of an effort to address \$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance. The Park Service estimates the fee increase could raise \$70 million a year for those delayed projects. Some park advocates argue that the extra large figure for deferred work is blown out of proportion to support a push for more fees and park concessionaires and, ultimately, more private control of public lands. The Park Service's 2015 inventory of assets showed that about \$2 billion of that deferred maintenance was 'critical or serious' and 'located in critical asset components.' And about half of the deferred maintenance (\$5.97 billion) was for paved roads, which are typically addressed in federal infrastructure funding bills. 'This is not a solution to the parks maintenance backlog, and it's laughable for (Interior Secretary Ryan) Zinke to pretend the fee hike would even make a dent in it,' said Aaron Weiss, who is with the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, noting that \$70 million a year would take 170 years to fill the



maintenance backlog. ‘This is simply a move to make America’s most popular national parks less accessible to middle and lower income families.’” [Denver Post, 11/4/17]

- **Weiss: “This Is Not A Solution To The Parks Maintenance Backlog, And It’s Laughable For Zinke To Pretend The Fee Hike Would Even Make A Dent In It... This Is Simply A Move To Make America’s Most Popular National Parks Less Accessible To Middle And Lower Income Families.”** The Denver Post reported, “The push to raise fees 16 of the 17 parks already raised entrance prices in 2015 after several months of public review is part of an effort to address \$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance. The Park Service estimates the fee increase could raise \$70 million a year for those delayed projects. Some park advocates argue that the extra large figure for deferred work is blown out of proportion to support a push for more fees and park concessionaires and, ultimately, more private control of public lands. The Park Service’s 2015 inventory of assets showed that about \$2 billion of that deferred maintenance was ‘critical or serious’ and ‘located in critical asset components.’ And about half of the deferred maintenance (\$5.97 billion) was for paved roads, which are typically addressed in federal infrastructure funding bills. ‘This is not a solution to the parks maintenance backlog, and it’s laughable for (Interior Secretary Ryan) Zinke to pretend the fee hike would even make a dent in it,’ said Aaron Weiss, who is with the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, noting that \$70 million a year would take 170 years to fill the maintenance backlog. ‘This is simply a move to make America’s most popular national parks less accessible to middle and lower income families.’” [Denver Post, 11/4/17]

## **The Interior Department Retracted The Proposal Following Public Backlash**

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**2017: Zinke Announced Plans To Increase Fees At 17 National Parks, Including More Than Doubling The Rate For Cars At Rocky Mountain National Park.** According to an op-ed in the Denver Post, “Last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced plans to increase fees at 17 national parks, mostly in the West. The list included Rocky Mountain National Park, right in Denver’s backyard. Rates would have more than doubled to \$70 for cars during peak season. Bikers, pedestrians and motorcyclists also would have seen increases this year. At Rocky Mountain, a weekly vehicle pass costs \$30 during the peak season of June to October. Jumping to \$70, then, is a significant increase. The plan also would have eliminated the \$20 daily pass, a cost effective option for day trippers.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 4/6/18]

- **The Department Retracted The Proposal In Response To Public Backlash.** According to an op-ed in the Denver Post, “Last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced plans to increase fees at 17 national parks, mostly in the West. The list included Rocky Mountain National Park, right in Denver’s backyard. [...] Happily, Americans reacted strongly against the changes in their written comments, and the Interior Department backpedaled.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 4/6/18]

**2018: The Interior Department Raised Fees At Glacier And Yellowstone National Parks In Montana From \$30 To \$35 Per Vehicle After Retracting Its Plan To Raise Fees To \$70.** The Montana Public Radio reported, “The Interior Department is increasing fees at 17 popular national parks, including Glacier and Yellowstone, to \$35 per vehicle, backing down from an earlier plan that would have forced visitors to pay \$70 per vehicle. A plan announced today sets a \$5 increase across most entrance fees for iconic parks such as Yellowstone, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Mount Rainier and Grand Teton parks, among others. The rates will take effect beginning this June. Entrance fees at Glacier and Yellowstone will jump from \$30 to \$35 per vehicle and \$15 to \$20 per person. The original plan of \$70 per vehicle drew widespread opposition from lawmakers and governors of both parties, who said the higher fees could exclude many Americans from enjoying national parks. The agency received more than 109,000 comments on the plan, most of them opposed.” [Montana Public Radio, [4/12/18](#)]

**2018: The Majority Of The National Parks System Advisory Board Resigned To Protest Zinke’s Handling Of National Parks Shortly After**



## **It Was Reported That The Interior Department Would Lease Land Near Yellowstone For Oil And Gas Drilling**

### **January 2018: The Interior Department Was Scheduled To Hold Auctions For Oil And Gas Permits Near Yellowstone National Park In Montana In March 2018**

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**January 2018: The Interior Department Was Scheduled To Hold Auctions For Oil And Gas Permits Near Yellowstone National Park In Montana And Near Canyonlands National Park In Utah In March 2018.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Environmental groups are alarmed by how close the administration’s leasing program is to sensitive areas across the West. Auctions scheduled for March will seek bids for sensitive public lands in Montana near Yellowstone National Park, and in Utah close to Canyonlands National Park. But in those regions, as here in northeast Nevada, it is far from clear how much interest an auction will generate. Why? In Nevada’s Ruby Mountains, where a lease auction is proposed, geological surveys ‘show there is low to no potential for oil,’ said Jenna Padilla, the geologist for the Humboldt-Toiyabe Ruby Mountains ranger district. Roughly 32 million acres of federal land are under lease across the West and Alaska, according to the Interior Department. Over 100,000 wells have been drilled, producing 166 million barrels of oil annually (less than 5% of U.S. production) and 3.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas—about 11% of U.S. annual production, according to the Energy Information Administration, an Energy Department statistics unit.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/8/18]

### **January 2018: The Majority Of The National Parks System Advisory Board Jointly Resigned To Protest The Zinke’s Management Of National Parks**

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**January 2018: The Majority Of The National Parks System Advisory Board Jointly Resigned To Protest The Trump Administration’s Management Of National Parks.** The New York Times reported, “The majority of members of the National Parks System Advisory Board, which advises the federal government on management of the country’s national parks, have jointly resigned to protest Trump administration policies that the board members say have ignored science, squelched efforts to address climate change and undermined environmental protections. The advisory board was established in 1935 to advise the secretary of the interior, who oversees management of the country’s national parks and monuments. Since taking office last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has come under criticism from environmental advocates for promoting President Trump’s agenda of opening up the nation’s public lands and waters to fossil-fuel exploration, and for reducing the protection of public monuments.” [New York Times, 1/16/18]

- **Resigning National Parks System Advisory Board President Tony Knowles: “From All Of The Events Of This Past Year I Have A Profound Concern That The Mission Of Stewardship, Protection, And Advancement Of Our National Parks Has Been Set Aside.”** The New York Times reported, “This month Mr. Zinke announced a plan to open up the majority of the nation’s coastlines to offshore drilling. And in December, the administration reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, by some two million acres, the largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation’s history. ‘From all of the events of this past year I have a profound concern that the mission of stewardship, protection, and advancement of our National Parks has been set aside,’ wrote Tony Knowles, the head of the advisory board, in a resignation letter dated Monday that was co-signed by eight other members of the 12-member panel. The Washington Post first reported the letter. ‘We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned,’ Mr. Knowles said in an interview. Mr. Zinke, he said, ‘appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem.’” [New York Times, 1/16/18]

- **Knowles: “We Resigned Because We Were Deeply Disappointed With The Department And We Were Concerned... [Zinke] Appears To Have No Interest In Continuing The Agenda Of Science, The Effect Of Climate Change, Pursuing The Protection Of The Ecosystem.”** The New York Times reported, “This month Mr. Zinke announced a plan to open up the majority of the nation’s coastlines to offshore drilling. And in December, the administration reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, by some two million acres, the largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation’s history. ‘From all of the events of this past year I have a profound concern that the mission of stewardship, protection, and advancement of our National Parks has been set aside,’ wrote Tony Knowles, the head of the advisory board, in a resignation letter dated Monday that was co-signed by eight other members of the 12-member panel. The Washington Post first reported the letter. ‘We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned,’ Mr. Knowles said in an interview. Mr. Zinke, he said, ‘appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem.’” [New York Times, 1/16/18]

## **Following The Resignations, Multiple Nonprofits Criticized Zinke’s Management Of National Parks**

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### ***January 2018: Coalition To Protect America’s National Parks Chairman Phil Francis Criticized Zinke For “Discourteous And Disrespectful Treatment Of The Board... Consistent With A Decidedly Anti-Park Pattern Demonstrated By Secretary Zinke’s Department”***

**January 2018: Coalition To Protect America’s National Parks Chairman Phil Francis Criticized Zinke’s Treatment Of National Parks Board Members As “Discourteous And Disrespectful.”** The New York Times reported, “‘We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned,’ Mr. Knowles said in an interview. Mr. Zinke, he said, ‘appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem.’ Mr. Knowles said that Mr. Zinke has refused to meet with his board during his tenure. Phil Francis, chairman of the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, an advocacy group of current and former national park employees, said Tuesday evening, ‘This discourteous and disrespectful treatment of the Board is inexcusable and, unfortunately, consistent with a decidedly anti-park pattern demonstrated by Secretary Zinke’s department.’ An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to an emailed request for comment. Mr. Zinke has sought to portray himself as a champion of national parks and has compared himself to Theodore Roosevelt, the founder of the national parks system.” [New York Times, 1/16/18]

- **Francis: “This Discourteous And Disrespectful Treatment Of The Board Is Inexcusable And, Unfortunately, Consistent With A Decidedly Anti-Park Pattern Demonstrated By Secretary Zinke’s Department.”** The New York Times reported, “‘We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned,’ Mr. Knowles said in an interview. Mr. Zinke, he said, ‘appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem.’ Mr. Knowles said that Mr. Zinke has refused to meet with his board during his tenure. Phil Francis, chairman of the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, an advocacy group of current and former national park employees, said Tuesday evening, ‘This discourteous and disrespectful treatment of the Board is inexcusable and, unfortunately, consistent with a decidedly anti-park pattern demonstrated by Secretary Zinke’s department.’ An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to an emailed request for comment. Mr. Zinke has sought to portray himself as a champion of national parks and has compared himself to Theodore Roosevelt, the founder of the national parks system.” [New York Times, 1/16/18]



## ***January 2018: Following The Mass Resignation Of The National Parks Advisory Board, Center For Western Priorities Spokesman Aaron Weiss Criticized Zinke For Listening To “Oil And Gas And Uranium Companies... The Resignations On Monday Are Just Par For The Course”***

**January 2018: Following The Mass Resignation Of The National Parks Advisory Board, Center For Western Priorities Spokesman Aaron Weiss Criticized Zinke For Listening To “Oil And Gas And Uranium Companies.”** The Denver Post reported, “‘It is patently false to say the department had not engaged the board when as recently as Jan. 8, we were working with the board to renew their charter, schedule a meeting, and fill vacancies,’ Willens said in a statement issued Wednesday, noting that the department would be filling the vacancies ‘with people who are actually dedicated to working with the department to better our national parks.’ Willens said the resignations of some of the advisory board members’ were a ‘hollow and dishonest political stunt.’ The marginalization of yet another on the ground advisory group is fueling the fight against Zinke, who is facing mounting criticism for shrinking national monuments in Utah and collaborating with businesses that want to operate on public lands. ‘Secretary Zinke has made it clear who he is listening to and that is oil and gas and uranium companies. Everything he has done has been through that lens,’ said Aaron Weiss, a spokesman for the Center for Western Priorities. ‘The resignations on Monday are just par for the course. It’s just amateur hour over there.’” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

- **Weiss: “Secretary Zinke Has Made It Clear Who He Is Listening To And That Is Oil And Gas And Uranium Companies. Everything He Has Done Has Been Through That Lens. The Resignations On Monday Are Just Par For The Course. It’s Just Amateur Hour Over There.”** The Denver Post reported, “‘It is patently false to say the department had not engaged the board when as recently as Jan. 8, we were working with the board to renew their charter, schedule a meeting, and fill vacancies,’ Willens said in a statement issued Wednesday, noting that the department would be filling the vacancies ‘with people who are actually dedicated to working with the department to better our national parks.’ Willens said the resignations of some of the advisory board members’ were a ‘hollow and dishonest political stunt.’ The marginalization of yet another on the ground advisory group is fueling the fight against Zinke, who is facing mounting criticism for shrinking national monuments in Utah and collaborating with businesses that want to operate on public lands. ‘Secretary Zinke has made it clear who he is listening to and that is oil and gas and uranium companies. Everything he has done has been through that lens,’ said Aaron Weiss, a spokesman for the Center for Western Priorities. ‘The resignations on Monday are just par for the course. It’s just amateur hour over there.’” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

## **October 2016: The National Parks Action Fund, An Arm Of The National Parks Conservation Association, Issued Zinke An “F” Rating Based On His Votes**

**October 2016: The National Parks Action Fund, An Arm Of The National Parks Conservation Association, Issued Zinke An “F” Rating Based On His Votes.** According to Hungry Horse News, “A national parks advocacy group has given failing grades to Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke and Steve Daines for their votes over the past year on Park Service related issues. The National Parks Action Fund, a non profit lobbying arm of the National Parks Conservation Association, graded lawmakers on what it said were votes on bills or amendments that ‘would directly impact national parks, their visitors, wildlife and/or other natural resources.’ The report graded House members on 11 votes in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, which included bills that would prevent mining runoff from entering national parks, would limit the creation of new national monuments, would cut park funding and several other measures. Montana Congressmen Ryan Zinke received a grade of ‘F’ on his votes, the group charged. Zinke did, however, vote against a decrease in Park Service funding, the group noted.” [Hungry Horse News, 10/10/16]

# **Section 2: Zinke Is A Far- Right Extremist**

## Zinke Supported Banning Abortion Nationally And Allowing States To Ban Abortion With No Exceptions, Calling Himself “Adamantly Unambiguous” In His Pro-Life Views

### Zinke Repeatedly Indicated Through His Public Statements That He Was Pro-Life And Supported Banning Abortion

#### 2008: Zinke Indicated On A Questionnaire That He Believed Abortion Should Only Be Legal Within The First 12 Weeks Of Pregnancy

2008: Zinke Indicated On A Questionnaire That He Believed Abortion Should Only Be Legal Within The First 12 Weeks Of Pregnancy. [Project VoteSmart, Ryan Zinke, accessed [7/15/24](#)]

### Montana State Legislative Election 2008 Political Courage Test

[Project VoteSmart, Ryan Zinke, accessed [7/15/24](#)]

**Abortion Issues**

Indicate which principles you support (if any) regarding abortion.

- a) Abortions should always be illegal.
- b) Abortions should always be legal.
- X  c) Abortions should be legal only within the first trimester of pregnancy.
- X  d) Abortions should be legal when the pregnancy resulted from incest or rape.
- X  e) Abortions should be legal when the life of the woman is endangered.
- f) Abortions should be subject to a mandatory waiting period.
- g) Require clinics to give parental notification before performing abortions on minors.

I am pro-life, but believe that the difficult decision to Abort a child is the providence of God and family, not government. I support streamlining the adoption process to healthy and qualified homes. I further support parental notification.

[Project VoteSmart, Ryan Zinke, accessed [7/15/24](#)]

#### Zinke Praised The Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe V. Wade, Which Enabled States To Ban Abortion With No Exceptions

2022: Zinke Commended The Supreme Court’s Draft Opinion Overturning Roe V. Wade, Writing, “I Applaud The Court’s Decision And Agree There Is No Constitutional Right To Murder An Unborn Child.”





The Billings Gazette reported, “In his 2014 run for Congress Zinke’s record on abortion became a campaign issue during the Republican Primary when his opponents highlighted the 2009 votes. Zinke pushed back and received an endorsement from Montana Right to Life and continued to see 100% ratings from groups such as the National Right to Life Committee as a congressman. Zinke is again defending his record on abortion in this primary. A February letter sent to supporters calls the attacks ‘attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s pro-life record,’ and says he is ‘a committed pro-life conservative.’ Zinke pointed to his rating from National Right to Life in an interview and commended the Supreme Court’s draft opinion, while also denouncing the leak. ‘I applaud the court’s decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child,’ Zinke said on social media.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

**2022: Zinke Agreed With The Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe V. Wade.** The Billings Gazette reported, “While he agrees with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down Roe v. Wade, Zinke has a more moderate position than some in the GOP now seeking a national abortion ban. He supports exceptions in the case of rape, incest, fatal fetal abnormality and to protect the life of the mother. He also says birth control should be available over the counter. ‘You can’t legislate all circumstances, and some women have to face very, very difficult circumstances,’ he said in a recent interview in Bozeman. ‘(Abortion) should be rare and by exception rather than routine.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/16/22]

**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 Touted Himself As Being “Adamantly Unambiguous[ly]... Pro-Life”**

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**Zinke: “There’s All Sorts Of Things, But I’m Adamantly Unambiguous In I’m Pro-Life, But I Think A Ban Is Too Harsh Because It Doesn’t Include Dire Circumstances You Cannot Legislate.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “When asked about his policy pre-20 versus post-20 weeks gestational age, Zinke says he must see legislation. ‘So the heart of the matter, would I support a bill with further restrictions? I would have to see the bill because the bill also has to include access to birth control, alternatives, because if you’re going to say you have to have a child, then what’s the alternative? Are you going to support that child? Is there access to education? There’s all sorts of things, but I’m adamantly unambiguous in I’m pro-life, but I think a ban is too harsh because it doesn’t include dire circumstances you cannot legislate,’ he told the Montana State News Bureau.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

**2022: During A Debate, Zinke Said He Was “Pro-Life” When Asked About The Overturning Of Roe V. Wade, Adding, “Life Is Not Perfect, Is It?... Wouldn’t It Be Nice If We Didn’t Have Any Unwanted Pregnancy? Really Nice If There Wasn’t Incest, Rape, Issues Of Health Of The Mother Or Child? Wouldn’t It Be Nice? But That’s Not True, Is It? Well, I Think A Ban Is Too Harsh.”** The Billings Gazette reported,

“The first question submitted from the audience went straight to the issue of abortion access following the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* earlier this summer. Zinke told the crowd he’s ‘pro-life,’ but said the issue for him was complex. ‘Life is not perfect, is it?’ Zinke said. ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if we didn’t have any unwanted pregnancy? Really nice if there wasn’t incest, rape, issues of health of the mother or child? Wouldn’t it be nice? But that’s not true, is it? Well, I think a ban is too harsh.’ In the past, Zinke has voted to limit abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for the life of the mother. Tranel said she would vote for ‘women’s rights to live life on our own terms and to be able to choose how, when and whether we become parents.’” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

- **Zinke Had Previously Voted To Ban Abortion After 20 Weeks Of Pregnancy, With An Exception For The Life Of The Mother.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The first question submitted from the audience went straight to the issue of abortion access following the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* earlier this summer. Zinke told the crowd he’s ‘pro-life,’ but said the issue for him was complex. ‘Life is not perfect, is it?’ Zinke said. ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if we didn’t have any unwanted pregnancy? Really nice if there wasn’t incest, rape, issues of health of the mother or child? Wouldn’t it be nice? But that’s not true, is it? Well, I think a ban is too harsh.’ In the past, Zinke has voted to limit abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for the life of the mother. Tranel said she would vote for ‘women’s rights to live life on our own terms and to be able to choose how, when and whether we become parents.’” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

**2022: Zinke Said He Was “Pro-Life And Proud Of It,” That He Believed “Banning Was Too Harsh,” And That He Supported Letting States Decide On Abortion.** The Independent Record reported, “In light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down *Roe v. Wade*, candidates were asked about at what point, if any, abortion should be legal. Zinke said he is ‘pro-life and proud of it,’ but that life is not always perfect. He also believed the decision to be a states-rights issue. ‘So I’ve always believed that banning is too harsh’ he said, going on to accuse Tranel of supporting the right to an abortion up to full term.” [Independent Record, 9/29/22]

**2022: Zinke’s Campaign Sent A Letter To Supporters Criticizing “Attempts To Smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s Pro-Life Record” And Which Called Zinke A “Committed Pro-Life Conservative.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In his 2014 run for Congress Zinke’s record on abortion became a campaign issue during the Republican Primary when his opponents highlighted the 2009 votes. Zinke pushed back and received an endorsement from Montana Right to Life and continued to see 100% ratings from groups such as the National Right to Life Committee as a congressman. Zinke is again defending his record on abortion in this primary. A February letter sent to supporters calls the attacks ‘attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s pro-life record,’ and says he is ‘a committed pro-life conservative.’ Zinke pointed to his rating from National Right to Life in an interview and commended the Supreme Court’s draft opinion, while also denouncing the leak. ‘I applaud the court’s decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child,’ Zinke said on social media.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

## **Zinke Said He Could Be Open To Banning Abortion Prior To 20 Weeks**

**When Asked About His Vote For A 20-Week Abortion Ban, Zinke Said, “Would I Support A Bill With Further Restrictions? I Would Have To See The Bill Because The Bill Also Has To Include Access To Birth Control, Alternatives, Because If You’re Going To Say You Have To Have A Child, Then What’s The Alternative? Are You Going To Support That Child? Is There Access To Education?”** The Billings Gazette reported, “When asked about his policy pre-20 versus post-20 weeks gestational age, Zinke says he must see legislation. ‘So the heart of the matter, would I support a bill with further restrictions? I would have to see the bill because the bill also has to include access to birth control, alternatives, because if you’re going to say you have to have a child, then what’s the alternative? Are you going to support that child? Is there access to education? There’s all sorts of things, but I’m adamantly unambiguous in I’m pro-life, but I think a ban is too harsh because it doesn’t include dire circumstances you cannot legislate,’ he told the Montana State News Bureau.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

## Zinke Claimed He Supported Rape, Incest, And Life Of The Woman Exceptions

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**Billings Gazette: “Zinke, However, Has Consistently Said During His Campaign That He Favors Exceptions For Allowing Abortion Such As Pregnancy Due To Rape Or To Save The Life Of The Mother. Any Such Legislation Should Also Include Easing Access To Birth Control, He Says, With His Support For Any Potential Legislation Hinging On Those Provisions.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In a recent television ad, Tranel criticizes Zinke over abortion, saying he supports banning abortion with no exceptions and that while in Congress she would protect people’s rights to make their own decisions. Zinke, however, has consistently said during his campaign that he favors exceptions for allowing abortion such as pregnancy due to rape or to save the life of the mother. Any such legislation should also include easing access to birth control, he says, with his support for any potential legislation hinging on those provisions.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

- **Billings Gazette: “In A Recent Television Ad, Tranel Criticizes Zinke Over Abortion, Saying He Supports Banning Abortion With No Exceptions.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In a recent television ad, Tranel criticizes Zinke over abortion, saying he supports banning abortion with no exceptions and that while in Congress she would protect people’s rights to make their own decisions. Zinke, however, has consistently said during his campaign that he favors exceptions for allowing abortion such as pregnancy due to rape or to save the life of the mother. Any such legislation should also include easing access to birth control, he says, with his support for any potential legislation hinging on those provisions.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]
- **Billings Gazette: “Over The Summer, Montana’s Republican Party Voted To Add To Their Platform Support Of A Ban Without Exceptions In The State.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke, however, has consistently said during his campaign that he favors exceptions for allowing abortion such as pregnancy due to rape or to save the life of the mother. Any such legislation should also include easing access to birth control, he says, with his support for any potential legislation hinging on those provisions. That comes as a more moderate stance than some in the GOP who have drafted a bill for a national abortion ban following the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, which had protected access to pre-viability abortion. While Congress could step in to either federally codify abortion access or impose further restrictions, the decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization puts abortion in the hands of state Legislatures, with some Republican-led states invoking total bans. Over the summer, Montana’s Republican Party voted to add to their platform support of a ban without exceptions in the state.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

**2022: During A Debate, Zinke Said He Was “Pro-Life” When Asked About The Overturning Of Roe V. Wade, Adding, “Life Is Not Perfect, Is It?... Wouldn’t It Be Nice If We Didn’t Have Any Unwanted Pregnancy? Really Nice If There Wasn’t Incest, Rape, Issues Of Health Of The Mother Or Child? Wouldn’t It Be Nice? But That’s Not True, Is It? Well, I Think A Ban Is Too Harsh.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “The first question submitted from the audience went straight to the issue of abortion access following the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade earlier this summer. Zinke told the crowd he’s ‘pro-life,’ but said the issue for him was complex. ‘Life is not perfect, is it?’ Zinke said. ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if we didn’t have any unwanted pregnancy? Really nice if there wasn’t incest, rape, issues of health of the mother or child? Wouldn’t it be nice? But that’s not true, is it? Well, I think a ban is too harsh.’ In the past, Zinke has voted to limit abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for the life of the mother. Tranel said she would vote for ‘women’s rights to live life on our own terms and to be able to choose how, when and whether we become parents.’” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

**During The Debate, Zinke’s Democratic Opponent Tied Him To Republicans Who Supported More Expansive Abortion Bans, Though Zinke Reiterated That He Supported Rape And Incest Exceptions And Claimed He Would Not Support A Full Ban Without Exceptions.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Though Zinke said he wouldn’t back a full ban without exceptions, Tranel still attacked him over stances Republicans nationally have staked out to ban abortion in all cases. She pointed to recent reporting about how confusion over what’s legal in states that ban abortion with carve-outs for a woman’s health has led to doctors delaying care. Zinke reiterated he



felt a ban was too harsh in the case of rape and incest and said it was a woman's 'right to make sure she saves herself on these medical conditions.'" [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

**2022: Zinke Said He Thought "A Ban Is Too Harsh Because It Doesn't Take Into Account Dire Circumstances... 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."** 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]

## **Zinke Had A Strongly Anti-Abortion Legislative Record**

### **Zinke Co-Sponsored Anti-Abortion Legislation, Including A National Ban**

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#### ***January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 36, A Bill Prohibiting Abortion From Being Performed After 20 Weeks Except Where Necessary To Save The Life Of The Woman Or In The Case Of Rape Or Incest***

##### **January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 36, A Bill Prohibiting Abortion From Being Performed After 20 Weeks Except Where Necessary To Save The Life Of The Woman Or In The Case Of Rape Or Incest.**

According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 36, a bill that "Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit any person from performing or attempting to perform an abortion except in conformity with this Act's requirements. Requires the physician to first determine the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child, or reasonably rely upon such a determination made by another physician, by making inquiries of the pregnant woman and performing such medical examinations and tests as a reasonably prudent physician would consider necessary. Prohibits an abortion from being performed if the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child is 20 weeks or greater, except: (1) where necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, or injury, excluding psychological or emotional conditions; (2) where the pregnancy is the result of rape against an adult woman and, at least 48 hours prior to the abortion, such woman has obtained counseling for the rape or medical treatment for the rape or an injury related to the rape; or (3) where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest against a minor and the rape or incest has been reported prior to the abortion to a law enforcement agency or a government agency legally authorized to act on reports of child abuse. Requires the physician, prior to performing such an abortion, to place appropriate documentation in the patient's medical file of the receipt of such medical treatment or counseling or of the reporting of such rape or incest." The bill passed the House.

[Congress.gov, [H.R. 36](#), introduced [1/6/15](#)]

#### ***June 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 7, A Bill Restricting Insurance Coverage For Abortion On State Exchanges***

##### **June 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 7, A Bill Prohibiting The Use Of Federal Funds For Abortion Services.**

According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 7, a bill that "modifies provisions relating to federal funding for, and health insurance coverage of, abortions. Specifically, the bill prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions or for health coverage that includes abortions. Such restrictions extend to the use of funds in the budget of the District of Columbia. Additionally, abortions may not be provided in a federal health care facility or by a federal employee. Historically, language has been included in annual appropriations bills for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions—such language is



commonly referred to as the Hyde Amendment. Similar language is also frequently included in appropriations bills for other federal agencies and the District of Columbia. The bill makes these restrictions permanent and extends the restrictions to all federal funds (rather than specific agencies). The bill's restrictions regarding the use of federal funds do not apply in cases of rape, incest, or where a physical disorder, injury, or illness endangers a woman's life unless an abortion is performed. The Hyde Amendment provides the same exceptions. The bill also prohibits qualified health plans from including coverage for abortions. Currently, qualified health plans may cover abortion, but the portion of the premium attributable to abortion coverage is not eligible for subsidies." The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 7](#), introduced [1/9/23](#)]

**HR 7 Would Ban Abortion Coverage From Coverage In ACA Marketplace Plans.** "Under state law, New York currently requires that state-regulated health insurance plans cover abortions. But HR 7, legislation which is co-sponsored by some New York Republicans on Capitol Hill, could upend that. 'This is something — along with all the other parts of this extreme anti-freedom agenda, anti-reproductive freedom agenda — that we have to stop,' said Hudson Valley Democratic Congressman Pat Ryan. The bill would codify the Hyde Amendment into law, banning the use of federal funds for abortions with certain exceptions. But it also goes further, restricting coverage in plans offered through the Obamacare marketplace, says Laurie Sobel, the associate director of women's health policy at KFF. 'It means that people who are going to the marketplace in New York would no longer be able to obtain abortion coverage there. And therefore, anybody who needs help paying for their premium wouldn't be able to obtain abortion coverage,' she said." [Spectrum News, [8/17/23](#)]

- **Women's Health Policy Advocate: HR 7 "Attempts To Take The Power Away From States To Include Abortion Coverage In Their State-Regulated Plans."** "But it also goes further, restricting coverage in plans offered through the Obamacare marketplace, says Laurie Sobel, the associate director of women's health policy at KFF. [...] But Sobel with KFF says HR 7 would set up friction with state statute. Expect litigation, she says, if it were to become law.' It actually restricts what can be covered in ACA marketplace plans, which are plans regulated by the state,' she said. 'So it attempts to take the power away from states to include abortion coverage in their state-regulated plans.'" [Spectrum News, [8/17/23](#)]

## **Zinke Repeatedly Voted For Anti-Abortion Bills In Congress**

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### ***Zinke Voted To Ban Abortion Federally***

**During His First Term In Congress, Zinke Co-Sponsored A Bill To Ban Abortion After 20 Weeks With Exceptions For The Life Of The Woman And For Rape And Incest.** The Billings Gazette reported, "During his first term in Congress Zinke co-sponsored the 'Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,' a bill that passed the U.S. House but stalled in the Senate. The bill, which came while access to pre-viability abortion remained under the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, did not legislate restrictions before 20 weeks of pregnancy. After 20 weeks, the bill outlawed abortion with exceptions to save the life of the mother, if the pregnancy is the result of rape in an adult, or is the result of rape or incest in a minor. The bill further put reporting requirements on physicians and imposed penalties including fines and up to five years in prison for performing an unauthorized abortion." [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

- **2022: Zinke Had Previously Voted To Ban Abortion After 20 Weeks Of Pregnancy, With An Exception For The Life Of The Woman.** The Billings Gazette reported, "The first question submitted from the audience went straight to the issue of abortion access following the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* earlier this summer. Zinke told the crowd he's 'pro-life,' but said the issue for him was complex. 'Life is not perfect, is it?' Zinke said. 'Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't have any unwanted pregnancy? Really nice if there wasn't incest, rape, issues of health of the mother or child? Wouldn't it be nice? But that's not true, is it? Well, I think a ban is too harsh.' In the past, Zinke has voted to limit abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for the life of the mother. Tranel said she would vote for 'women's rights to live life on our own terms and to be able to choose how, when and whether we become parents.'" [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]





- **Letter To The Editor By Bo Brooks: “Zinke Voted Repeatedly To Defund Planned Parenthood And Ban Abortions After 20 Weeks.”** According to a letter to the editor by Bo Brooks in the Ravalli Republic, “This is why I am supporting Ryan Zinke because of his record of fighting for life at both the state and federal level. As Montana’s at-large congressman, Ryan Zinke voted repeatedly to defund Planned Parenthood and ban abortions after 20 weeks. As a state Senator, Ryan Zinke sponsored a bill that would criminalize an offense that results in the death of an unborn child and voted for 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. Here’s the truth, Ryan Zinke is the only candidate who has fought to protect the unborn in the state legislature, in Congress, and in the Executive Branch and is the only choice to represent Montana’s values in Washington.” [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 4/27/22]

## ***Zinke Voted Repeatedly To Restrict Insurance Coverage For Abortion***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5485 To Strike Language Prohibiting Funds From Being Used For Abortion Services.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grayson, D-Fla., amendment that would strike a section of the bill that would prohibit funds from being used to pay for an abortion or administrative expenses in connection with any health plan under the federal employees health benefits program that provides benefits or coverage for abortions. The motion failed the House on July 6, 2016 by a vote of 177-245, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 176 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 7 Democrats and 238 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5485, [Vote #364](#), 7/6/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/6/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For S. 304, A Bill To Prohibit Federal, State, And Local Governments Receiving Federal Financial Assistance From Discriminating Against Health Care Providers That Did Not Provide Abortion Care.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would prohibit federal, state, and local governments that receive federal financial assistance from discriminating against a health care provider because the provider does not provide or sponsor abortion coverage, and would provide a complaint process and civil actions for violations through the Health and Human Services and Justice departments. The motion passed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 245-182, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 3 Democrats and 242 Republicans voted for the motion, while 181 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [S. 304, [Vote #443](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Reverse The Requirement That Federal Employees’ Health Plans Cover Reproductive Health Services.** According to CQ, Zinke voted in favor of Rep. Hinson’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “replace language to require coverage of assisted reproductive treatments in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans with report language to direct the Office of Personnel Management to report to the House Appropriations Committee, within 90 days of the bill’s enactment, on the health care coverage options available to federal employees that include assisted reproductive technology services and procedures.” The amendment was adopted, with 34 Republicans voting in favor and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve Several Anti-Abortion Policy Riders, Including Provisions That Would Prevent Federal Employees’ Health Benefits From Covering The Cost Of Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “strike several anti-abortion policy riders, including provisions that would block: Federal employee health plans from covering the cost of an elective abortion. The District of Columbia from funding or subsidizing the cost of an elective abortion. The D.C. government from enforcing a 2014 law banning discrimination based on reproductive health care decisions.” The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Prevented The Federal Employee Health Benefits Program From Using Funds To Provide Abortion-Related Health**



**Benefits.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “would prohibit D.C. from using any funding: For abortion-related services, including the use of local funds. To carry out D.C.’s Reproductive Health Nondiscrimination Act, which prohibits employers from discriminating against women based on their reproductive health choices. [...] It also would maintain the ban on the use of funds to provide abortion-related coverage in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. [...] It also would prohibit the use of funds by the SBA for climate change initiatives, to expand its direct lending program, or to collect data on lending to women and minority-owned businesses. [...] It would block the SEC from implementing its climate risk disclosure rule and Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121, which sets accounting requirements for firms holding digital assets. [...] As amended, the bill would prohibit the use of funds by the General Services Administration to implement a proposed rule titled ‘Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk.’” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 33 Republicans voting in favor and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Barring The Use Of Financial Services Funds For Health Benefit Coverage For Federal Employees’ Abortion Care.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “eliminate a provision to bar federal employees’ health benefits from providing coverage or benefits related to an abortion. It also would remove provisions to block the District of Columbia from using local funds for abortions, block implementation of a D.C. law that disallows discrimination based on employees’ reproductive health choices and seeking a report on enforcement of a law banning a method of abortion.” The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Barred The Use Of Funds For Federal Employee Health Benefits For Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “cut General Services Administration funding about 7 percent to \$9.3 billion, and rescind another \$3.2 billion provided in 2022 for making federal buildings greener and more sustainable. It would prohibit GSA from using funds for electric vehicles, electric vehicle batteries or electric vehicle charging stations. [...] It would prohibit D.C. from using local and federal funds for abortion-related services and ban the use of local funds to legalize marijuana. The bill would also maintain anti-abortion policy riders, including a prohibition on the use of funds for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program for abortion-related services. The measure would also block the SEC from rulemakings including on corporate disclosure of climate-related risks and custody of cryptocurrency assets.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

### ***Zinke Voted To Define Any Federal Rule That Expanded Abortion Access As A Major Rule***

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 277 To Expand The Bill’s Definition Of A “Major Rule” To Include Any Rule Likely To Increase Access To Abortion Services Or Abortion-Related Travel.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Good, R-Va., amendment no. 9 that would expand the bill’s definition of a “major rule” to include any rule likely to increase access to abortion services or abortion-related travel. The motion failed the House on June 14, 2023 by a vote of 211-223, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 0 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted for the motion, while 213 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 277, [Vote #258](#), 6/14/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/14/23](#)]

### ***Zinke Voted For The Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, A Republican Anti-Abortion Messaging Bill***

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Bill That Would Require Medical Professionals To Provide Medical Care For Children Who Were Born Alive During An Attempted Abortion Procedure.** 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](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act To The House Judiciary Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “DeGette, D-Colo., motion to recommit the bill that would require medical professionals to provide medical care for children who are born alive during an attempted abortion procedure to the House Judiciary Committee. The motion failed the House on January 11, 2023 by a vote of 212-219, with 0 voting present and 3 not voting. 212 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 26, [Vote #28](#), 1/11/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

**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.”** 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](#)]

- **2002: The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act Guaranteed Full Legal Rights To Infants Born At Any Stage Of Development.** Vox reported, “Even if a child were to be born after an abortion attempt, she said, laws already exist to protect the baby. In 2002, Congress passed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, which guaranteed to infants born at any stage of development full legal rights. That bill, which passed with bipartisan support, did not include criminal penalties for doctors and did not impose specific requirements on medical care.” [Vox, [2/26/19](#)]
- **The Child Abuse Prevention And Treatment Act, Passed In 1974 And Updated In The 1980s, Made Certain Federal Funding To States Contingent On Adoption Of Policies To Prevent Improper Withholding Of Treatment From Newborns.** Politifact reported, “Legal experts pointed to several specific laws relevant to newborns: The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, first passed in 1974 and subsequently revised, including major updates in the 1980s. The relevant portion of the law makes certain types of federal funding for states conditional on their adoption of policies to prevent improper withholding of treatment from newborns, including those with disabilities.” [Politifact, [2/28/19](#)]

**Dr. Kristyn Brandi, Physicians For Reproductive Health Board Member: “Patients Do Not Request Abortion When They Are In Labor And Doctors Do Not Provide It.”** Vox reported, “Abortions in the third trimester are very rare — just 1.4 percent of all abortions take place at 21 weeks or beyond, according to Planned Parenthood. The situation described in the Virginia committee hearing simply doesn’t come up, Brandi said — ‘patients do not request abortion when they are in labor and doctors do not provide it.’” [Vox, [2/26/19](#)]

**Planned Parenthood President: The Bill Was “Aimed At Shaming Women And Criminalizing Doctors For A Practice That Doesn’t Exist In Medicine Or Reality.”** Vox reported, “Senate Democrats, reproductive rights groups, and groups representing doctors disagreed, calling the legislation unnecessary and potentially damaging.



‘This legislation is based on lies and a misinformation campaign, aimed at shaming women and criminalizing doctors for a practice that doesn’t exist in medicine or reality,’ said Dr. Leana Wen, the president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, in a statement to Vox.” [Vox, [2/26/19](#)]

**Dr. Kristyn Brandi, A Physicians For Reproductive Health Board Member, Said She Had Never Heard Of A Child Born Alive After A Failed Abortion.** Vox reported, “[Dr. Kristyn] Brandi, of Physicians for Reproductive Health, said she had never heard of a case of a child born after a failed abortion attempt. ‘This is a part of the false narrative around this bill and abortion later in pregnancy,’ she said.” [Vox, [2/26/19](#)]

**The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, Which Had Little Chance Of Success, Was Brought By Republicans In Order To Get Democrats On The Record Opposing It In An Effort To Drum Up Support From Social Conservatives.** Vox reported, “The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act has little chance of success in the closely divided Senate. The same was true last year, but Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who co-sponsored the bill, may have brought it to a vote in part to get Democrats on record opposing it. [...] The bill may also be part of a larger strategy by Republicans of focusing on very late abortions in order to drum up support among social conservatives, a reliably Republican voting bloc.” [Vox, [2/25/19](#)]

### ***Zinke Voted To Block Federal Agencies From Denying Federal Funding To Crisis Pregnancy Centers And Voted For A Messaging Resolution Praising Pro-Life Groups***

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Resolution That Would State That Congress Condemned Attacks Of Vandalism, Violence And Destruction Against Pro-Life Facilities, Groups And Churches And Recognized “The Sanctity Of Life And The Important Role That [Such Entities] Play In Supporting Pregnant Women, Infants And Families.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Agreement to the concurrent resolution that would state that Congress condemns attacks of vandalism, violence and destruction against pro-life facilities, groups and churches and recognizes “the sanctity of life and the important role that [such entities] play in supporting pregnant women, infants and families.” It would also call on the Biden administration to use all appropriate law enforcement authorities to protect the rights of such entities. The motion passed the House on January 11, 2023 by a vote of 222-209, with 0 voting present and 3 not voting. 3 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted for the motion, while 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.Con.Res. 3, [Vote #30](#), 1/11/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Prohibit Limitations On The Use Of Federal Temporary Assistance For Needy Families Funding For Pregnancy Centers.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would prohibit limitations on the use of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding for pregnancy centers. The bill would prevent the Health and Human Services secretary from finalizing, implementing or enforcing policies that discriminate against pregnancy centers seeking federal funding. It also would define a pregnancy center as any organization, such as a pregnancy resource center, pregnancy help center or organization, or pregnancy medical center that supports protecting the life of the mother and the unborn child, and offers resources and services to mothers, fathers and families including counseling, education, pregnancy testing, diapers, baby clothing or material supports. The motion passed the House on January 18, 2024 by a vote of 214-208, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 0 Democrats and 213 Republicans voted for the motion, while 207 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 6918, [Vote #17](#), 1/18/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/18/24](#)]

### ***Zinke Voted For A Bill Requiring Colleges To Tell Pregnant Students That Abortion Could Cause Mental Health Issues***

**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Require Each Higher Education Institution Participating In A Federal Education Program To Inform Prospective And Enrolled Students About Rights And Resources For Pregnant Students, Including Providing Information Claiming That Women Who Had Abortions Were At**





**Risk Of Mental Health Issues.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would that would require each higher education institution participating in a federal education program to inform prospective and enrolled students about rights and resources for pregnant students and those who could become pregnant while enrolled at such an institution to carry a baby to term. It would specify that such information would include a list of relevant campus and community resources and how to file a complaint with the Education Department if a student believes there has been a Title IX violation due to the student’s pregnancy. It would state that scientific evidence and personal testimonies show that women who have abortions can be at risk of mental health issues. It would specify that nothing in the bill could be construed to authorize the DOE to require disseminating additional information or establishing additional rights beyond the specified information and rights. The motion passed the House on January 18, 2024 by a vote of 212-207, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 0 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted for the motion, while 206 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 6914, [Vote #19](#), 1/18/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/18/24](#)]

- **2024: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Pregnant Students’ Rights Act To The House Education And The Workforce Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Underwood, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill to the House Education and the Workforce Committee. The motion failed the House on January 18, 2024 by a vote of 207-213, with 0 voting present and 13 not voting. 206 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 6914, [Vote #18](#), 1/18/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/18/24](#)]

### ***Zinke Repeatedly Voted To Block Washington, D.C., From Providing Abortions With Its Federally-Allocated Budget***

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5485 To Prohibit Funding To Implement D.C.’s Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Palmer, R-Ala., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to implement the District of Columbia’s Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 7, 2016 by a vote of 223-192, with 0 voting present and 18 not voting. 2 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted for the motion, while 178 Democrats and 14 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5485, [Vote #390](#), 7/7/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/7/16](#)]

**Zinke Also Voted To Preserve Language Preventing D.C. From Using Local Funds To Subsidize Abortions Or Enforcing A Law Barring Discrimination On The Basis Of Reproductive Healthcare Decisions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “strike several anti-abortion policy riders, including provisions that would block: Federal employee health plans from covering the cost of an elective abortion. The District of Columbia from funding or subsidizing the cost of an elective abortion. The D.C. government from enforcing a 2014 law banning discrimination based on reproductive health care decisions.” The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Barring D.C. From Enforcing A Law That Banned Discrimination On The Basis Of Reproductive Healthcare Decisions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Wasserman Schultz’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to prevent the District of Columbia from enforcing a 2014 reproductive health non-discrimination law banning discrimination based on reproductive health care decisions.” The amendment was rejected, with 24 Democrats voting in favor and 31 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Include Language Blocking The D.C. Local Government From Using Local Funds For Abortion.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “eliminate a provision to bar federal employees’ health benefits from providing coverage or benefits related to an abortion. It also would remove provisions to block the District of Columbia from using local funds for abortions, block implementation of a D.C. law that disallows discrimination based on





employees' reproductive health choices and seeking a report on enforcement of a law banning a method of abortion." The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Prohibited D.C. From Using Local Funds For Abortion Services.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, "cut General Services Administration funding about 7 percent to \$9.3 billion, and rescind another \$3.2 billion provided in 2022 for making federal buildings greener and more sustainable. It would prohibit GSA from using funds for electric vehicles, electric vehicle batteries or electric vehicle charging stations. [...] It would prohibit D.C. from using local and federal funds for abortion-related services and ban the use of local funds to legalize marijuana. The bill would also maintain anti-abortion policy riders, including a prohibition on the use of funds for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program for abortion-related services. The measure would also block the SEC from rulemakings including on corporate disclosure of climate-related risks and custody of cryptocurrency assets." The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

### ***Zinke Voted Against Allowing Immigrants In Detention From Receiving Abortions***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, Which Included A Provision To Bar The Use Of Funds To Provide Abortion-Related Care To Immigrants In ICE Custody.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which would, "prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to: [...] Provide abortion-related care or gender-affirming care for detainees in ICE custody." The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Prohibiting The Use Of Homeland Security Funds To Facilitate Abortions For Anyone In ICE Custody, Except In Cases Of Rape, Incest, Or Danger To The Life Of The Mother.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Wasserman Schultz's amendment to the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which would, "strike provisions to bar the use of funds provided by the bill to: [...] Facilitate an abortion, except in cases of rape, incest or danger to the life of the mother, or administer hormone therapy or other gender-affirming care for a person in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody." The amendment was rejected, with 25 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/21/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, Which Included A Provision Barring The Use Of Federal Funds To Facilitate An Abortion For Immigrants In ICE Custody.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which would, "bar the Biden administration from implementing any prosecutorial discretion policies for immigration enforcement and prohibit funding to facilitate an abortion or gender-affirming care for detained immigrants." The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 25 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/21/23]

### ***Zinke Voted In Favor Of The Mexico City Policy***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve The Mexico City Policy, Which Prohibited The Provision Of Foreign Aid To NGOs That Supported Abortion.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Meng's amendment to the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, "strike language to prohibit the use of funds for the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) and strike the bill's expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds for any foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions. It would add language to provide at least \$575 million in fiscal 2025 funding for the UNFPA to provide family planning/reproductive health care." The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 30 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]



**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, Which Included An Expanded Mexico City Policy And The Helms Amendment.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, “prohibit funding to the: [...] Green Climate Fund. [...] It would include the expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds from going to foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions, and the traditional Helms amendment language, which bans the use of U.S. foreign aid to directly pay for abortions.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 31 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Barring Global Health Assistance Funding For Foreign NGOs That Promote Or Perform Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Lee’s amendment to the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, “strike the bill’s prohibition on funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and global health assistance funding for foreign nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or when the pregnancy endangers the mother’s life. It would instead insert language to provide, from bilateral economic assistance funding accounts, a minimum of \$575 million for family planning and reproductive health activities. It would strike the bill’s \$461 million limit on family planning and reproductive health activities. It would authorize the use of funding in the bill for a voluntary contribution to UNFPA for the purposes of expanding access to contraceptives in developing countries, providing maternal and reproductive health care during humanitarian crises, and addressing female genital mutilation and child and forced marriages.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/12/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, Which Included An Expanded Mexico City Policy And The Helms Amendment.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which “includes the expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds from going to foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions. It also contains the traditional Helms amendment language, which prohibits the use of U.S. foreign aid to pay for abortions. It would rescind more than \$11.1 billion of the unobligated funding provided to the EPA under the 2022 climate and health care budget reconciliation law.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 32 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/12/23]

### ***Zinke Voted To Block A Rule Increasing Access To 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]

## ***Zinke Repeatedly Voted Against Funding For Abortions For Military Servicemembers 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 Democrat 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]

## **Zinke Supported Anti-Abortion Legislation When Serving In Montana’s State Government**

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### ***2011: Zinke Sponsored An Anti-Abortion Bill To Protect “Unborn Victims” From Violent Crimes***

**2011: Zinke Sponsored An Anti-Abortion Bill To Protect “Unborn Victims” From Violent Crimes.** The Billings Gazette reported, “During the campaign, Olszewski and fellow candidate Mary Todd have been critical of Ryan Zinke, Montana’s former at-large congressman and former secretary of the Department of the Interior, on the issue of abortion. Specifically, they point to votes while Zinke was a state senator against so-called personhood bills in 2009. ‘I’m just holding him accountable for his votes,’ Olszewski said. In his first session in 2009, Zinke received a 65% rating from NARAL Pro-Choice Montana, but would then receive a 0% rating in 2011. In 2011 he sponsored an anti-abortion bill to protect ‘unborn victims’ from violent crimes, that was later vetoed, and supported other legislation opposing abortion.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

### ***Letter To The Editor: “Zinke Sponsored A Bill That Would Criminalize An Offense That Results In The Death Of An Unborn Child And Voted For 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”***

**Letter To The Editor: “Zinke Sponsored A Bill That Would Criminalize An Offense That Results In The Death Of An Unborn Child And Voted For 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.”** According to a letter to the editor by Bo Brooks in the Ravalli Republic, “This is why I am supporting Ryan Zinke because of his record of fighting for life at both the state and federal level. As Montana’s at-large congressman, Ryan Zinke voted repeatedly to defund Planned Parenthood and ban abortions after 20 weeks. As a state Senator, Ryan Zinke sponsored a bill that would criminalize an offense that results in the death of an unborn child and voted for 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. Here’s the truth, Ryan Zinke is the only candidate who has fought to protect the unborn in the state legislature, in Congress, and in the Executive Branch and is the only choice to represent Montana’s values in Washington.” [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 4/27/22]

### ***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, But Then Reversed Course In 2011 And Voted For A Similar Referendum***

**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, But Then Reversed Course In 2011 And Voted For A**





**Similar Referendum.** 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 Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee, Which Supported A Bill To Ban Abortion At 0 Weeks With No Exceptions

### 2024: Zinke Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee

2024: Zinke Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee. [Zinke.house.gov, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

The screenshot shows the 'Committees and Caucuses' page for Congressman Ryan Zinke. At the top left is a portrait of Zinke. To the right is a logo with '★★★ CONGRESSMAN ★★★' above 'Ryan ZINKE' and 'MONTANA'S FIRST' below. Below the portrait is a navigation bar with 'HOME / ABOUT'. The main heading is 'Committees and Caucuses'. Under 'Committees:', there are three subcommittees: 'Appropriations' (with a dropdown arrow), 'U.S. Joint Commission on China' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'Foreign Affairs' (with a dropdown arrow). Under 'Caucuses:', there are three: 'Western Caucus' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'Republican Study Committee' (with a dropdown arrow).

[Zinke.house.gov, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

## The RSC’s Fiscal 2025 Budget Endorsed A Total Abortion And IVF Ban, A Six Week Abortion Ban, And A 15 Week Abortion Ban

**The RSC’s Fiscal 2025 Budget Endorsed The Life At Conception Act, A Six Week Abortion Ban, And A 15 Week Abortion Ban.** The National Catholic Register reported, “The Republican Study Committee (RSC), of which over 80% of House Republicans are members, dedicated a section of its ‘Fiscal Sanity to Save America’ 2025 federal budget proposal to ‘measures designed to advance the cause of life.’ Most notably the proposal applauds a wide range of bills House Republicans have advanced to limit abortion, including the Life at Conception Act, Heartbeat Protection Act (establishing a six-week limit with rape, incest, and physical health exceptions), and



the Protecting Pain-Capable Unborn Children from Late-Term Abortions Act that establishes a 15-week limit with similar exceptions.” [National Catholic Register, [3/22/24](#)]

**The Life At Conception Act Established That Life Began At Fertilization, And Would Have Banned IVF, Which Discarded Fertilized Eggs.** The New Republic reported, “The budget, released Wednesday by the Republican Study Committee, or RSC, states that the party backs the Life at Conception Act, ‘which would provide 14<sup>th</sup> amendment protections at all stages of life.’ This bill has become highly contentious in the wake of the Alabama Supreme Court ruling that classified fertilized embryos as human children. First introduced in 2021 with 166 Republican co-sponsors and then again in 2023 with 124, the Life at Conception Act would have established that life begins at fertilization. Like the Alabama ruling, the act would have severely restricted—if not effectively banned—IVF treatments, because it grants ‘equal protection’ to ‘preborn’ humans, including embryos. Since it’s common for fertilized eggs not to survive the IVF process, the act would put doctors at risk of being charged for wrongful death of embryos. That risk would be enough to scupper the IVF industry.” [New Republic, [3/21/24](#)]

**Cedar Rapids Gazette: The Life At Conception Act “Aims To Block Abortions At All Stages.”** The Cedar Rapids Gazette reported, “The tweet was referencing Hinson’s [sic] support of the Life at Conception Act, a bill introduced in the House in February 2021, Mathis’s campaign told the Fact Checker. It has not passed the Democratic-controlled House. Hinson is among 163 Republican co-sponsors of H.R. 1011, a proposal that guarantees a constitutional ‘right to life of each born and preborn human person.’ [...] The bill’s language states this constitutional right is ‘vested in each human being,’ and does not indicate any exceptions in cases of rape, incest or when the pregnant person is at risk.” [Cedar Rapids Gazette, [7/11/22](#)]

- **Cedar Rapids Gazette: “The Life At Conception Act... Would Outlaw All Abortions With No Exceptions In Cases Of Rape, Incest Or Risk To The Pregnant Person.”** The Cedar Rapids Gazette reported, “The Life at Conception Act, co-sponsored by Hinson, would outlaw all abortions with no exceptions in cases of rape, incest or risk to the pregnant person. The bill in question does eliminate the possibility for criminal charges for individuals who receive an abortion, but it does not provide the same guarantees for others.” [Cedar Rapids Gazette, [7/11/22](#)]
- **The Bill Did Not Include Any Explicit Carveout For IVF.** According to Congress.gov, “SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the ‘Life at Conception Act’. SEC. 2. RIGHT TO LIFE. To implement equal protection for the right to life of each born and preborn human person, and pursuant to the duty and authority of the Congress, including Congress’ power under article I, section 8, to make necessary and proper laws, and Congress’ power under section 5 of the 14<sup>th</sup> article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Congress hereby declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being. However, nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child. SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act: (1) HUMAN PERSON; HUMAN BEING.—The terms ‘human person’ and ‘human being’ include each and every member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being. (2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ used in the 14<sup>th</sup> article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States and other applicable provisions of the Constitution includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and each other territory or possession of the United States.” [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1011](#), introduced [2/11/21](#)]

**The Life At Conception Act Did Not Include An Exception For In Vitro Fertilization, Declaring That The Term Human Being Included “All Stages Of Life, Including The Moment Of Fertilization.”** Business Insider reported, “Most House Republicans have cosponsored a bill declaring that life begins from the moment of conception, a position under increased scrutiny after the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos are ‘unborn children.’ This Congress, 125 House Republicans — including Speaker Mike Johnson — have cosponsored the ‘Life at Conception Act,’ which states that the term ‘human being’ includes ‘all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.’ The bill does not include any exception for in vitro fertilization (IVF), a reproductive

treatment that allows mothers to fertilize several eggs outside the womb in order to increase the chances of a viable pregnancy. Several healthcare providers in Alabama have already halted IVF programs in the wake of the ruling, given that IVF treatments may include the discarding of fertilized eggs, which may now violate the state's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act. The lack of an IVF exception is notable, given the carveout contained within a previous version of the Life at Conception Act introduced by Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in 2017." [Business Insider, [2/23/24](#)]

- **Because IVF Treatments Included The Discarding Of Fertilized Eggs, The Alabama Supreme Court Ruling Declaring That Fertilized Eggs Were "Unborn Children" Caused Multiple Providers In The State To Halt IVF Treatments, Which Were In Violation Of The State's Wrongful Death Of A Minor Act.** Business Insider reported, "Most House Republicans have cosponsored a bill declaring that life begins from the moment of conception, a position under increased scrutiny after the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos are 'unborn children.' This Congress, 125 House Republicans — including Speaker Mike Johnson — have cosponsored the 'Life at Conception Act,' which states that the term 'human being' includes 'all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.' The bill does not include any exception for in vitro fertilization (IVF), a reproductive treatment that allows mothers to fertilize several eggs outside the womb in order to increase the chances of a viable pregnancy. Several healthcare providers in Alabama have already halted IVF programs in the wake of the ruling, given that IVF treatments may include the discarding of fertilized eggs, which may now violate the state's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act." [Business Insider, [2/23/24](#)]

**CNN: "Under That Bill, Equal Protections Under The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Would Be Granted At The Moment Of 'Fertilization' — Regardless Of Whether The Union Of Sperm And Egg Occurs Inside The Body... Or Outside The Body, Which Is The Case With IVF."** CNN reported, "Republicans who expressed support for in vitro fertilization in the wake of the controversial Alabama Supreme Court ruling are coming under scrutiny for also backing legislation that declares human life begins at conception, without an exception for IVF — two positions that appear to be at odds with one another, in the latest example of Republicans struggling to thread the needle on reproductive rights issues. The Life at Conception Act — which was introduced in January 2023 by GOP Rep. Alex Mooney of West Virginia and has 125 total Republican sponsors in the House, including House Speaker Mike Johnson — defines the term 'human being' to include 'all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.' The bill does not include a carveout for IVF, though it does state that nothing in the bill should 'be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.' [...] But Democrats say that is incongruous with the House GOP legislation defining life as beginning at conception. Under that bill, equal protections under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment would be granted at the moment of 'fertilization' — regardless of whether the union of sperm and egg occurs inside the body, which is what happens in a traditional pregnancy, or outside the body, which is the case with IVF. It does not include an outright ban on IVF, but Democrats and reproductive rights activists worry the legislation — if ever passed — would have a chilling effect on IVF clinics, much like the Alabama ruling, given the typical process for IVF." [CNN, [2/26/24](#)]

- **CNN: "Reproductive Rights Activists Worry The Legislation — If Ever Passed — Would Have A Chilling Effect On IVF Clinics, Much Like The Alabama Ruling, Given The Typical Process For IVF."** CNN reported, "Republicans who expressed support for in vitro fertilization in the wake of the controversial Alabama Supreme Court ruling are coming under scrutiny for also backing legislation that declares human life begins at conception, without an exception for IVF — two positions that appear to be at odds with one another, in the latest example of Republicans struggling to thread the needle on reproductive rights issues. The Life at Conception Act — which was introduced in January 2023 by GOP Rep. Alex Mooney of West Virginia and has 125 total Republican sponsors in the House, including House Speaker Mike Johnson — defines the term 'human being' to include 'all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.' The bill does not include a carveout for IVF, though it does state that nothing in the bill should 'be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child.' [...] But Democrats say that is incongruous with the House GOP legislation



defining life as beginning at conception. Under that bill, equal protections under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment would be granted at the moment of ‘fertilization’ — regardless of whether the union of sperm and egg occurs inside the body, which is what happens in a traditional pregnancy, or outside the body, which is the case with IVF. It does not include an outright ban on IVF, but Democrats and reproductive rights activists worry the legislation — if ever passed — would have a chilling effect on IVF clinics, much like the Alabama ruling, given the typical process for IVF.” [CNN, [2/26/24](#)]

## **Zinke Received High Ratings From Pro-Life Groups And A Zero Percent Rating From NARAL Pro-Choice Montana**

### **As A State Senator, Zinke Received A 65 Percent Rating From NARAL Pro-Choice Montana In 2009, But Received A 0 Percent Rating In 2011**

**As A State Senator, Zinke Received A 65 Percent Rating From NARAL Pro-Choice Montana In 2009, But Received A 0 Percent Rating In 2011.** The Billings Gazette reported, “During the campaign, Olszewski and fellow candidate Mary Todd have been critical of Ryan Zinke, Montana’s former at-large congressman and former secretary of the Department of the Interior, on the issue of abortion. Specifically, they point to votes while Zinke was a state senator against so-called personhood bills in 2009. ‘I’m just holding him accountable for his votes,’ Olszewski said. In his first session in 2009, Zinke received a 65% rating from NARAL Pro-Choice Montana, but would then receive a 0% rating in 2011. In 2011 he sponsored an anti-abortion bill to protect ‘unborn victims’ from violent crimes, that was later vetoed, and supported other legislation opposing abortion.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

### **In His 2014 Run For Congress, Zinke Received An Endorsement From Montana Right To Life**

**In His 2014 Run For Congress, Zinke Received An Endorsement From Montana Right To Life.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In his 2014 run for Congress Zinke’s record on abortion became a campaign issue during the Republican Primary when his opponents highlighted the 2009 votes. Zinke pushed back and received an endorsement from Montana Right to Life and continued to see 100% ratings from groups such as the National Right to Life Committee as a congressman. Zinke is again defending his record on abortion in this primary. A February letter sent to supporters calls the attacks ‘attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s pro-life record,’ and says he is ‘a committed pro-life conservative.’ Zinke pointed to his rating from National Right to Life in an interview and commended the Supreme Court’s draft opinion, while also denouncing the leak. ‘I applaud the court’s decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child,’ Zinke said on social media.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

### **Zinke Received 100 Percent Ratings From The National Right To Life Committee As A Congressman**

**Zinke Received 100 Percent Ratings From The National Right To Life Committee As A Congressman.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In his 2014 run for Congress Zinke’s record on abortion became a campaign issue during the Republican Primary when his opponents highlighted the 2009 votes. Zinke pushed back and received an endorsement from Montana Right to Life and continued to see 100% ratings from groups such as the National Right to Life Committee as a congressman. Zinke is again defending his record on abortion in this primary. A February letter sent to supporters calls the attacks ‘attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s pro-life record,’ and says he is ‘a committed pro-life conservative.’ Zinke pointed to his rating from National Right to Life in an interview and commended the Supreme Court’s draft opinion, while also denouncing the leak. ‘I applaud the court’s decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child,’ Zinke said on social media.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

## **Zinke Said Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid Were Too Expensive And That “Everything Should Be Looked At” To Ensure The Programs Remained Solvent**

### **Zinke Said That “Everything Should Be Looked At” To Cut Spending From Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid**

## **Zinke Repeatedly Argued That Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid Took Up Too Large A Portion Of The Federal Budget**

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**2023: Zinke Reportedly “Took His Swings At... Congress For The Amount Of Mandatory Spending In... The Budget Lines That Include Medicare And Social Security, Among Other Ongoing Statutory Programs.”** The Sidney Hearld reported, “‘When I was a SEAL, it didn’t matter to me whether a person was a Democrat or a Republican,’ he said. ‘It really doesn’t matter to me today. But it does matter whether you love the country. It does matter whether you want to make things better for your neighbor. It does matter whether you want to protect what’s important Montana’s lifestyle. That matters. It should matter to us all.’ He took his swings at the Biden administration for its Waters of the United States rulemaking and at Congress for the amount of mandatory spending in the federal budget the budget lines that include Medicare and Social Security, among other ongoing statutory programs. And he echoed lines from his Interior Department days about boosting domestic energy production as a national security measure.” [Sidney Hearld, 2/21/23]

**2023: Zinke Reportedly Said That Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid Should Be Reviewed For Wasteful Spending Because Mandatory Spending For Those Programs Made Up Most Of The Federal Budget.** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “Programs like Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare are designed to work well when people are putting in more money than what is being taken out, Zinke said. When the opposite happens, that leads to budget issues. He said that spending at the federal level is 28% discretionary spending for agencies like the Department of Defense or Department of the Interior. The larger chunk is mandatory spending for entitlement programs, Zinke said. Programs under those entitlements should be reviewed because there are likely areas that have been neglected or programs that have not been doing what they should have done, he said. ‘There’s other areas we need to attend to, obviously mental health is one, because we’re paying for it,’ Zinke said.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 3/17/23]

## **Zinke Argued That “Everything Should Be Looked At” In Order To “Save” Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid**

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**2024: Zinke Said, “Seventy Percent Of The Budget Is In Overdrive With Mandates, They’re The Big Three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I Want To Save That.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. ‘Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they’re the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,’ Zinke said on ‘Fox Business’ Thursday. ‘I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there’s a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you’re right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they’re sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we’re, we’re going to have to.’” [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

- **Zinke: “I Want To Solve Security, You Know, People Have Earned It. So, I Want To Save It. We Got To Get People Working. Number One, There’s A Lot Of Ways To Save It And I Think Everything Should**



**Be Looked At, But You're Right.**" The Billings Gazette reported, "Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. 'Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they're the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,' Zinke said on 'Fox Business' Thursday. 'I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there's a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you're right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they're sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we're, we're going to have to.'" [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

- **Zinke: "I Mean, We See That The Three Ships Out There, Social Security, Medicare And Medicaid All Sinking. We Know The Rates They're Sinking, But No One Has The Courage To Go Out And Address It And We're, We're Going To Have To."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. 'Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they're the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,' Zinke said on 'Fox Business' Thursday. 'I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there's a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you're right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they're sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we're, we're going to have to.'" [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

## **Zinke Was Criticized By Democrats For Being A Member Of The Republican Study Committee, Which Backed A Plan To Cut Social Security And Medicare**

### **Montana Democrats, Including Zinke's Opponent Monica Tranel, Blasted Him For Being A Part Of The Republican Study Committee, Which Supported Cutting Social Security And Medicare**

**2024: Zinke Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee.** [Zinke.house.gov, accessed [7/16/24](#)]



The screenshot shows the top portion of a congressional website for Ryan Zinke. At the top left is a portrait of Zinke. To his right is a graphic with the text "★★★ CONGRESSMAN ★★★" above a map of Montana and the name "Ryan ZINKE" in large blue letters, with "MONTANA'S FIRST" below it. Below the portrait is a navigation bar with "HOME / ABOUT". The main heading is "Committees and Caucuses" in large blue font. Underneath, there are sections for "Committees:" and "Caucuses:". Under "Committees:", there are three subcommittee descriptions: "Appropriations:" (with a dropdown arrow), "U.S. Joint Commission on China" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Foreign Affairs" (with a dropdown arrow). Under "Caucuses:", there are three descriptions: "Northern Border Security Caucus (Co-Chair)", "Western Caucus" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Republican Study Committee" (with a dropdown arrow).

[Zinke.house.gov, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**2024: Montana Democrats Reportedly Tried To Pin The Republican Study Committee Memo Calling For Cuts To Social Security On Zinke.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. ‘Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they’re the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,’ Zinke said on ‘Fox Business’ Thursday. ‘I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there’s a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you’re right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they’re sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we’re, we’re going to have to.’” [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

**2024: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming Him For Being A “Party Loyalist And Member Of The Republican Study Committee... [Who] Allied Himself With Extremists In His Party Who Would Raise The Retirement Age For Social Security And Medicare.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn’t surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it’s up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn’t spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation’s business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000

cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

- **Tranel: “When It Comes To Federal Programs Essential To The Welfare Of Montana Seniors, Zinke Aligns With Those Who Would Defund And Remove Them.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn’t surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it’s up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn’t spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation’s business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

## **The 2025 RSC Budget Called For Raising The Retirement Age For Social Security And Converting Medicare Into A “Premium Support Model” Where It Would Compete With Private Plans, Which Obama Argued During The 2012 Election Would “End Medicare As We Know It”**

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**The 2025 RSC Budget Called For Raising The Retirement Age For Social Security And Converting Medicare Into A “Premium Support Model” Where It Would Compete With Private Plans, Which Obama Argued During The 2012 Election Would “End Medicare As We Know It.”** NBC News reported, “A new budget by a large and influential group of House Republicans calls for raising the Social Security retirement age for future retirees and restructuring Medicare. The proposals, which are unlikely to become law this year, reflect how many Republicans will seek to govern if they win the 2024 elections. [...] The budget was released Wednesday by the Republican Study Committee, a group of more than 170 House GOP lawmakers, including many allies of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. [...] The new budget also calls for converting Medicare to a ‘premium support model,’ echoing a proposal that Republican former Speaker Paul Ryan had rallied support for. Under the new RSC plan, traditional Medicare would compete with private plans and beneficiaries would be given subsidies to shop for the policies of their choice. The size of the subsidies could be pegged to the ‘average premium’ or ‘second lowest price’ in a particular market, the budget says. The plan became a flashpoint in the 2012 election, when Ryan was GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney’s running mate, and President Barack Obama charged that it would ‘end Medicare as we know it.’ Ryan defended it as a way to put Medicare on better financial footing, and most of his party stood by him.” [NBC News, [3/20/24](#)]

**White House Press Release: “The Republican Study Committee... Released An Extreme Budget That Takes Direct Aim At Medicare And Social Security. Their Plan: Calls For Over \$1.5 Trillion In Cuts To Social Security, Including An Increase In The Retirement Age To 69 And Cutting Disability Benefits.”** According to a press release from [Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov), “Less than two weeks later, the Republican Study Committee—which speaks for 80% of House Republicans and 100% of their leadership—released an extreme budget that takes direct aim at Medicare and Social Security. Their plan: Calls for over \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Social Security, including an increase in the retirement age to 69 and cutting disability benefits.” [Whitehouse.gov, Press Release, [4/4/24](#)]



# The 2024 RSC Budget Called For Raising The Retirement Age For Social Security From 67 To 69 And Converting Medicare To A Premium Support Model Whereby Private Insurance Options Competing With Traditional Medicare Would Receive Subsidies

**The 2024 RSC Budget Called For Raising The Retirement Age For Social Security From 67 To 69 And Converting Medicare To A Premium Support Model Whereby Private Insurance Options Competing With Traditional Medicare Would Receive Subsidies.** Roll Call reported, “The largest bloc of House conservatives offered up a fiscal blueprint Wednesday that promises to balance the federal budget in seven years, make GOP tax cuts permanent, and slash domestic spending. The plan offered by the 175-member Republican Study Committee would gradually raise the age at which future retirees can start claiming full Social Security benefits from 67 to 69, a politically fraught proposal that’s all but certain to appear in Democratic campaign ads. The document also proposes a ‘premium support’ plan that would subsidize private insurance options that compete with traditional Medicare. That would be similar to budget plans proposed by Rep. Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., during his tenure in Congress that were panned by Democrats and some Republicans, including former President Donald Trump.” [Roll Call, [6/14/23](#)]

## 254,175 Montanans Were Enrolled In Medicare And 258,613 Were Enrolled In Social Security

**2023: 254,175 Montanans Were Enrolled In Medicare.** According to Healthinsurance.org, “As of May 2023, there were 254,175 Montana residents with Medicare coverage,2 amounting to more than 22% of the state’s population — versus nearly 20% of the total US population enrolled in Medicare.” [Healthinsurance.org, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**2023: 258,613 Montanans Were Enrolled In Social Security.** [Social Security Administration, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

Congressional Statistics, December 2023										
You are here: Social Security Administration > Research, Statistics & Policy Analysis > Congressional Statistics, December 2023										
<b>Montana</b>										
<b>Social Security</b>										
<i>Old-Age (retirement), Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—popularly referred to as Social Security—provides monthly benefits to an eligible worker and family members when the worker elects to start receiving retirement benefits or when the worker dies or becomes disabled. A worker’s lifetime covered earnings largely determine the amount of benefits received.</i>										
<b>Table 1.</b>										
<b>Number of OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status and total monthly benefits, December 2023</b>										
Congressional district	Number of beneficiaries						Total monthly benefits (thousands of dollars)			Number of beneficiaries aged 65 or older
	Total	Retired workers	Disabled workers	Widow(er)s and parents	Spouses <sup>a</sup>	Children <sup>b</sup>	All beneficiaries	Retired workers	Widow(er)s and parents	
Montana	258,613	203,563	23,073	13,312	5,765	12,900	443,796	369,938	23,221	212,052
1	130,878	104,156	11,345	6,457	3,030	5,890	226,976	190,668	11,404	108,276
2	127,735	99,407	11,728	6,855	2,735	7,010	216,820	179,270	11,817	103,776
All areas <sup>c</sup>	67,076,966	50,147,679	7,365,987	3,796,684	1,984,227	3,782,389	118,527,109	95,546,840	6,512,823	53,508,012

SOURCES: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data; and U.S. Postal Service geographic data.

a. These beneficiaries receive payment on the record of a worker who is retired or disabled.

b. These beneficiaries receive payment on the record of a worker who is retired, deceased, or disabled.

c. Includes beneficiaries in the 50 States, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and foreign countries.

[Social Security Administration, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

## **Zinke Opposed Efforts To Force Big Pharma To Negotiate Prescription Drug Prices While Taking Tens Of Thousands In Campaign Contributions From The Industry**

### **Zinke Opposed And Introduced A Bill To Repeal The Inflation Reduction Act, Which Allowed The Government To Negotiate Drug Costs And Capped Drug Costs For Medicare Recipients**

#### **2022: Zinke Said The Inflation Reduction Act Was An “Oxymoron” That Would “Raise Costs, If You Have Private Medical Insurance” And That Its Provisions To Cut Drug Costs Would Cause Insurance Companies To Charge More For Drugs To People On Private Plans**

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**2022: Zinke Said The Inflation Reduction Act Was An “Oxymoron” That Would “Raise Costs, If You Have Private Medical Insurance, For 220 Million Americans.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “He called the Inflation Reduction Act an ‘oxymoron’ and said it would just increase the monthly cost of living for Montana families. Zinke cited the Wall Street Journal when he told the audience the IRA ‘will raise costs, if you have private medical insurance, for 220 million Americans.’ While the bill makes changes to eventually cap out-of-pocket drug costs for people covered by Medicare at \$2,000 per year, Zinke spokesperson Heather Swift said that the changes there will come at the cost of insurance companies charging more for those covered through their employer or private plans.” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

- **Zinke’s Spokeswoman Claimed The Law’s Provisions To Cut Prescription Drug Costs Would Cause Insurance Companies To Charge More To People Covered Through Their Employer Or Private Plans.** The Billings Gazette reported, “He called the Inflation Reduction Act an ‘oxymoron’ and said it would just increase the monthly cost of living for Montana families. Zinke cited the Wall Street Journal when he told the audience the IRA ‘will raise costs, if you have private medical insurance, for 220 million Americans.’ While the bill makes changes to eventually cap out-of-pocket drug costs for people covered by Medicare at \$2,000 per year, Zinke spokesperson Heather Swift said that the changes there will come at the cost of insurance companies charging more for those covered through their employer or private plans.” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

#### **2024: Zinke Introduced A Bill To Repeal The Inflation Reduction Act, Which Capped Out Of Pocket Drug Costs For Medicare Part D And Authorized The Federal Government To Negotiate With Pharmaceutical Companies For Lower Drug Prices**

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**February 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 812, A Bill Repealing The Inflation Reduction Act Of 2022.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 812, a bill “To repeal the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 812](#), introduced [2/2/23](#)]

**2024: Zinke Introduced A Bill To Repeal The Inflation Reduction Act, Which Capped Out Of Pocket Drug Costs For Medicare Part D And Authorized The Federal Government To Negotiate With Pharmaceutical Companies For Lower Drug Prices.** The Montana Independent reported, “The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 capped out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare Part D enrollees at \$2,000 a year and authorized the federal government to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for lower drug prices. Republican Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke is co-sponsoring a bill that would repeal the law, including those provisions. Zinke is facing a potentially competitive rematch for his seat this November against Democratic attorney Monica Tranel after he defeated her 49.6%-46.5% in 2022. On her campaign website, Tranel says, ‘Congress needs to protect what we





have and do more to ensure that everyone has access to healthcare, including strengthening the ability of Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate drug prices and guaranteeing that hundreds of thousands of Montanans—and millions of Americans—who rely on these programs get the coverage they are entitled to and the protections they deserve.’ Montana Democratic Sen. Jon Tester voted for the 2022 law, which also extended health insurance subsidies under the Affordable Care Act, offered tax incentives for clean energy, reduced the deficit, and cracked down on wealthy tax evaders. Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Matt Rosendale, both Republicans, voted no. In February 2023, Zinke, Rosendale, and 18 other House Republicans jointly introduced a bill to completely repeal the law. They named their bill the Inflation Reduction Act of 2023, falsely claiming that eliminating the law would actually reduce the budget deficit and the cost of living. The bill still awaits action in committee.” [Montana Independent, [5/8/24](#)]

## **Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Slammed Him In An Op-Ed For Supporting Efforts To Block Medicare From Negotiating Drug Prices And To Repeal The Medicare Insulin Price Cap And \$2,000 Cap On Out-Of-Pocket Drug Costs For Seniors**

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**2024: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming Him For Being A “Party Loyalist And Member Of The Republican Study Committee... [Who] Allied Himself With Extremists In His Party Who Would... Stop Allowing Medicare To Negotiate Drug Prices, And Repeal Both The \$35 Medicare Cap On The Price Of Insulin And \$2,000 Cap On Part D Out-Of-Pocket Costs.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn’t surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it’s up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn’t spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation’s business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, [5/30/24](#)]

## **Zinke Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee, Which Called For Repealing The Prescription Drug Provisions Of The Inflation Reduction Act**

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**2024: Zinke Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee.** [Zinke.house.gov, accessed [7/16/24](#)]



☆☆☆ CONGRESSMAN ☆☆☆  
**Ryan ZINKE**  
MONTANA'S FIRST

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## Committees and Caucuses

**Committees:**

**Appropriations:** <sup>cf</sup>

The subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

The subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies.

The subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies.

**U.S. Joint Commission on China** <sup>cf</sup>

**Foreign Affairs** <sup>cf</sup>

The subcommittee on Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia

**Caucuses:**

Northern Border Security Caucus (Co-Chair).

**Western Caucus** <sup>cf</sup> .

Native American Caucus.

**Republican Study Committee** <sup>cf</sup> .

[Zinke.house.gov, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**White House Press Release: “The Republican Study Committee... Released An Extreme Budget That Takes Direct Aim At Medicare And Social Security. Their Plan: [...] Raises Medicare Costs For Seniors By Taking Away Medicare’s Authority To Negotiate Prescription Drug Costs, Letting Drug Companies Raise Prices Without Consequence, And Repealing \$35 Insulin And The \$2,000 Out-Of-Pocket Cap In The Inflation Reduction Act.”** According to a press release from Whitehouse.gov, “Less than two weeks later, the Republican Study Committee—which speaks for 80% of House Republicans and 100% of their leadership—released an extreme budget that takes direct aim at Medicare and Social Security. Their plan: Calls for over \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Social Security, including an increase in the retirement age to 69 and cutting disability benefits. Raises Medicare costs for seniors by taking away Medicare’s authority to negotiate prescription drug costs, letting drug companies raise prices without consequence, and repealing \$35 insulin and the \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap in the Inflation Reduction Act.” [Whitehouse.gov, Press Release, [4/4/24](#)]

## Zinke Accepted \$14,116 From The Pharmaceutical Industry Over The Course Of His Congressional Career

**2024 Cycle: Zinke Accepted \$46,536 In Contributions From People In The Pharmaceutical And Health Products Industry, Including \$15,500 From Corporate PACs.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

## Ryan Zinke

See Data About Their: Federal Congressional Candidacy ▾

[Summary](#) [Elections](#) [State Data](#) Industries [PACs](#) [Contributors](#) [Geography](#) [Demographics](#)

Now showing data for the 2024 ▾ election cycle for the campaign committee only ▾

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

Industry	Total	Individuals	PACs
Retired	\$2,680,217	\$2,680,217	\$0
Republican/Conservative	\$701,340	\$696,840	\$4,500
Real Estate	\$229,921	\$224,421	\$5,500
Securities & Investment	\$225,048	\$225,048	\$0
Oil & Gas	\$220,155	\$163,225	\$56,930
Leadership PACs	\$197,600	\$0	\$197,600
Candidate Committees	\$111,910	\$0	\$111,910
Health Professionals	\$85,444	\$74,444	\$11,000
Pharmaceuticals/Health Products	\$46,536	\$31,036	\$15,500

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**Zinke Accepted \$86,867 From The Pharmaceutical And Health Products Industry Over The Course Of His Congressional Career.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/24/24](#)]

## Pharmaceuticals / Health Products Recipients

[Summary](#) [Totals](#) [Background](#) [Lobbying](#) Money to Congress [Contributors](#) [Recipients](#) [News](#)

Now showing data for the All ▾ election cycle.

Select type of data to display: All House Candidates ▾

**Money from Pharmaceuticals / Health Products to US House candidates, 1990-2024** [Export to CSV](#)

zinke

Representative	State	Amount
Zinke, Ryan (R-MT)	Montana	\$86,867

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/24/24](#)]



**Zinke Took \$14,116 From The Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry Over The Course Of His Career, With \$5,738 Coming During The 2024 Cycle.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/25/24](#)]

## Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Recipients

Summary Totals Background Lobbying Money to Congress Contributors Recipients News

Now showing data for the **All** election cycle.

Select type of data to display: All House Candidates

**Money from Pharmaceutical Manufacturing to US House candidates, 1990-2024** [Export to CSV](#)

zinke

Representative	State	Amount
Zinke, Ryan (R-MT)	Montana	\$14,116

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/25/24](#)]

## Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Recipients

Summary Totals Background Lobbying Money to Congress Contributors Recipients News

Now showing data for the **2024** election cycle.

Select type of data to display: All House Candidates

**Money from Pharmaceutical Manufacturing to US House candidates, 2023-2024** [Export to CSV](#)

zinke

Representative	State	Amount
Zinke, Ryan (R-MT)	Montana	\$5,738

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/25/24](#)]

## **Zinke Bragged That He Supported Repealing The Affordable Care Act And Repeatedly Voted To Repeal The Law**

### **Zinke Publicly Bragged That He Supported The Effort To Repeal The Affordable Care Act**

#### **October 2016: Zinke Maintained That He Supported The Effort To Repeal And Replace Obamacare**

**October 2016: Zinke Maintained That He Supported The Effort To Repeal And Replace Obamacare.** The Whitefish Pilot reported, “Zinke formed his own health care advisory committee, made up of doctors, administrators, and other health care professionals, he said to provide recommendations to him on health care issues. Zinke called for the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Health Care Act, while saying there is a need for frontier health care reforms. He said Montanans are working second jobs to afford health care and that shouldn’t be the case. Zinke said in Montana the ‘one size fits all’ solutions that often come out of Washington, D.C. don’t work. ‘Obamacare probably had a noble purpose, but the execution of it has hurt Montana and it has hurt the people that need health care the most,’ he said. ‘Government is going to be a part of health care, but government shouldn’t drive the decisions on what is best for the patient that should be the medical professional.’” [Whitefish Pilot, 10/26/16]

#### **Zinke: “Obamacare Probably Had A Noble Purpose, But The Execution Of It Has Hurt Montana And It Has Hurt The People That Need Health Care The Most”**

**Zinke: “Obamacare Probably Had A Noble Purpose, But The Execution Of It Has Hurt Montana And It Has Hurt The People That Need Health Care The Most.”** The Whitefish Pilot reported, “Zinke formed his own health care advisory committee, made up of doctors, administrators, and other health care professionals, he said to provide recommendations to him on health care issues. Zinke called for the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Health Care Act, while saying there is a need for frontier health care reforms. He said Montanans are working second jobs to afford health care and that shouldn’t be the case. Zinke said in Montana the ‘one size fits all’ solutions that often come out of Washington, D.C. don’t work. ‘Obamacare probably had a noble purpose, but the execution of it has hurt Montana and it has hurt the people that need health care the most,’ he said. ‘Government is going to be a part of health care, but government shouldn’t drive the decisions on what is best for the patient that should be the medical professional.’” [Whitefish Pilot, 10/26/16]

### **The ACA Resulted In 58,000 Montanans Gaining Health Care, 426,000 Gaining Protection From Discrimination Based On Pre-Existing Conditions, And 12,736 Seniors Saving Million On Drugs**

**Protect Our Care: “Because Of The ACA, 58,000 Montanans Gained Health Coverage.”** According to Protect Our Care, “As Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration continue to try to repeal and sabotage the Affordable Care Act, more people are learning that the law is working for them, which may be why the law has gotten more popular than ever. Here is how the Affordable Care Act is working in Montana. 58,000 Montanans Gained Health Coverage. Because of the ACA, 58,000 Montanans gained health coverage. Insurers can no longer deny or drop coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Because of the ACA, insurers in the individual market could no longer drop or deny coverage, or charge you more, because of a pre-existing condition. Roughly 426,000 Montanans have a pre-existing health condition. Women no longer charged more than men. [...] Young adults can stay on their parents’ plan until age 26. Because of the ACA, roughly 7,000 young adults in Montana have coverage





because they can stay on their parents' coverage until age 26. [...] Helping seniors afford prescription drugs. Because of the ACA, the Medicare prescription drug donut hole is close" [Protect Our Care, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**Protect Our Care: "Because Of The ACA, Insurers In The Individual Market Could No Longer Drop Or Deny Coverage, Or Charge You More, Because Of A Pre-Existing Condition. Roughly 426,000 Montanans Have A Pre-Existing Health Condition."** According to Protect Our Care, "As Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration continue to try to repeal and sabotage the Affordable Care Act, more people are learning that the law is working for them, which may be why the law has gotten more popular than ever. Here is how the Affordable Care Act is working in Montana. 58,000 Montanans Gained Health Coverage. Because of the ACA, 58,000 Montanans gained health coverage. Insurers can no longer deny or drop coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Because of the ACA, insurers in the individual market could no longer drop or deny coverage, or charge you more, because of a pre-existing condition. Roughly 426,000 Montanans have a pre-existing health condition. Women no longer charged more than men. [...] Young adults can stay on their parents' plan until age 26. Because of the ACA, roughly 7,000 young adults in Montana have coverage because they can stay on their parents' coverage until age 26. [...] Helping seniors afford prescription drugs. Because of the ACA, the Medicare prescription drug donut hole is close" [Protect Our Care, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**Protect Our Care: "Because Of The ACA, Roughly 7,000 Young Adults In Montana Have Coverage Because They Can Stay On Their Parents' Coverage Until Age 26."** According to Protect Our Care, "As Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration continue to try to repeal and sabotage the Affordable Care Act, more people are learning that the law is working for them, which may be why the law has gotten more popular than ever. Here is how the Affordable Care Act is working in Montana. 58,000 Montanans Gained Health Coverage. Because of the ACA, 58,000 Montanans gained health coverage. Insurers can no longer deny or drop coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Because of the ACA, insurers in the individual market could no longer drop or deny coverage, or charge you more, because of a pre-existing condition. Roughly 426,000 Montanans have a pre-existing health condition. Women no longer charged more than men. [...] Young adults can stay on their parents' plan until age 26. Because of the ACA, roughly 7,000 young adults in Montana have coverage because they can stay on their parents' coverage until age 26. [...] Helping seniors afford prescription drugs. Because of the ACA, the Medicare prescription drug donut hole is closed. As a result, 12,736 Montana seniors are saving \$12.3 million on drugs in 2016, an average of \$969 per beneficiary." [Protect Our Care, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**Protect Our Care: "Because Of The ACA, The Medicare Prescription Drug Donut Hole Is Closed. As A Result, 12,736 Montana Seniors Are Saving \$12.3 Million On Drugs In 2016, An Average Of \$969 Per Beneficiary."** According to Protect Our Care, "As Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration continue to try to repeal and sabotage the Affordable Care Act, more people are learning that the law is working for them, which may be why the law has gotten more popular than ever. Here is how the Affordable Care Act is working in Montana. 58,000 Montanans Gained Health Coverage. Because of the ACA, 58,000 Montanans gained health coverage. Insurers can no longer deny or drop coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Because of the ACA, insurers in the individual market could no longer drop or deny coverage, or charge you more, because of a pre-existing condition. Roughly 426,000 Montanans have a pre-existing health condition. Women no longer charged more than men. [...] Young adults can stay on their parents' plan until age 26. Because of the ACA, roughly 7,000 young adults in Montana have coverage because they can stay on their parents' coverage until age 26. [...] Helping seniors afford prescription drugs. Because of the ACA, the Medicare prescription drug donut hole is closed. As a result, 12,736 Montana seniors are saving \$12.3 million on drugs in 2016, an average of \$969 per beneficiary." [Protect Our Care, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**Zinke Repeatedly Voted To Repeal The ACA And Its Most Popular Provisions**



## **2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 1270, A Bill To Repeal A Rule Under The ACA That Made Over-The-Counter Medications Ineligible For HSA Coverage**

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**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 1270, A Bill To Repeal A Rule Under The ACA That Made Over-The-Counter Medications Ineligible For HSA Coverage.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that, as amended, would modify rules related to health savings accounts (HSAs) by doubling the maximum contribution limit, allowing couples to divide their combined catch-up contributions among either of their HSAs, creating a special rule for certain medical expenses incurred before the establishment of an HSA, and repealing a rule under the 2010 health care law that made over-the-counter medications ineligible for coverage under HSAs. The motion passed the House on July 6, 2016 by a vote of 243-164, with 0 voting present and 26 not voting. 10 Democrats and 233 Republicans voted for the motion, while 164 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1270, [Vote #351](#), 7/6/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/6/16](#)]

## **2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 954, A Bill To Temporarily Exempt Individuals Who Lost Health Care Coverage By The Closure Of A Consumer Operated And Oriented Plan From Penalties Set By The 2010 Health Care Law**

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**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 954, A Bill To Temporarily Exempt Individuals Who Lost Health Care Coverage By The Closure Of A Consumer Operated And Oriented Plan From Penalties Set By The 2010 Health Care Law.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would temporarily exempt (through the end of a given year) individuals whose health care coverage is terminated by the closure of a Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan from penalties set by the 2010 health care law (PL 111-148, PL 111-152). The bill’s exemption would apply retroactively to any cancellation that occurred after Dec. 31, 2013, and would also apply to any future cancellations. The motion passed the House on September 27, 2016 by a vote of 258-165, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 16 Democrats and 242 Republicans voted for the motion, while 165 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 954, [Vote #563](#), 9/27/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/27/16](#)]

## **2017: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Midnight Rules Relief Act Of 2017 With Instructions To Add An Amendment To Exempt Rules From The Bill That Prohibited Health Insurance Companies From Discriminating Based On Gender Or Preexisting Conditions And Prohibit Higher Premiums Or Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Seniors On Medicare Part D**

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**2017: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Midnight Rules Relief Act Of 2017 With Instructions To Add An Amendment To Exempt Rules From The Bill That Prohibited Health Insurance Companies From Discriminating Based On Gender Or Preexisting Conditions And Prohibit Higher Premiums Or Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Seniors On Medicare Part D.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Castor, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would add an exemption to the bill for rules that prohibit health insurance companies from discriminating against individuals based on gender or preexisting conditions. The amendment also would exempt from the measure rules that prohibit higher premiums or out-of-pocket costs for seniors for medication under the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. The motion failed the House on January 4, 2017 by a vote of 183-236, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 183 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #7](#), 1/4/17; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/4/17](#)]

## **2017: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Regulations From The Executive In Need Of Scrutiny Act Of 2017 With Instructions To Add An Exemption To The Bill For Any Rule That Barred Health Insurance Issuers From Eliminating Health Coverage For Dependents Younger Than 26 Years Old**

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**2017: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Regulations From The Executive In Need Of Scrutiny Act Of 2017 With Instructions To Add An Exemption To The Bill For Any Rule That Barred Health Insurance Issuers From Eliminating Health Coverage For Dependents Younger Than 26 Years Old.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Murphy, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill any rule prohibiting an insurance issuer from eliminating health coverage for dependents younger than 26 years old. The motion failed the House on January 5, 2017 by a vote of 190-235, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 190 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 26, [Vote #22](#), 1/5/17; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/5/17](#)]

## **2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 3799, A Bill To Create Additional Flexibilities For Employers Providing Health Insurance, Including Allowing Groups Of Employers To Establish And Maintain Group Health Plans For Employees And Declaring That Such Plans Were Not Illegal Under Existing Law**

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**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 3799, A Bill To Create Additional Flexibilities For Employers Providing Health Insurance, Including Allowing Groups Of Employers To Establish And Maintain Group Health Plans For Employees And Declaring That Such Plans Were Not Illegal Under Existing Law.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would create additional flexibilities for employers providing health insurance. The bill would allow groups of employers to establish and maintain group health plans for employees. It would require such groups to provide coverage to at least 51 employees and to have been in existence for at least two years prior to establishing the health plan. It would allow self-employed individuals to establish a group for the purpose of maintaining a group health plan. The bill would also allow employer-financed health reimbursement arrangements (HRA) to be used by employees to purchase insurance plans on state exchanges. It would also deem such HRAs compliant with requirements under current law for employers to provide health insurance coverage. To be eligible, it would require employers to offer the same HRA plan to all employees of a certain class, as defined by the bill, including full- and part-time employees, employees under the same collective bargaining agreement, and non-resident alien employees. It would also require employers to give eligible employees 90 days’ written notice prior to the beginning of the plan year of their rights and obligations. Among other provisions, the bill would rescind \$245 million in fiscal 2024 from the Health and Human Services Department’s Prevention and Public Health Fund, specify that stop-loss policies obtained by a self-insured group health plan or plan sponsor do not qualify as health insurance coverage under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, and require the Treasury Department, within one year of enactment, to notify employers of the availability of tax-advantaged flexible health insurance benefits, with an initial focus on small businesses. HR 3799 also contains the text of the Small Business Flexibility Act (HR 3798), the Association Health Plans Act (HR 2868) and the Self-Insurance Protection Act (HR 2813). The motion passed the House on June 21, 2023 by a vote of 220-209, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 0 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted for the motion, while 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3799, [Vote #282](#), 6/21/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/21/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Custom Health Option and Individual Care Expenses (CHOICE) Arrangement Act.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Doggett, D-Texas, motion



to recommit the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee. The motion failed the House on June 21, 2023 by a vote of 209-220, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3799, [Vote #281](#), 6/21/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/21/23](#)]

- **The Custom Health Option And Individual Care Expenses (CHOICE) Arrangement Act Would Allow Business Owners To Give Cash To Their Workers To Purchase Individual Healthcare Plans To Serve As An Alternative To Employer-Provided Plans.** According to Benefits Pro, “Employers could give workers cash they can use to purchase individual health coverage under legislation passed by the U.S. House on Wednesday. The Custom Health Option and Individual Care Expenses (CHOICE) Arrangement Act codifies the health reimbursement arrangements established by the Trump administration in 2019, which allow business owners to reimburse their employees for individual health insurance plans as well as provide tax-advantaged funds for qualified medical expenses. It is meant to provide an alternative to employer-provided health plans, which are tax-privileged under current law.” [Benefits Pro, [6/23/23](#)]

## Zinke Co-Sponsored Numerous Bills To Repeal The ACA Or Portions Of The Law

### January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 596, A Bill Repealing The ACA And The Health Provisions Of The Health Care And Education Reconciliation Act Of 2010

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**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 596, A Bill Repealing The ACA And The Health Provisions Of The Health Care And Education Reconciliation Act Of 2010.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 596, a bill “To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 596](#), introduced [1/28/15](#)]

### March 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 928, A Bill Repealing A Provision Of The ACA That Imposed An Annual Fee On Health Insurance Providers

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**March 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 928, A Bill Repealing A Provision Of The ACA That Imposed An Annual Fee On Health Insurance Providers.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 928, a bill “To repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 928](#), introduced [2/12/15](#)]

### April 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1234, A Bill Repealing Portions Of The ACA, Including Provisions Requiring Dependent Coverage Until Age 26 And Prohibiting Coverage Exclusions Based On Preexisting Conditions

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**April 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1234, A Bill Repealing Portions Of The ACA, Including Provisions Requiring Dependent Coverage Until Age 26 And Prohibiting Coverage Exclusions Based On Preexisting Conditions.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1234, which was a bill that “repeals provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 relating to health insurance, health savings accounts, and health flexible spending accounts, including provisions prohibiting annual or lifetime limits on benefits, requiring preventive care without cost sharing, requiring dependent coverage until age 26, prohibiting preexisting condition exclusions, guaranteeing



availability and renewability of coverage, and prohibiting payments for over-the-counter medications from health savings accounts and health flexible spending arrangements. Provisions of law amended by those provisions are restored as if PPACA and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 had not been enacted.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1234](#), introduced [3/4/15](#)]

**2013-2024: Zinke Accepted \$404,293 In Contributions From The Health Sector, Including \$89,600 From PACs**

**2013-2024: Zinke Accepted \$404,293 In Contributions From The Health Sector, Including \$89,600 From PACs.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

Sector	Total	Individuals	PACs
Other	\$5,097,357	\$5,095,357	\$2,000
Ideological/Single-Issue	\$3,376,441	\$1,967,006	\$1,409,435
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$2,206,877	\$2,008,041	\$198,836
Energy & Natural Resources	\$1,098,548	\$764,221	\$334,327
Misc Business	\$857,567	\$680,169	\$177,398
Agribusiness	\$611,422	\$434,722	\$176,700
Construction	\$499,270	\$368,270	\$131,000
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$467,097	\$424,297	\$42,800
Transportation	\$446,326	\$293,226	\$153,100
Health	\$404,293	\$314,693	\$89,600

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/16/24](#)]



## **Zinke Opposed Making It Easier For Veterans To Obtain Their Benefits And Said They Should Get A Job Instead Of Being “Economic Slaves” Dependent On Government Benefits**

### **Zinke Opposed The Veterans First Act, A Bill To Make It Easier For Veterans To Access The Disability Benefits They Deserved**

### **Zinke Opposed The Veterans First Act, A Bill To Make It Easier For Veterans To Access The Disability Benefits They Deserved**

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**September 2016: Asked During A Debate About The Veterans Administration, Zinke Said He Opposed The Veterans First Act.** The Montana Standard reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties’ presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] On questions about the Veterans Administration, Zinke highlighted his expertise while taking a swing at the too-big bureaucracy that he said ballooned under President Barack Obama’s leadership. ‘To improve (the Choice Act), we’ve got to push more authority to the state in Helena,’ he said. ‘Let them make the decision rather than some bureaucrat in Washington, DC.’ Juneau, as she did Monday, said ‘the Veterans First Act is a good start,’ highlighting that it made funding more flexible. Zinke has said he opposes the bill. Zinke also was asked about statements he made in Billings telling veterans they should work toward getting jobs and calling reliance on government services ‘economic slavery.’ ‘We have to wean them off the dangerous cycle of economic dependency on the government,’ Zinke said. ‘Don’t be a victim. Be a value-added part of society.’” [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

**The Veterans First Act Was A Bill To Reform The Disability Claims Process So That Veterans Could More Easily Access The Benefits They Were Entitled To.** According to United States Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, “The Veterans First Act: Reforming Disability Benefits Claims and Appeals Bipartisan bill cuts through bureaucracy to ensure veterans get the benefits they deserve The backlog of disability claims has long been a problem at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and on top of that, the VA currently faces a backlog of 445,000 appeals primarily related to claims for disability benefits. The bipartisan Veterans First Act improves the benefits process at the VA to make it easier for veterans to receive the benefits they deserve.” [United States Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

### **The Veterans First Act Was Co-Sponsored By Jon Tester And Steve Daines, And Sponsored By Johnny Isakson, The Republican Chair Of The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**

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**The Veterans First Act Was Co-Sponsored By Jon Tester And Steve Daines, And Sponsored By Johnny Isakson.** [Congress.gov, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

**S.2921 - Veterans First Act**  
114th Congress (2015-2016)

**BILL** Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Sen. Isakson, Johnny \[R-GA\]](#) (Introduced 05/11/2016)  
Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs  
Latest Action: Senate - 05/16/2016 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 467. ([All Actions](#))  
Tracker: ● **Introduced**

More on This Bill  
[CBO Cost Estimates \[1\]](#)

Subject — Policy Area:  
Armed Forces and National Security  
[View subjects >>](#)

Summary (2) | Text (2) | Actions (4) | Titles (5) | Amendments (0) | **Cosponsors (45)** | Committees (1) | Related Bills (36)

**Cosponsors: S.2921 — 114th Congress (2015-2016)** [All Information](#) (Except Text)

Sponsor: [Sen. Isakson, Johnny \[R-GA\]](#) | Cosponsor statistics: 45 current - includes 31 original

Hide Filters  \* = Original cosponsor View Expanded  Sort by First to Last

Party of Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Date Cosponsored
<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic [28]	<a href="#">Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]*</a>	05/11/2016
<input type="checkbox"/> Republican [17]	<a href="#">Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]*</a>	05/11/2016
Cosponsors by U.S. State or Territory <input type="button" value="v"/>	<a href="#">Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]*</a>	05/11/2016

[Congress.gov, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

<a href="#">Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]*</a>	05/11/2016
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[Congress.gov, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

- **Isakson Was The Chairman Of The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.** NPR reported, “Isakson, whose real estate business made him a millionaire, spent more than four decades in Georgia political life. In the Senate, he was the architect of a popular tax credit for first-time home buyers that he said would help invigorate the struggling housing market. As chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, he worked to expand programs offering more private health care choices for veterans.” [NPR, [12/19/21](#)]

**Zinke Compared Veterans Who Accessed Government Benefits To “Economic Slaves” And Said They Needed To Get A Job, Arguing, “Don’t Be A Victim. Be A Value-Added Part Of Society”**

**Zinke Compared Veterans Who Accessed Government Benefits To “Economic Slaves” And Said They Needed To Get A Job, Arguing, “Don’t Be A Victim. Be A Value-Added Part Of Society”**

**September 2016: Asked About Comments He Made About Veterans Needing To Get Jobs And Calling Reliance On Government Services “Economic Slavery,” Zinke Said “Don’t Be A Victim. Be A Value-Added Part Of Society.”** The Montana Standard reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties’ presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] On questions about the Veterans Administration, Zinke highlighted his expertise while taking a swing at the too-big bureaucracy that he said ballooned under President Barack Obama’s leadership. ‘To improve (the Choice Act), we’ve got to push more authority to the state in Helena,’ he said. ‘Let them make the decision rather than some bureaucrat in Washington, DC.’ Juneau, as she did Monday, said ‘the Veterans First Act is a good start,’ highlighting that it made funding more flexible. Zinke has said he opposes the bill. Zinke also was asked about statements he made in Billings telling veterans they should work toward getting jobs and calling reliance on government services ‘economic slavery.’”

‘We have to wean them off the dangerous cycle of economic dependency on the government,’ Zinke said. ‘Don’t be a victim. Be a value-added part of society.’” [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

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- **Montana Standard: “Zinke Also Was Asked About Statements He Made In Billings Telling Veterans They Should Work Toward Getting Jobs And Calling Reliance On Government Services ‘Economic Slavery.’”** The Montana Standard reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties’ presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] On questions about the Veterans Administration, Zinke highlighted his expertise while taking a swing at the too-big bureaucracy that he said ballooned under President Barack Obama’s leadership. ‘To improve (the Choice Act), we’ve got to push more authority to the state in Helena,’ he said. ‘Let them make the decision rather than some bureaucrat in Washington, DC.’ Juneau, as she did Monday, said ‘the Veterans First Act is a good start,’ highlighting that it made funding more flexible. Zinke has said he opposes the bill. Zinke also was asked about statements he made in Billings telling veterans they should work toward getting jobs and calling reliance on government services ‘economic slavery.’ ‘We have to wean them off the dangerous cycle of economic dependency on the government,’ Zinke said. ‘Don’t be a victim. Be a value-added part of society.’” [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

## **Zinke’s Comments Were Critiqued By Other Veterans**

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**September 2016: Veterans Former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow And Former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For “Shamelessly Touting His Military Service” While “Disparaging And Undermining Veterans.”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “Unfortunately, Congressman Ryan Zinke seems to have forgotten what military service is all about. And that’s exactly why we stood on the steps of our Capitol in Helena to share our frustration that the congressman plays politics with Montana veterans. Make no mistake, we’re not dismissing Congressman Zinke’s service in the Navy SEALs. But we’re expressing our disappointment in how he’s chosen to serve his fellow veterans as a member of Congress. Zinke has spent his time in office shamelessly touting his military service while at the same time disparaging and undermining veterans. Zinke once compared veterans who receive VA benefits to ‘economic slaves.’ How can he equate men and women who served our nation and earned the benefits that come with that service to slaves? At the same time, Zinke himself has received almost \$2,000 each month in veterans’ benefits.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 9/6/16]

- **Hollow And Carlson-Evans: “Zinke Has Spent His Time In Office Shamelessly Touting His Military Service While At The Same Time Disparaging And Undermining Veterans.”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “Unfortunately, Congressman Ryan Zinke seems to have forgotten what military service is all about. And that’s exactly why we stood on the steps of our Capitol in Helena to share our frustration that the congressman plays politics with Montana veterans. Make no mistake, we’re not dismissing Congressman Zinke’s service in the Navy SEALs. But we’re expressing our disappointment in how he’s chosen to serve his fellow veterans as a

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- **Hollow And Carlson-Evans: “How Can [Zinke] Equate Men And Women Who Served Our Nation And Earned Benefits That Come With That Service To Slaves? At The Same Time, Zinke Himself Has Received Almost \$2,000 Each Month In Veterans’ Benefits.”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “Unfortunately, Congressman Ryan Zinke seems to have forgotten what military service is all about. And that’s exactly why we stood on the steps of our Capitol in Helena to share our frustration that the congressman plays politics with Montana veterans. Make no mistake, we’re not dismissing Congressman Zinke’s service in the Navy SEALs. But we’re expressing our disappointment in how he’s chosen to serve his fellow veterans as a member of Congress. Zinke has spent his time in office shamelessly touting his military service while at the same time disparaging and undermining veterans. Zinke once compared veterans who receive VA benefits to ‘economic slaves.’ How can he equate men and women who served our nation and earned the benefits that come with that service to slaves? At the same time, Zinke himself has received almost \$2,000 each month in veterans’ benefits.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 9/6/16]
- **Hollow And Carlson-Evans: “How Can The VA Improve If Congressman Zinke Stands In The Way Of Efforts To Make It Work Better?”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “At the same time, Zinke himself has received almost \$2,000 each month in veterans’ benefits. The congressman also told Iraq and Afghanistan veterans on a talk show, ‘Don’t be a victim,’ while voting against \$15 million for veterans’ health services and making it harder for VA workers to report evidence of wrongdoing. We’ve all seen trouble at the VA - from wait times to lack of critical care for too many veterans - and we expect our elected leaders to help fix it. But how can the VA improve if Congressman Zinke stands in the way of efforts to make it work better? We’re also appalled that Zinke skips votes on veterans’ issues to promote his own brand on cable news stations.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 9/6/16]
- **Hollow And Carlson-Evans: “If Congressman Ryan Zinke Won’t Apologize To The Veterans He’s Forsaken In Pursuit Of His Own Prosperity, He Needs To Get Out Of The Way.”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “The congressman also supports a presidential candidate in Donald Trump who insults families of fallen soldiers, POWs and Purple Heart recipients. We think Zinke needs to apologize to the veterans he has insulted for promoting himself over service, voting against issues that would support our fellow veterans and standing by a presidential candidate who would be a disaster for our nation and our overall security (and we’d rather take the word of 50 top national security advisers who have expressed concern about Trump over Zinke on this). If Congressman Ryan Zinke won’t apologize to the veterans he’s forsaken in pursuit of his own prosperity, he needs to get out of the way, so we can elect a leader who will not forget the contributions that Montana’s 100,000 veterans made to this great state and country.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 9/6/16]



## **Zinke Voted To Let The U.S. Default On Its Debt, Which Would Have Instantly Caused A “Cataclysmic” Recession, Wiped Out \$10 Trillion In Household Wealth, And Destroyed Millions Of Jobs**

**2023: Zinke Voted Against The Bipartisan Deal To Raise The Debt Ceiling And Prevent The Federal Government From Defaulting On Its Debt**

**2023: Zinke Voted Against The Bipartisan Deal Between President Biden And Kevin McCarthy To Raise The Debt Ceiling And Prevent The Federal Government From Defaulting On Its Debt**

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**2023: Zinke Voted Against The Bipartisan Deal Between President Biden And Kevin McCarthy To Raise The Debt Ceiling And Prevent The Federal Government From Defaulting On Its Debt.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Both of Montana’s Republican U.S. representatives voted against a deal to raise the federal government’s borrowing limit for the next two years, putting them outside a bipartisan coalition that advanced the bill to the Senate late Wednesday. A total of 314 representatives voted for the bill. Opposition was also bipartisan, with 117 opposed a mix of 71 Republicans and 46 Democrats. Democratic President Biden and Republican Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy reached the deal earlier this week to raise the debt ceiling and make some spending reductions, among other changes like alterations to work requirements for those covered by some federal programs. Congress needed to increase the debt ceiling to keep the federal government from defaulting on its bills. The threshold has been altered 78 times since 1960, according to the Washington Post, though in recent years the issue has become more politically charged.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/1/23]

**Zinke Said The Bill Did Not Go Far Enough, Arguing, “The Bill Was Not All Bad. It Contained Modest But Needed Work On Permit Reforms And Negotiated Spending Reductions. The Problem Is That It Is Just Not Enough For Montana. We Are Faced With Adding \$4 Trillion In Debt. More Has To Be Done To Cut The Budget And Grow The Economy”**

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**Zinke Said The Bill Did Not Go Far Enough, Arguing, “The Bill Was Not All Bad. It Contained Modest But Needed Work On Permit Reforms And Negotiated Spending Reductions. The Problem Is That It Is Just Not Enough For Montana. We Are Faced With Adding \$4 Trillion In Debt. More Has To Be Done To Cut The Budget And Grow The Economy.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “In a statement emailed Wednesday night, Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said he voted against the bill because it did not go far enough, though he did support some components. ‘The bill was not all bad. It contained modest but needed work on permit reforms and negotiated spending reductions. The problem is that it is just not enough for Montana. We are faced with adding \$4 trillion in debt. More has to be done to cut the budget and grow the economy,’ Zinke said. ‘Article I of the Constitution is clear no money shall be withdrawn from the treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law. I strongly believe we need to get back to that fundamental constitutional power.’ Zinke also posted a video saying while he respected the people who brokered the deal, ‘at the end of the day it doesn’t meet the bell’ because it added \$4 trillion to the debt and he felt it did not comply with the U.S. Constitution.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/1/23]

**Billings Gazette: “Zinke Voted No On Raising The Debt Ceiling”**

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**Billings Gazette: “Zinke Voted No On Raising The Debt Ceiling.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Rosendale and Hageman and Zinke voted no on raising the debt ceiling. At the heart of the debate over whether to keep the





government operational and solvent is spending. Both in the debt ceiling stand-off and the two votes to avert government shutdowns this fall, the representatives said spending levels made the bills intolerable. ‘No spending cuts? No policy changes? No CR. I can’t justify a yes vote when it’s just prolonging the status quo to punt again,’ Western District Rep. Zinke told followers on X.” [Billings Gazette, 11/15/23]

## **A Debt Default Would Have A Cataclysmic Impact On The U.S. Economy, Wiping Out \$10 Trillion In Household Wealth And Causing A Global Recession**

**2023: Mark Zandi At Moody Analytics Forecasted That Breaching The U.S. Debt Limit Would Wipe Out 1.5 Million Jobs In A Week, Or 7.8 Million Jobs If The Default Lasted Multiple Months, Along With More Than Doubling The Unemployment Rate And Wiping Out \$10 Trillion In Household Wealth.** PBS reported, “The repercussions of a first-ever default on the federal debt would quickly reverberate around the world. [...] ‘No corner of the global economy will be spared’ if the U.S. government defaulted and the crisis weren’t resolved quickly, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics. Zandi and two colleagues at Moody’s have concluded that even if the debt limit were breached for no more than week, the U.S. economy would weaken so much, so fast, as to wipe out roughly 1.5 million jobs. And if a government default were to last much longer — well into the summer — the consequences would be far more dire, Zandi and his colleagues found in their analysis: U.S. economic growth would sink, 7.8 million American jobs would vanish, borrowing rates would jump, the unemployment rate would soar from the current 3.4 percent to 8 percent and a stock-market plunge would erase \$10 trillion in household wealth. [...] Feeding the anxiety is the fact that so much financial activity hinges on confidence that America will always pay its financial obligations. Its debt, long viewed as an ultra-safe asset, is a foundation of global commerce, built on decades of trust in the United States. A default could shatter the \$24 trillion market for Treasury debt, cause financial markets to freeze up and ignite an international crisis. ‘A debt default would be a cataclysmic event, with an unpredictable but probably dramatic fallout on U.S. and global financial markets,’ said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.” [PBS, [5/22/23](#)]

**Eswar Prasad, A Professor Of Global Trade Policy At Cornell University, Said, “A Debt Default Would Be A Cataclysmic Event, With An Unpredictable But Probably Dramatic Fallout On U.S. And Global Financial Markets.”** PBS reported, “The repercussions of a first-ever default on the federal debt would quickly reverberate around the world. [...] ‘No corner of the global economy will be spared’ if the U.S. government defaulted and the crisis weren’t resolved quickly, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics. Zandi and two colleagues at Moody’s have concluded that even if the debt limit were breached for no more than week, the U.S. economy would weaken so much, so fast, as to wipe out roughly 1.5 million jobs. And if a government default were to last much longer — well into the summer — the consequences would be far more dire, Zandi and his colleagues found in their analysis: U.S. economic growth would sink, 7.8 million American jobs would vanish, borrowing rates would jump, the unemployment rate would soar from the current 3.4 percent to 8 percent and a stock-market plunge would erase \$10 trillion in household wealth. [...] Feeding the anxiety is the fact that so much financial activity hinges on confidence that America will always pay its financial obligations. Its debt, long viewed as an ultra-safe asset, is a foundation of global commerce, built on decades of trust in the United States. A default could shatter the \$24 trillion market for Treasury debt, cause financial markets to freeze up and ignite an international crisis. ‘A debt default would be a cataclysmic event, with an unpredictable but probably dramatic fallout on U.S. and global financial markets,’ said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.” [PBS, [5/22/23](#)]

**PBS: “Much Financial Activity Hinges On Confidence That America Will Always Pay Its Financial Obligations. Its Debt, Long Viewed As An Ultra-Safe Asset, Is A Foundation Of Global Commerce, Built On Decades Of Trust In The United States. A Default Could Shatter The \$24 Trillion Market For Treasury Debt, Cause Financial Markets To Freeze Up And Ignite An International Crisis.”** PBS reported, “The repercussions of a first-ever default on the federal debt would quickly reverberate around the world. [...] ‘No corner

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- **Mark Zandi: “No Corner Of The Global Economy Will Be Spared.”** PBS reported, “The repercussions of a first-ever default on the federal debt would quickly reverberate around the world. [...] ‘No corner of the global economy will be spared’ if the U.S. government defaulted and the crisis weren’t resolved quickly, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics. Zandi and two colleagues at Moody’s have concluded that even if the debt limit were breached for no more than week, the U.S. economy would weaken so much, so fast, as to wipe out roughly 1.5 million jobs. And if a government default were to last much longer — well into the summer — the consequences would be far more dire, Zandi and his colleagues found in their analysis: U.S. economic growth would sink, 7.8 million American jobs would vanish, borrowing rates would jump, the unemployment rate would soar from the current 3.4 percent to 8 percent and a stock-market plunge would erase \$10 trillion in household wealth. [...] Feeding the anxiety is the fact that so much financial activity hinges on confidence that America will always pay its financial obligations. Its debt, long viewed as an ultra-safe asset, is a foundation of global commerce, built on decades of trust in the United States. A default could shatter the \$24 trillion market for Treasury debt, cause financial markets to freeze up and ignite an international crisis. ‘A debt default would be a cataclysmic event, with an unpredictable but probably dramatic fallout on U.S. and global financial markets,’ said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.” [PBS, [5/22/23](#)]

## **Zinke Repeatedly Voted To Shut Down The Government And Force The Troops And Border Patrol Agents To Work Without Pay**

**2023: Zinke Initially Supported A Continuing Resolution To Avoid A Government Shutdown, Arguing That It Was Pointless To Force The Troops To Go Without Pay**

### **2023: Zinke Said He Would Support A Short-Term Continuing Resolution To Avert A Government Shutdown**

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**2023: Zinke Said He Would Support A Short-Term Continuing Resolution To Avert A Government Shutdown, But Only If The House Passed Its Appropriations Bill And Created A Budget Based On Its Appropriations Work.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The federal government shutdown at the end of September is becoming increasingly more likely as a minority of House Republicans, including Montana’s Matt Rosendale, object to short-term funding proposals. The remainder of Montana’s congressional delegation say they will support a continuing resolution to keep the government running as the House and Senate reconcile budget differences. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, Montana’s Western District Republican, said Monday he would vote for a very short continuing resolution only if the House passed its appropriations bill and proceeded after Sept. 30 to craft a budget based on appropriations work. Zinke is a member of the House Appropriations Committee. He cautioned that most government funding was on autopilot and wouldn’t be affected. The power of the House is the power of the purse, and Zinke said representatives surrender that power to post-September funding maneuvers.” [Billings Gazette, 9/12/23]

- **Zinke: “The House... Has Been Negligent For Years On Inventing These, What I Call Tricks. And These Tricks And Conveniences Are The Continuing Resolutions, The Omnibuses, Mandated Spending, And Non-Discretionary, Discretionary Spending. All These Vehicles Had The Effect That Congress Can Punt And Take The Easy Way Out, And They Have.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “I’m both senior enough, and a constitutionalist that fully supports Article I, Section VI, that no money be withdrawn from the Treasury, unless by appropriations,’ Zinke said. ‘I think appropriations are incredibly important, for two reasons. One, is the House, I’d say, has been negligent for years on inventing these, what I call tricks. And these tricks and conveniences are the continuing resolutions, the omnibuses, mandated spending, and non-discretionary, discretionary spending. All these vehicles had the effect that Congress can punt and take the easy way out, and they have. But appropriations is hard. And I think Congress should do the hard work and appropriate everything.’” [Billings Gazette, 9/12/23]

### **2023: Zinke Said It Was Pointless To Deny Pay To Armed Forces Members And Border Patrol Agents Through A Government Shutdown**

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**2023: Zinke Said It Was Pointless To Deny Pay To Armed Forces Members And Border Patrol Agents Through A Government Shutdown, With Zinke Blaming Republican Holdouts Including Montana’s Matt Rosendale For Delaying The Passage Of A Budget.** The Independent Record reported, “After weeks of shutdown rhetoric from Montana Rep. Matt Rosendale, the state’s other two congressional Republicans are pushing back. U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and the Rep. Ryan Zinke are cautioning against a government shutdown, saying it’s pointless to deny pay to people serving in the armed forces, patrolling the U.S. border with Mexico, as well as other federal employees. Zinke, on Tuesday, said that it’s a handful of the Republican lawmakers, Rosendale included, that have burned weeks off the Congressional calendar quarreling with their own majority rather than advancing Republican bills.” [Independent Record, 9/26/23]

- **Zinke: “We Wasted About A Month On 16 Rounds Of Votes For A Speaker. Then We Wasted Another Month Over The Debt Ceiling... Then, We Got 10 Of The 12 Bills... The Hold-Up? When You Can’t Pass Defense And You Can’t Pass Homeland Security, Then Houston, We’ve Got A Problem.”** The Independent Record reported, “‘How did we get here?’ Zinke said. ‘Well, we wasted about a month on 16 rounds of votes for a speaker. Then we wasted another month over the debt ceiling,’ Zinke said. ‘Then, we got 10 of the 12 bills out’ of Appropriations Committee. ‘By far the preponderance of spending is out of committee. And the hold-up? When you can’t pass Defense and you can’t pass Homeland Security, then Houston, we’ve got a problem.’ Wednesday, Zinke sparred on social media with Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz over hard-right lawmaker’s claim that the insurgents were responsible for a return to budget making through the appropriations process.” [Independent Record, 9/26/23]
- **Independent Record: “What Zinke Opposes Is Dragging The Big Budget Decisions Into December When Typically, An Omnibus Spending Bill, Brokered Outside Of The Normal Appropriations Process, Is Passed In Take-It-Or-Leave-It Fashion Without Hearings, Or Amendments By Rank-And-File Members Of Congress.”** The Independent Record reported, “But Zinke is also uncomfortable with a stop-gap bill to keep the government running beyond Sept. 30. He said he would support a bill that kept things running for a few weeks so Congress can pass an actual budget based on the appropriations bills that have all received hearings, 10 of which should be ready for consideration by the House as a whole. What Zinke opposes is dragging the big budget decisions into December when typically, an omnibus spending bill, brokered outside of the normal appropriations process, is passed in take-it-or-leave-it fashion without hearings, or amendments by rank-and-file members of Congress.” [Independent Record, 9/26/23]

## **September 2023: Zinke Voted To Keep The Government Funded, Citing The Need To Keep Paying The Military And Border Patrol Agents**

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**2023: Zinke Reportedly Voted For Stopgap Funding Bills To Keep The Government Funded And Avoid A Shutdown.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Montana’s congressional delegation further split this week on whether to prevent a major shutdown of government services slated to begin at midnight Sunday. U.S. Sen Jon Tester, a Montana Democrat and Western District U.S. Rep Ryan Zinke, a Republican, ended the week voting for the stop-gap bills to keep the government running while lawmakers continue cobbling a budget for the 2024 federal fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. Though the Senate and House bills are dramatically different and don’t stand a chance of passage in the opposite chamber, they do represent the only votes taken to the keep the government fully open.” [Billings Gazette, 9/29/23]

- **Zinke: “What Happens, Unfortunately, If We Go To A Shutdown Our Military Is Not Going To Be Paid... And These Are The Corporals, The Young Petty Officers. That Means They’re Likely To Miss A Rent Payment, Maybe A Car Payment. Their Credit Score Is Going To Be Affected.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘What happens, unfortunately, if we go to a shutdown our military is not going to be paid,’ Zinke said earlier in the week. ‘And these are the corporals, the young petty officers. That means they’re likely to miss a rent payment, maybe a car payment. Their credit score is going to be affected,’ said Zinke, a former Navy SEAL. ‘And quite frankly, when you sign up for the military, it’s a contract. And we’re going to break that contract over a political point? I don’t think we should ever take the paychecks of our service members as a political pawn.’” [Billings Gazette, 9/29/23]
- **Zinke Also Argued That A Government Shutdown Would Force Border Patrol Agents To Work Without Pay.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Included in the 680,000 federal employees showing up for work without pay were Border Patrol Agents, Zinke said. It makes no sense, he said, for lawmakers to make demands for increased security along the U.S. border with Mexico, as Republicans are demanding, while also setting up the Border Patrol to go without paychecks.” [Billings Gazette, 9/29/23]

## **...But Then, Zinke Voted Against A Clean Continuing Resolution In October To Keep The Government Funded, Despite Criticizing Republicans For Only Wanting To “Burn It Down”**

### **2023: Zinke Reportedly Voted Against A 45-Day Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Fully Funded, Despite Criticizing Republican Holdouts For Saying “That They Will Vote Against Everything. There Is Not A Continuing Resolution They Would Actually Vote For”**

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**2023: Zinke Reportedly Voted Against A 45-Day Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Fully Funded, Despite Criticizing Republican Holdouts For Saying “That They Will Vote Against Everything. There Is Not A Continuing Resolution They Would Actually Vote For.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Dissenting Republicans didn’t think the bills did enough, while Democrats thought the bills went too far. In the case of the Republican stop-gap bill, for example, Democrats were opposed to the agency funding cuts of nearly 30% in some cases. The bill also included a fat fiscal carrot of U.S.-Mexico border funding that Republican dissenters wouldn’t follow. ‘At the end of the day, they’ve said that they will vote against everything. There is not a continuing resolution they would actually vote for,’ Zinke said. ‘So, when you come from the position that “there is nothing I will vote for. And I will always vote against,” At that point in time why are you here? Are you in Washington DC to fix it? Or are you here to burn it down?’ It should be noted that Zinke and Rosendale both voted against the 45-day continuing resolution that in the end kept the federal government fully operating through Nov. 17.” [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

- **Zinke: “So, When You Come From The Position That ‘There Is Nothing I Will Vote For...’ Why Are You Here? Are You In Washington DC To Fix It? Or Are You Here To Burn It Down?”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Dissenting Republicans didn’t think the bills did enough, while Democrats thought the bills went too far. In the case of the Republican stop-gap bill, for example, Democrats were opposed to the agency funding cuts of nearly 30% in some cases. The bill also included a fat fiscal carrot of U.S.-Mexico border funding that Republican dissenters wouldn’t follow. ‘At the end of the day, they’ve said that they will vote against everything. There is not a continuing resolution they would actually vote for,’ Zinke said. ‘So, when you come from the position that “there is nothing I will vote for. And I will always vote against,” At that point in time why are you here? Are you in Washington DC to fix it? Or are you here to burn it down?’ It should be noted that Zinke and Rosendale both voted against the 45-day continuing resolution that in the end kept the federal government fully operating through Nov. 17.” [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

### **2023: Zinke Voted For A Partisan Continuing Resolution With 30 Percent Funding Cuts To Certain Agencies But Voted Against A Bipartisan Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Funding, Arguing That Doing So Kept The Government Fully Operating Catered To President Biden’s Preferences**

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**2023: Zinke Voted For A Partisan Continuing Resolution With 30 Percent Funding Cuts To Certain Agencies But Voted Against A Bipartisan Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Funding, Arguing That Doing So Kept The Government Fully Operating Catered To President Biden’s Preferences.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Challengers to the Montana Reps. Matt Rosendale and Ryan Zinke are calling their government shutdown votes a reckless disservice to constituents. Both lawmakers voted against the final bipartisan resolution passed Saturday to keep the government running at 2023 funding levels through Nov. 17 as work on budget appropriations bills goes into overtime. Rosendale had vowed in mid-September not to support a continuing resolution to fund the budget-less government beyond the end of the federal fiscal year Sept. 30. But Zinke had voted for a shorter, partisan bill to fund the government for 30 days with spending cuts of nearly 30% for some





agencies. Both said Saturday that by rolling forward 2023 spending levels for 45 days, the bill that now keeps the government fully operating catered to President Joe Biden.” [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

## **Zinke’s Democratic Opponent Slammed Him For His “Mean-Spirited” Vote For A Partisan Continuing Resolution, Saying, “They’re Playing With People’s Lives And Only For Political Gain”**

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**Monica Tranel, Zinke’s Democratic Opponent: “I Think They’re Playing With People’s Lives And Only For Political Gain. And When Zinke Says He Doesn’t Want A Government Shutdown, What Is He Doing About It To Stop It?”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘I think they’re playing with people’s lives and only for political gain. And when Zinke says he doesn’t want a government shutdown, what is he doing about it to stop it?’ said Monica Tranel, Democratic Western District candidate. ‘He’s in the majority. He’s only ever been in the majority his entire career in politics, and he needs to do his damn job and make government work.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

- **Tranel: “He’s In The Majority. He’s Only Ever Been In The Majority His Entire Career In Politics, And He Needs To Do His Damn Job And Make Government Work.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘I think they’re playing with people’s lives and only for political gain. And when Zinke says he doesn’t want a government shutdown, what is he doing about it to stop it?’ said Monica Tranel, Democratic Western District candidate. ‘He’s in the majority. He’s only ever been in the majority his entire career in politics, and he needs to do his damn job and make government work.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]
- **Tranel Slammed Zinke’s Vote For The Partisan 30-Day Continuing Resolution, Which Would Have Cut Home Heating Subsidies, Funding For Food Stamps And Baby Formula For Low-Income Mothers, Calling His Vote “Mean-Spirited. People Live Paycheck To Paycheck, And They Don’t Know Next Week If It’s Coming Or Not? That’s Wrong.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “But Zinke had voted for a shorter, partisan bill to fund the government for 30 days with spending cuts of nearly 30% for some agencies. [...] Heading into an uncertain weekend about whether the government would be shutting down — and 8,600 Montanans employed by the federal government either facing work without pay, or furlough — Tranel talked about proposed cuts to services, like supplemental food and baby formula for low-income mothers, infants and children. Montana has more than 12,000 people who receive the aid. Home heating subsidies were also proposed for a cut in the 30-day stop-gap bill, Tranel said. Listen now and subscribe: Apple Podcasts | Google Podcasts | Spotify | Stitcher | RSS Feed | Omny Studio ‘It’s completely ridiculous. It’s mean. It’s mean-spirited. People live paycheck to paycheck, and they don’t know next week if it’s coming or not? That’s wrong. That’s what Zinke and Rosendale don’t understand that this is going to hurt people right here in Montana.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

## **...And Zinke Voted Again Against Another Continuing Resolution In November**

### **November 2023: Zinke Said That Despite The Upcoming Deadline For Another Government Shutdown, “The Wagon’s Moving Forward”**

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**November 2023: Zinke Said That Despite The Upcoming Deadline For Another Government Shutdown, “The Wagon’s Moving Forward.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “It’s unlikely a Nov. 17 deadline to avoid a shutdown will be met. A stopgap funding measure brokered by House and Senate leadership outside the public process to keep the government fully open is probable. So is an intraparty fight over straying from ‘regular order,’ that is to say, the practice of budgeting through subcommittees and committees. Sound familiar? Having blown through the month of October selecting a new speaker — the last one was lost in a coup staged by Republican hardliners, Montana’s Matt Rosendale among them — House lawmakers are back to where they were in



September. It hasn't been pretty, but the wagons are rolling again, said Ryan Zinke, Western Montana's Republican representative. The House passed two more appropriations bills before heading home for the weekend. It needs to pass a few more to cycle out of agency budget bills. Zinke is a House Appropriations Committee member. [...] 'I was concerned that we didn't put the lug nuts on it all, but it seems like the wagon's moving forward,' Zinke said, recognizing last month's speaker chaos as an unpleasant distraction. 'I said in conference this morning, "We all agreed that we would go through the appropriations. And appropriations do two things, they curb spending using the power of the purse and they remove the woke, through policy. Those are our greatest powers,"' he said." [Billings Gazette, 11/6/23]

- **Zinke: "We All Agreed That We Would Go Through The Appropriations. And Appropriations Do Two Things, They Curb Spending Using The Power Of The Purse And They Remove The Woke, Through Policy. Those Are Our Greatest Powers."** The Billings Gazette reported, "It's unlikely a Nov. 17 deadline to avoid a shutdown will be met. A stopgap funding measure brokered by House and Senate leadership outside the public process to keep the government fully open is probable. So is an intraparty fight over straying from 'regular order,' that is to say, the practice of budgeting through subcommittees and committees. Sound familiar? Having blown through the month of October selecting a new speaker — the last one was lost in a coup staged by Republican hardliners, Montana's Matt Rosendale among them — House lawmakers are back to where they were in September. It hasn't been pretty, but the wagons are rolling again, said Ryan Zinke, Western Montana's Republican representative. The House passed two more appropriations bills before heading home for the weekend. It needs to pass a few more to cycle out of agency budget bills. Zinke is a House Appropriations Committee member. [...] 'I was concerned that we didn't put the lug nuts on it all, but it seems like the wagon's moving forward,' Zinke said, recognizing last month's speaker chaos as an unpleasant distraction. 'I said in conference this morning, "We all agreed that we would go through the appropriations. And appropriations do two things, they curb spending using the power of the purse and they remove the woke, through policy. Those are our greatest powers,"' he said." [Billings Gazette, 11/6/23]

## **November 2023: Zinke Voted Against A Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Funded Into January And Avoid A Government Shutdown; The Bill Passed With Near Unanimous Support From House Democrats And 93 Republicans Voting Against It**

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**November 2023: Zinke Voted Against A Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Funded Into January And Avoid A Government Shutdown; The Bill Passed With Near Unanimous Support From House Democrats And 93 Republicans Voting Against It.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Montana's U.S. House members are a hard no on passing a bill to keep the government fully operating into January. Both Republican Reps. Ryan Zinke and Matt Rosendale voted against a continuing resolution to keep the government funded into next year. Wyoming Rep. Harriet Hageman was a no vote as well. The bill passed anyway on a bipartisan 336-95 tally, even with 93 Republicans voting against it. Without the resolution the federal government would have started shutting down at midnight Saturday, sending thousands of federal workers into the Thanksgiving holiday without pay. House votes to prevent a government shutdown as GOP Speaker Johnson relies on Democrats for help. The Western state representatives weren't alone, as 42% of Republicans voted against the plan, which passed with nearly unanimous support from House Democrats. The opposition voting block attracted a handful of Republicans who had voted Sept. 30 to keep the government fully funded." [Billings Gazette, 11/15/23]

## **Zinke: "No Spending Cuts? No Policy Changes? No CR. I Can't Justify A Yes Vote When It's Just Prolonging The Status Quo To Punt Again"**

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**Zinke: "No Spending Cuts? No Policy Changes? No CR. I Can't Justify A Yes Vote When It's Just Prolonging The Status Quo To Punt Again."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Rosendale and Hageman and Zinke voted no on raising the debt ceiling. At the heart of the debate over whether to keep the government operational and solvent is spending. Both in the debt ceiling stand-off and the two votes to avert government shutdowns this fall,



the representatives said spending levels made the bills intolerable. ‘No spending cuts? No policy changes? No CR. I can’t justify a yes vote when it’s just prolonging the status quo to punt again,’ Western District Rep. Zinke told followers on X.” [Billings Gazette, 11/15/23]

## **Despite Portraying Himself As An Advocate For Ending Sexual Harassment, The Problem Worsened During Zinke's Tenure As Interior Secretary**

### **Zinke Claimed He Would Fight Sexual Harassment At The Interior Department, But Failed To Stop Rising Report Rates**

#### **Zinke Claimed He Would Fight Sexual Harassment At The Interior Department With "Zero Tolerance"**

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**Washington Post: "On His First Day In Office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Pledged 'Zero Tolerance' For Sexual Misconduct."** The Washington Post reported, "On his first day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged 'zero tolerance' for sexual misconduct. The acting National Park Service chief testified to Congress in June that he's bringing a culture of 'transparency, respect and accountability' to a workplace he acknowledged is often hostile. But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park." [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]

#### **2016 – 2017: Nearly 39 Percent Of National Park Service Employees Reported That They Had Been Harassed At Work**

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**November 2017: An April 2017 DOI Survey Found That Nearly 39 Percent Of National Park Service Employees Had Experienced Harassment Based On "Sex, Age, Race, Religion, Or Ability" Within The Past 12 Months.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "The DOI has taken some action to combat ethics violations and other misconduct. In April 2017, Secretary Zinke sent an email to all DOI employees ('Subject: Harassment Policy Statement') to remind employees of their responsibility to report ethics violations and misconduct, and to notify managers and supervisors of required training to prevent harassment and improve the workplace environment. In addition, Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt sent emails to all employees on his first day ('Subject: Day One Employee Message') reminding employees of basic principles of ethical conduct, and about a month later ('Subject: Month Two Message') assuring employees that reports of misconduct will be taken seriously and that action will be taken in a timely manner when appropriate. The DOI also sponsored a 'prevalence survey' at the NPS to allow employees to anonymously report whether they have faced harassment in the workplace. The results of this survey found that nearly 39 percent of NPS employees said they had experienced harassment based on sex, age, race, religion, or ability within the past 12 months." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

#### **Despite Attempts To Address Harassment, The Inspector General Found That The Department Was Not Holding "All Of Its Employees, Including Senior Officials" To Ethics Standards**

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**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Despite The Department's Attempts To Address Harassment, The Department Was Not Holding "All Of Its Employees, Including Senior Officials, To The Highest Standards Of Ethical Conduct."** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "Following reports of sexual harassment at national parks, the NPS established an ombuds office, which is an independent, neutral, and confidential resource for employees to raise concerns about a range of workplace issues, including



harassment and ethics violations. In addition, the NPS implemented new required training for employees and managers, and hired a sexual harassment prevention and response coordinator. The DOI continues to face challenges, however, in holding all of its employees, including senior officials, to the highest standards of ethical conduct; ensuring that the consequences of wrongdoing are clearly understood; taking decisive actions to address unacceptable behavior; and providing relevant ethics training to all employees.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

- **November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Referenced Instances In Which “Some DOI Employees, Including Senior Officials,” Had Engaged In “Unethical Or Illegal Conduct, As Well As Other Misconduct.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Promoting and maintaining an ethical workplace culture has emerged as a management challenge in some areas of the DOI. This is the first year we have listed this challenge area in our Major Management Challenges Report. We have identified instances in which some DOI employees, including senior officials, have engaged in unethical or illegal conduct, as well as other misconduct. These violations have included sexual harassment; the acceptance of gifts from outside sources; conflicts of interest, including the use of public office for private gain; and the misuse of Government resources. In some recent cases, DOI employees found to have engaged in misconduct were later promoted, retained, or returned to their positions. The disclosure of these violations spurred a number of congressional hearings and extensive media coverage on DOI workplace culture, and resulted in secretarial directives to address.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]
- **November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That In Some Recent Cases, Employees That Were Found Guilty Of Misconduct “Were Later Promoted, Retained, Or Returned To Their Positions.”** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Promoting and maintaining an ethical workplace culture has emerged as a management challenge in some areas of the DOI. This is the first year we have listed this challenge area in our Major Management Challenges Report. We have identified instances in which some DOI employees, including senior officials, have engaged in unethical or illegal conduct, as well as other misconduct. These violations have included sexual harassment; the acceptance of gifts from outside sources; conflicts of interest, including the use of public office for private gain; and the misuse of Government resources. In some recent cases, DOI employees found to have engaged in misconduct were later promoted, retained, or returned to their positions. The disclosure of these violations spurred a number of congressional hearings and extensive media coverage on DOI workplace culture, and resulted in secretarial directives to address.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

## **After The Inspector General’s Scathing Report, Zinke Said That He Had Fired Four Senior Interior Department Managers For Inappropriate Conduct**

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**December 2017: Zinke Fired Four Senior Interior Department Managers For Inappropriate Conduct That Included Sexual Harassment.** ABC News reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke revealed today he has fired four senior managers at the Interior Department for inappropriate conduct, including sexual harassment. ‘I’ve already removed four senior leaders that were guilty of inappropriate behavior and I will remove four hundred more if necessary. Intimidation, harassment and discrimination is a cancer to any organization. However deep it goes, we will remove it from Interior,’ Zinke said in a video posted on the agency’s website today. Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email the department could not provide any specific information on the people who were fired but said they generally ‘abused their authority to intimidate or harass fellow employees. This includes but is not limited to sexual harassment.’” [ABC News, [12/14/17](#)]

- **December 2017 – Zinke: “I Have Already Removed Four Senior Leaders That Were Guilty Of Inappropriate Behavior And I Will Remove Four Hundred More If Necessary.”** ABC News reported,



“Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke revealed today he has fired four senior managers at the Interior Department for inappropriate conduct, including sexual harassment. ‘I’ve already removed four senior leaders that were guilty of inappropriate behavior and I will remove four hundred more if necessary. Intimidation, harassment and discrimination is a cancer to any organization. However deep it goes, we will remove it from Interior,’ Zinke said in a video posted on the agency’s website today. Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email the department could not provide any specific information on the people who were fired but said they generally ‘abused their authority to intimidate or harass fellow employees. This includes but is not limited to sexual harassment.’” [ABC News, [12/14/17](#)]

## **Despite Zinke’s “Zero Tolerance” Policy, Harassment Complaints Rose Amid Insufficient Attempts At Changing Interior’s Workplace Culture & Ethics**

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### ***2017 – 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Consistently Identified “Workplace Culture And Ethics” As A “Major Management And Performance Challenge”***

**November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Identified The Same Nine Areas For Improvement In The 2017 And 2018 Major Management And Performance Challenges.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “The OIG identified the top management and performance challenges for fiscal year (FY) 2018 as: • Workplace culture and ethics • Energy management • Public safety and disaster response • Information technology • Water programs • Responsibility to American Indians and Insular Areas • Acquisition and financial assistance • Climate effects • Operational efficiencies These nine challenges are the same as in last year’s report and are not presented in order of priority. Some of the critical topics discussed span multiple challenge areas, serving as a reminder of the complex nature of the DOI’s mission.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]

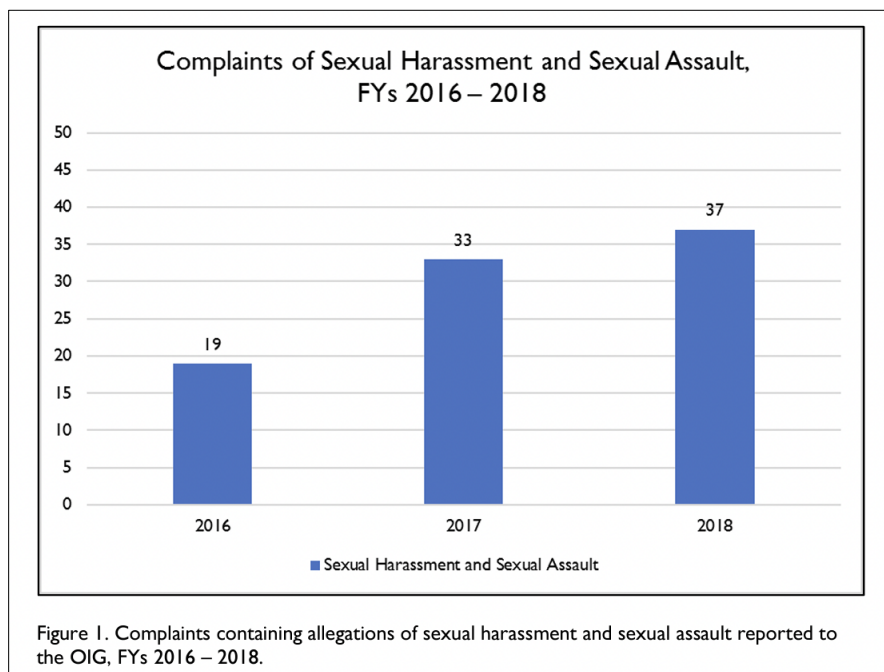
- **November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Noted That Despite “Heightened Efforts” To Improve DOI’s “Workplace Culture And Ethics,” Investigators Found A “Resistance To Change.”** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Promoting and maintaining an ethical workplace culture that is free of harassment is a continued management challenge at the DOI. We included this challenge area in our Major Management Challenges Report for the first time last year, after identifying instances of unethical behavior and other misconduct over several years. Despite heightened efforts to improve the DOI’s workplace culture and ethics, resistance to change remains. We have identified instances in which DOI employees have engaged in unethical or illegal conduct, as well as other behavior that negatively affects workplace culture. These violations have included inappropriate conduct or sexual harassment, insufficient actions in response to reports of sexual harassment, the acceptance of gifts from outside sources, conflicts of interest (including the use of public office for private gain), and the misuse of Government resources.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]

### ***2017 – 2018: Complaints Of Sexual Harassment And Sexual Assault Rose From 33 To 37***

**November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found An Increase In Complaints Over The Past Three Years, “Including Those Containing Allegations Of Sexual Harassment And Assault.”** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Results from a Departmentwide work environment survey, conducted between January 2017 and March 2017, showed 35 percent of respondents reported being harassed or discriminated against in the past 12 months. The OIG has also seen an increase in reporting of complaints over the past 3 years, including those

containing allegations of sexual harassment and assault (see Figure 1). We cannot conclude that the increase in these complaints is tied to an increase in the behavior; it may be that with changes in workplace culture more employees are willing to come forward to report their experiences than in the past. Regardless of the cause, the increase in reported complaints shows that maintaining a professional and productive work environment and improving workplace culture are continuing challenges for the DOI.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]

**November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Received 33 Complaints Of Sexual Harassment And Sexual Assault In FY 2017 And 37 Complaints In FY 2018.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, the Interior Department Inspector General received 19 complaints of sexual harassment and sexual assault in FY 2016, 33 complaints in FY 2017, and 37 complaints in FY 2018. [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]



[U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]

### ***2016 – 2019: The Interior Department Inspector General Opened 22 New Sexual Harassment Investigations And “Numerous Other Misconduct Investigations”***

**November 2019: The Interior Department Inspector General Had Opened 22 Sexual Harassment Investigations And “Numerous Other Misconduct Investigations” Within The Interior Department Since 2016.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Promoting and maintaining a culture of ethics is key to employee morale, productivity, and trust. Explaining his commitment to transform the DOI ethics program, Secretary Bernhardt noted that our investigations over the years have highlighted a culture ‘that did not embrace necessary ethical standards, which erodes the public’s faith in our work.’ A 2016 OIG investigation that found widespread sexual misconduct at the Grand Canyon led to other investigations that raised an alarm about the prevalence of such misconduct across the DOI. Complaints reported to the OIG included allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and retaliation. Since 2016, we have opened 22 sexual harassment investigations and numerous other misconduct investigations. In one recent case, we found that a manager made inappropriate and unwelcome sexual



comments to a subordinate after being counseled for similar misconduct in 2013 and 2016.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2019-ER-052, [11/15/19](#)]

### ***The Interior Department Inspector General Identified A “Recent Case” Where A Manager Had Harassed A Subordinate After Being Counseled For Similar Transgressions In 2013 And 2016***

**November 2019: The Interior Department Inspector General Found “One Recent Case” In Which A Manager Made “Inappropriate And Unwelcome Sexual Comments” To A Subordinate After Receiving Counseling For Similar Problems In 2013 And 2016.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Promoting and maintaining a culture of ethics is key to employee morale, productivity, and trust. Explaining his commitment to transform the DOI ethics program, Secretary Bernhardt noted that our investigations over the years have highlighted a culture ‘that did not embrace necessary ethical standards, which erodes the public’s faith in our work.’ A 2016 OIG investigation that found widespread sexual misconduct at the Grand Canyon led to other investigations that raised an alarm about the prevalence of such misconduct across the DOI. Complaints reported to the OIG included allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and retaliation. Since 2016, we have opened 22 sexual harassment investigations and numerous other misconduct investigations. In one recent case, we found that a manager made inappropriate and unwelcome sexual comments to a subordinate after being counseled for similar misconduct in 2013 and 2016.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2019-ER-052, [11/15/19](#)]

### **Under Zinke’s Leadership, A National Park Superintendent’s Consistent Harassment Of His Employees Was Shoved Under The Rug**

### **De Soto National Park Superintendent Jorge Acevedo Made Inappropriate Comments And Unwanted Advances To Women He Supervised**

**August 2017: The National Park Service Gave A New Job And Performance Bonus To A Florida National Park Superintendent After He Was Investigated And Found To Have Harassed His Junior Employees And Issued A Set Of Department Talking Points.** The Washington Post reported, “On his first day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged ‘zero tolerance’ for sexual misconduct. The acting National Park Service chief testified to Congress in June that he’s bringing a culture of ‘transparency, respect and accountability’ to a workplace he acknowledged is often hostile. But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]

- **Washington Post: “On His First Day In Office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Pledged ‘Zero Tolerance’ For Sexual Misconduct.”** The Washington Post reported, “On his first day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged ‘zero tolerance’ for sexual misconduct. The acting National Park Service chief testified to Congress in June that he’s bringing a culture of ‘transparency, respect and accountability’ to a workplace he acknowledged is often hostile. But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]

- **August 2017: Investigators Found That De Soto National Memorial Park Superintendent Jorge Acevedo Had Made Inappropriate Comments To And Blocked The Desk Of A Woman He Supervised.** The Washington Post reported, “But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park. Then, the Park Service issued a one-page set of talking points for media inquiries. The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]
- **August 2017: Investigators Found That Acevedo Had Also Harassed Another Woman Who No Longer Worked At De Soto National Memorial Park.** The Washington Post reported, “But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park. Then, the Park Service issued a one-page set of talking points for media inquiries. The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]

## **Acevedo Was Moved To Alabama National Parks, Where He Kept His \$82,000 Annual Salary And No Longer Supervised Employees**

**March 2017: Acevedo Was Moved To Partnerships Manager At The Tuskegee Airmen And Tuskegee Institute National Historic Sites And The Selma To Montgomery National Historic Trail.** The Washington Post reported, “The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton. Acevedo has served since March as partnerships manager at the Tuskegee Airmen and Tuskegee Institute national historic sites and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, a consortium of Park Service properties. He is no longer supervising employees but kept his \$82,000-a-year salary, according to an agency official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel issue. Just before his transfer, the official said, he received a \$1,000 cash bonus.” [Washington Post, [8/3/17](#)]

- **March 2017: A National Park Service Official Said That Acevedo No Longer Supervised Employees After His Transfer But Kept His \$82,000 Annual Salary And Received A \$1,000 Cash Bonus.** The Washington Post reported, “The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton. Acevedo has served since March as partnerships manager at the Tuskegee Airmen and Tuskegee Institute national historic sites and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, a consortium of Park Service properties. He is no longer supervising employees but kept his \$82,000-a-year salary, according to an agency official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel issue. Just before his transfer, the official said, he received a \$1,000 cash bonus.” [Washington Post, [8/3/17](#)]

## **The National Park Service Issued Talking Points To Staff With Instructions To Praise Acevedo’s “Substantial Contribution” To De Soto National Memorial Park**

**August 2017: The National Park Service Gave A New Job And Performance Bonus To A Florida National Park Superintendent After He Was Investigated And Found To Have Harassed His Junior Employees And Issued A Set Of Department Talking Points.** The Washington Post reported, “On his first day in office, Interior

Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged ‘zero tolerance’ for sexual misconduct. The acting National Park Service chief testified to Congress in June that he’s bringing a culture of ‘transparency, respect and accountability’ to a workplace he acknowledged is often hostile. But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]

- **August 2017: The National Park Service Talking Points Instructed Staff To Praise Acevedo For Making A “Substantial Contribution” During His Tenure At De Soto National Memorial.** The Washington Post reported, “But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park. Then, the Park Service issued a one-page set of talking points for media inquiries. The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]

## **Zinke Was Later Named In A Sex Discrimination Lawsuit Alleging That A Woman Had Been Overlooked For Promotion Because Her Supervisor Did Not Believe Women Should Lead In Law Enforcement**

**December 2018: Zinke Was Named In His Official Capacity As Interior Secretary In A Sexual Discrimination And Retaliation Lawsuit Filed In Federal Court Against The National Park Service.** The Washington Post reported, “A chief ranger for the National Park Service in Philadelphia, thought to be the highest-ranking female law enforcement official in the department, sued the Park Service in federal court Friday, alleging sexual discrimination in its treatment of her and retaliation against her when she complained that less-qualified men were being promoted over her. The suit is the latest accusation of mistreatment of women in the Park Service, which congressional critics have said fostered a culture of sexual harassment. [...] Schonzeit’s suit names Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Deputy Secretary David L. Bernhardt as defendants, as heads of the department overseeing the National Park Service. Zinke has resigned, effective at the end of this month. Bernhardt will take his place, President Trump has said.” [Washington Post, [12/21/18](#)]

- **December 2018: Former Independence National Historical Park Chief Ranger Michelle Schonzeit Alleged That She Was Overlooked For A Promotion To Camp David Because Her Supervisor Did Not Believe Women Should Lead In Law Enforcement.** The Washington Post reported, “Michelle Schonzeit, 36, is the chief ranger for Independence National Historical Park, home to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, where she oversees 35 armed rangers, 25 dispatchers and dozens of privately contracted armed security guards. But she lives in Maryland, with her husband and 3-year-old daughter, and took the job in Philadelphia only after she was passed over in 2015 for head ranger at the Camp David presidential retreat, allegedly for a far less-experienced ranger, according to her suit filed in federal court in Washington. She was pregnant with her daughter at the time, her attorney David P. Weber said, and the child is cared for during the week by Schonzeit’s father and her husband, a lieutenant in the U.S. Park Police. Schonzeit said that when she asked the superintendent at Camp David why she wasn’t selected, he told her, ‘I have hired women in the past, and I do not believe women should be in law enforcement leadership positions,’ her lawsuit states.” [Washington Post, [12/21/18](#)]
- **Schonzeit Alleged That When She Asked The Camp David Superintendent Why She Was Not Selected, He Told Her That He Did “Not Believe Women Should Be In Law Enforcement Leadership Positions.”** The Washington Post reported, “Michelle Schonzeit, 36, is the chief ranger for Independence National





Historical Park, home to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, where she oversees 35 armed rangers, 25 dispatchers and dozens of privately contracted armed security guards. But she lives in Maryland, with her husband and 3-year-old daughter, and took the job in Philadelphia only after she was passed over in 2015 for head ranger at the Camp David presidential retreat, allegedly for a far less-experienced ranger, according to her suit filed in federal court in Washington. She was pregnant with her daughter at the time, her attorney David P. Weber said, and the child is cared for during the week by Schonzeit's father and her husband, a lieutenant in the U.S. Park Police. Schonzeit said that when she asked the superintendent at Camp David why she wasn't selected, he told her, 'I have hired women in the past, and I do not believe women should be in law enforcement leadership positions,' her lawsuit states." [Washington Post, [12/21/18](#)]

# Section 3: Zinke Is A Corrupt, Unethical Fraud

## Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke: 21 Months In Office, 18 Ethics Investigations

### Zinke Faced At Least 18 Ethics Investigations Concerning His 21 Months As Interior Secretary, But Resigned After The 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Zinke Faced At Least 18 Ethics Investigations In His 21-Month Tenure

**2022: Zinke Said That He Had Faced 18 Investigations Concerning His Time As The Secretary Of Interior.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke has faced accusations of wrongdoing and dishonesty from both Republicans in June’s primary, and now from his Democratic opponent Monica Tranel leading up to November’s general election. They’ve pointed to two reports from internal agency investigators as well as the sheer volume of investigations, numbering from 15-20. [...] ‘You have weaponized investigators that are biased, that can run amok, in my case, 18 investigations on my socks, my dog, etc, etc, etc.,’ Zinke said in a recent debate. ‘And they all lead to no conflict of interest, no breaking of rules and laws.’ [...] The exact number of investigations is somewhat a matter of definition. For example, the same complaint might be investigated by more than one entity, or look at more than one potential violation. The candidates both cited 18 as the number during a recent debate.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

- **December 2018: As Interior Secretary, Zinke Was Investigated At Least 15 Times.** The Washington Post reported, “During his tenure, Zinke came under at least 15 investigations, including: inquiries into his connection to a real estate deal involving a company that Interior regulates; whether he bent government rules to allow his wife to ride in government vehicles; and allowing a security detail to travel with him on a vacation to Turkey at considerable taxpayer cost. Zinke was cleared in several of those investigations, and he attacked his critics rather than adopt a more chastened tone. Late last month, he accused Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) — who had called on Zinke to step down and is poised to take over the committee that oversees Interior in January — of being a drunk.” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]
- **December 2018: Interior Department Inspector General Spokeswoman Nancy DiPaolo Said That Two Investigations Were “Going Forward” Despite Zinke’s Resignation As Secretary.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke followed Trump’s tweet with his own: ‘I love working for the President and am incredibly proud of all the good work we’ve accomplished together. However, after 30 years of public service, I cannot justify spending thousands of dollars defending myself and my family against false allegations.’ But those allegations won’t go away when Zinke departs Washington. Nancy DiPaolo, a spokeswoman for Interior’s inspector general, declined to discuss two investigations of Zinke because they are active: ‘Right now, they’re going forward.’” [Washington Post, [12/20/18](#)]

#### Zinke Resigned After The 12<sup>th</sup> Inspector General Investigation Was Opened

**Zinke Resigned After Facing More Than 12 Investigations By The Interior Department’s Inspector General, Congress, And The U.S. Office Of Special Counsel, Alleging That All Of The Investigations Were Politically Motivated.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department’s headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency’s inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 —



following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

- **Daily Inter Lake: “The Probes Focused On Chartered Flights And Other Transactions That Mixed Official And Political Business.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department’s headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency’s inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]
- **Daily Inter Lake: “Zinke Stepped Down At The Start Of 2019 — Following A Surprise Presidential Twitter Announcement — While The Department Of Justice Probed Whether He Had Lied To His Agency’s Inspector General Investigators.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department’s headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency’s inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]
- **Daily Inter Lake: “At The Time, The Inspector General Had Been Investigating A Whitefish Land Deal That Zinke Struck With The Chairman Of Halliburton, The Massive Oil Services Corporation, As Well As Zinke’s Involvement In A Dispute Over A Casino That Two Native American Tribes Were Seeking To Operate In Connecticut.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators. At the time, the inspector general had been investigating a Whitefish land deal that Zinke struck with the chairman of Halliburton, the massive oil services corporation, as well as Zinke’s involvement in a dispute over a casino that two Native American tribes were seeking to operate in Connecticut. Some of the investigations into Zinke cleared him of wrongdoing, while others stalled due to lack of cooperation, as well as alleged interference by other Trump administration officials.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]
- **Daily Inter Lake: “Some Of The Investigations Into Zinke Cleared Him Of Wrongdoing, While Others Stalled Due To Lack Of Cooperation, As Well As Alleged Interference By Other Trump Administration Officials.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators. At the time, the inspector general had been investigating a Whitefish land deal that Zinke struck with the chairman of Halliburton, the massive oil services corporation, as well as Zinke’s involvement in a dispute over a casino that two Native American tribes were seeking to operate in Connecticut. Some of the investigations into Zinke cleared him of wrongdoing, while others stalled due to lack of cooperation, as well as alleged interference by other Trump administration officials.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

## **Zinke Defended His Numerous Ethics Investigations By Blaming The “Deep State” And Decrying A “Political Hit Job”**

### **Zinke Described His Then-15 Ethics Probes As The Result Of An “Angry And Hateful” D.C.**

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**July 2019: Zinke Described The Ethics Investigations Against Him As “BS” And Claimed That “D.C. Is So Angry And Hateful” For Bringing Them.** The Boston Globe reported, “In an interview with Bloomberg News, the former congressman and Navy SEAL dismissed the 15 ethics probes of his dealings atop the Interior Department as ‘BS.’ ‘D.C. is so angry and hateful,’ Zinke said. Ultimately, he added, he stepped down from his Cabinet post in January amid concerns about mounting legal bills and the fear that ‘all these false allegations would be a distraction.’” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**July 2019: Regarding The Ethics Investigations That Caused Him To Resign From Office, Zinke Claimed That He “Got Investigated Over [His] Socks.”** The Boston Globe reported, “Zinke, who enraged environmentalists by, among other things, lifting an Obama administration moratorium on selling coal mining rights and scaling back protections on federal land, left the administration amid a swirl of federal investigations into his travel, potential conflicts of interest and his political activity — including a picture he posted on Twitter showing socks with Trump’s ‘Make America Great Again’ slogan. ‘My family got investigated. My family had death threats. I got investigated over my socks,’ Zinke said.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

- **Zinke Dismissed The Investigations As “False Allegations” With “No Substance.”** The Boston Globe reported, “Zinke, who enraged environmentalists by, among other things, lifting an Obama administration moratorium on selling coal mining rights and scaling back protections on federal land, left the administration amid a swirl of federal investigations into his travel, potential conflicts of interest and his political activity — including a picture he posted on Twitter showing socks with Trump’s ‘Make America Great Again’ slogan. ‘My family got investigated. My family had death threats. I got investigated over my socks,’ Zinke said. One inquiry focused on a potential conflict of interest involving a Montana land deal between a charitable foundation Zinke created and a property development foundation backed by David Lesar, the former chairman of oilfield services provider Halliburton. Another inquiry scrutinized Zinke’s decision to block Indian tribes from building a casino in Connecticut after lobbying from their chief competitor, MGM Resorts International, despite the advice of employees with the Interior Department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs. Zinke dismissed those and other investigations as ‘false allegations’ and said he had been exonerated in all of them. ‘There was no substance; there never was,’ he said.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

### **Zinke Claimed Many Investigations Were The Result Of A “Political Hit Job” With “Shots Fired By The Deep State,” Including A Scrutinized Land Deal He Made With A Halliburton Executive**

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**2021 – Zinke: “It Was Vicious And I Understand They Weren’t After Me, They Were After President Trump. ... No, People See It For What It Is. I Went Through Over A Dozen Investigations; There Was No Wrongdoing.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Asked Thursday if the scandals will be an Achilles’ heel to his 2022 campaign, Zinke said he believes voters will identify those claims against him as partisan attacks. ‘I got attacked from day one,’ he said. ‘It was vicious and I understand they weren’t after me, they were after President Trump. ... No, people see it for what it is. I went through over a dozen investigations; there was no wrongdoing.’” [Ravalli Republic, 6/3/21]

**2022: Zinke Called The Inspector General Report Concerning His Involvement In A Land Deal With A Halliburton Executive A “Political Hit Job” By The Biden Administration And Called It “Shots Fired By The Deep State.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Another inspector general report released in February stated





Zinke misused his position at Interior to advance a commercial development project in Whitefish and misled agency ethics official about his involvement. [...] Zinke characterized the report as a ‘political hit job’ to the Associated Press and accused Interior, now overseen by appointees of Democrat Joe Biden, of sitting on the report to MTN. On social media he said, ‘Shots fired by the deep state’ and ‘Not backing down.’ ‘It is in Trump’s mold of don’t back down, don’t give an inch, but one does have to wonder how big a problem it is for his narrative that this inspector general is a Republican and a Trump appointee,’ Saldin said.” [Billings Gazette, 2/16/22]

- **Zinke: “When You Start Exposing The Serpents When You Drain The Swamp, They Don’t Like It, And They Attack... And Time And Time Again, They Attack Me, And Time And Time Again If You Read The IG Report Closely, No Wrongdoing.”** The Independent Record reported, “Zinke has denounced the investigations at Interior as politically motivated and a product of the so-called ‘deep state.’ ‘When you start exposing the serpents when you drain the swamp, they don’t like it, and they attack,’ he said. ‘And time and time again, they attack me, and time and time again if you read the IG report closely, no wrongdoing.’ When asked about his opponents in the race, particularly those lodging attacks against him, Zinke replied, ‘You know I don’t think of them at all, I just think about my country and our state.’” [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

## Zinke Reportedly Lied To Federal Investigators About His Involvement In A Real Estate Deal Between His Family’s Foundation And Halliburton’s Chairman

### Halliburton Was One Of Zinke’s Biggest Lifetime Donors, Having Contributed Over \$26,000 To Zinke Since 2013

2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Lifetime Top Donators To Ryan Zinke Included Chord Energy, ConocoPhillips, The National Association Of Home Builders, Barnard Construction, Halliburton, And 71 Ranch Lp. [Open Secrets, accessed [7/29/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donators			
Contributor	Individuals	Pacs	Total
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

[Open Secrets, accessed [7/29/24](#)]

- 2013 – 2024: Zinke’s 14<sup>th</sup> Largest Lifetime Donor By Employer Was Halliburton. [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

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[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2017 – 2018: Zinke Violated Ethics Rules By Engaging In Development Negotiations Between His Family’s Foundation And Energy Giant Halliburton And Lied To Federal Investigators About His Involvement**

**2018: Halliburton Planned To Build A Development With Shops, A Hotel, And A Brewery Along The Whitefish River Known As The 95 Karrow Project**

**2018: Halliburton Planned To Build A Development With Shops, A Hotel, And A Brewery Along The Whitefish River Known As The 95 Karrow Project.** The Washington Post reported, “The investigation into his real estate dealing began in the summer of 2018, after Politico reported that Zinke had remained involved in the project while in office. This raised conflict-of-interest concerns, because the project involved a development group funded by David J. Lesar, then the chairman of Halliburton, which stood to benefit from policies Zinke oversaw encouraging oil and gas drilling on public lands. Lesar’s company planned to build a large development along the Whitefish River, with shops, a hotel and a brewery. Zinke’s family foundation had agreed to donate land for a parking lot. Known as 95 Karrow, the project had the potential to increase the value of multiple parcels of land the Zinkes owned nearby. Zinke declined investigators’ requests to meet with them. When they asked him for an interview, he refused.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

## **2018: The 95 Karrow Project Raised Conflict-Of-Interest Concerns Because The Project Involved A Developer Funded By David Lesar, The Chairman Of Halliburton, And Halliburton Stood To Benefit From Zinke's Actions On Oil and Gas Leasing**

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### ***Zinke Was Connected To A Real Estate Deal Involving A Senior Halliburton Executive While Overseeing Contracts With The Company***

**Zinke Was Connected To A Real Estate Deal Involving A Senior Halliburton Executive While Overseeing Contracts With The Company.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Clement said that morale began to worsen in the department as Zinke’s ethics were questioned during his tenure. He said that everyone in the department goes through ethics training, but that political appointees like Zinke go through even more. ‘Because the idea is not just to avoid a conflict of interest, but to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest,’ Clement said. He gave the example of Zinke’s connection to a real estate deal involving a senior executive of Halliburton, and how, as secretary, Zinke oversaw contracts with the company. ‘It makes you question ‘How on Earth could, how could someone at that level be so crassly unethical?’” Clement said.” [Billings Gazette, 10/20/22]

## **2018: Zinke's Family Foundation Agreed To Donate Land For A Parking Lot For The 95 Karrow Project, A Project That Had The Potential To Increase The Value Of Multiple Nearby Land Parcels Owned By The Zinke Family**

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- **2018: The 95 Karrow Project Had The Potential To Increase The Value Of Multiple Land Parcels Owned By The Zinke Family Nearby.** The Washington Post reported, “The investigation into his real estate dealing began in the summer of 2018, after Politico reported that Zinke had remained involved in the project while in office. This raised conflict-of-interest concerns, because the project involved a development group funded by David J. Lesar, then the chairman of Halliburton, which stood to benefit from policies Zinke oversaw



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## **March 2017: Zinke Resigned As President Of A Charity He Established, The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, As Part Of An Ethics Agreement He Signed Upon Taking Public Office**

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**March 2017: Zinke Resigned As President Of A Charity He Established, The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, As Part Of An Ethics Agreement He Signed Upon Taking Public Office.** The New York Times reported, “The Interior Department’s inspector general found that while in office, Mr. Zinke continued to negotiate with developers about a real estate project in his hometown, Whitefish, Mont. His involvement violated an ethics agreement he had signed upon taking office to not participate in such matters. [...] In 2007, Mr. Zinke helped establish a charitable foundation, the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, and in March 2017, he resigned as its president as part of the ethics agreement. But from August 2017 to July 2018, Mr. Zinke and project developers exchanged emails and text messages about plans to use foundation land for a parking lot and a proposed microbrewery, investigators said. Mr. Zinke, the report said, ‘played an extensive, direct and substantial role’ in representing the foundation during negotiations.” [New York Times, [2/16/22](#)]

## **2018: Zinke Remained Involved With The 95 Karrow Project While He Was In Office**

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## **2018: Zinke Claimed He Had Minimal Involvement In The Project And Told A Government Official In 2018 That He Had Done Nothing Improper With The 95 Karrow Project And That The Deal Was Proceeding Without Him**

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**2018: Zinke Claimed He Had Minimal Involvement In The Project And Told A Government Official In 2018 That He Had Done Nothing Improper With The 95 Karrow Project And That The Deal Was Proceeding Without Him.** The Washington Post reported, “Facing serious allegations about his ethics and conduct in office, Ryan Zinke, then secretary of Donald Trump’s Interior Department, told a government official in 2018 that he had done nothing improper. Negotiations over a land deal in his hometown of Whitefish, Mont., were proceeding without him. His involvement was minimal, he said; his meeting with the project’s developers at Interior headquarters was ‘purely social.’” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]



## **Yet, In February 2022, An Interior Department Inspector General Report Detailed Emails And Text Messages That Showed Zinke Had Personally Communicated With Developers 64 Times Between August 2017 And July 2018 To Discuss Project Details**

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**February 2022: An Interior Department Inspector General Report Detailed Emails And Text Messages That Showed Zinke Had Communicated With Developers 64 Times Between August 2017 And July 2018 To Discuss Project Details.** The Washington Post reported, “But a report released Wednesday by the department’s internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project’s design, the use of his foundation’s land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. ‘These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,’ Inspector General Mark Greenblatt’s office wrote. Zinke ‘was not simply a passthrough for information,’ the report said. ‘He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.’” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

- **February 2022 – Inspector General Mark Greenblatt’s Office: “These Communications, Examples Of Which Are Set Forth Below, Show That Secretary Zinke Played An Extensive, Direct, And Substantive Role In Representing The Foundation During Negotiations With The 95 Karrow Project Developers.”** The Washington Post reported, “But a report released Wednesday by the department’s internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project’s design, the use of his foundation’s land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. ‘These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,’ Inspector General Mark Greenblatt’s office wrote. Zinke ‘was not simply a passthrough for information,’ the report said. ‘He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.’” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]
- **Greenblatt’s Office: “[Zinke] Personally Acted For Or Represented The Foundation In Connection With The Negotiations.”** The Washington Post reported, “But a report released Wednesday by the department’s internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project’s design, the use of his foundation’s land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. ‘These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,’ Inspector General Mark Greenblatt’s office wrote. Zinke ‘was not simply a passthrough for information,’ the report said. ‘He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.’” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

### ***2022: The Report Found That Zinke Engaged In “Repeated, Ongoing Substantive Negotiations” With Developers Concerning The Property Development Through Text And Email And Used Agency Staff To Perform Non-Official Duties Tied To The Project, Such As Printing Documents And Arranging A Meeting***

**2022: The Report Found That Zinke Engaged In “Repeated, Ongoing Substantive Negotiations” With Developers Concerning The Property Development Through Text And Email And Used Agency Staff To Perform Non-Official Duties Tied To The Project, Such As Printing Documents And Arranging A Meeting.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Another inspector general report released in February stated Zinke misused his position at Interior to advance a commercial development project in Whitefish and misled agency ethics official



about his involvement. Zinke, after being named Interior Secretary, said he would step away from the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation under ethics rules barring involvement with nonprofits. He declined interview requests from federal investigators, who concluded that Zinke engaged in ‘repeated, ongoing substantive negotiations’ with developers based on emails and text messages from others involved in the project, according to the report. Investigators also concluded that Zinke used agency staff to perform non-official duties tied to the project, such as printing documents and arranging a meeting.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

### ***August 2017 – July 2018: Zinke Exchanged Emails And Texts With Developers About A Deal Using The Foundation’s Land, With The Watchdog Concluding That He Played An “Extensive, Direct And Substantial Role” In Representing The Foundation During These Negotiations***

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### ***Emails From Zinke To The Developers Showed Zinke Taking An Active Hand In Negotiating The Use Of The Foundation’s Property To Benefit The Development Of A Commercial District, Including Telling One Developer When “It May Be A Good Idea To Walk The Property”***

**Emails From Zinke To The Developers Showed Zinke Taking An Active Hand In Negotiating The Use Of The Foundation’s Property To Benefit The Development Of A Commercial District, Including Telling One Developer When “It May Be A Good Idea To Walk The Property.”** Politico reported, “Emails from Zinke to the developers included in the report show Zinke taking an active hand in negotiating the use of the foundation’s property to benefit the development of a commercial district, including his telling one developer of his plans to be in Whitefish when ‘it may be a good idea to walk the property.’” [Politico, [2/16/22](#)]

### ***Zinke Negotiated With Developers For “An Exclusive Right To Produce Alcohol” On The Property To Run A Microbrewery***

**The Deal Would Potentially Have Led To Zinke Running A Microbrewery On The Site.** Politico reported, “Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated ethics obligations in his land dealings with a Halliburton executive, the Interior Department’s internal watchdog said in a report released Wednesday. The report from the department’s inspector general confirms a series of issues POLITICO brought to light in 2018 during Zinke’s tenure as former President Donald Trump’s Interior Secretary. These issues include Zinke’s attempts to aid Halliburton’s then-chair David Lesar and other developers in creating a commercial development known as 95 Karrow on land adjacent to a vacant lot in Montana that Zinke controlled through a family-run nonprofit foundation, a deal that would have led to Zinke potentially running a microbrewery on the site. The negotiations, which included emails and text messages from Zinke to developers between August 2017 and July 2018, also involved meetings with Lesar and other developers in Zinke’s office at Interior’s D.C. headquarters even as the department was charged with overseeing Halliburton’s activities on federal land.” [Politico, [2/16/22](#)]



**Locals Told Politico That Running A Microbrewery Had Long Been A Goal Of Zinke's.** Politico reported, "Locals in the area had told POLITICO that running a microbrewery had been a long-held goal of Zinke, who already ran a bed-and-breakfast and rental properties in Whitefish not far from where the commercial development would have taken place." [Politico, [2/16/22](#)]

**In An Email, One Of The Developers Told Another That Zinke Was "Also Asking For An Exclusive Right To Produce Alcohol On 95 Karrow And The Peace Park" And "Leveraging The Parking And Snow Storage For The Brewery Lot And Legal Access To His Site," Which The Developer Acknowledged Was A "Big Ask."** Politico reported, "In an email cited in the report, one developer tells another Zinke 'is also asking for an exclusive right to produce alcohol on 95 Karrow and the Peace Park. In essence, he is leveraging the parking and snow storage for the Brewery lot and legal access to his site. In my opinion this is a big ask.' The same developer followed up in a September 2017 email saying, 'If we can get by the county/city thing in some way, get him his brewery site, and he is able to pay for the development and maintenance of the park at a standard we impose and all agree upon, it might be a path through this.'" [Politico, [2/16/22](#)]

**The Developer Later Follow Up On The Brewery Issue, Stating, "If We Can Get By The County/City Thing In Some Way, Get Him His Brewery Site, And He Is Able To Pay For The Development And Maintenance Of The Park At A Standard We Impose And All Agree Upon, It Might Be A Path Through This."** Politico reported, "In an email cited in the report, one developer tells another Zinke 'is also asking for an exclusive right to produce alcohol on 95 Karrow and the Peace Park. In essence, he is leveraging the parking and snow storage for the Brewery lot and legal access to his site. In my opinion this is a big ask.' The same developer followed up in a September 2017 email saying, 'If we can get by the county/city thing in some way, get him his brewery site, and he is able to pay for the development and maintenance of the park at a standard we impose and all agree upon, it might be a path through this.'" [Politico, [2/16/22](#)]

## **The Interior Department's Inspector General Concluded That Zinke Made "Inaccurate And Incomplete Statements" When Asked About His Involvement In Foundation-Related Matters Because He Had "Extensive And In-Depth Involvement With The 95 Karrow Project Developers" In The Months After He Resigned From The Foundation**

**The Interior Department's Inspector General Concluded That Zinke Made "Inaccurate And Incomplete Statements" When Asked About His Involvement In Foundation-Related Matters Because He Had "Extensive And In-Depth Involvement With The 95 Karrow Project Developers" In The Months After He Resigned From The Foundation.** Politico reported, "Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated ethics obligations in his land dealings with a Halliburton executive, the Interior Department's internal watchdog said in a report released Wednesday. [...]The investigation determined Zinke made 'inaccurate and incomplete statements' when discussing his involvement in foundation-related matters because he had 'extensive and in-depth involvement with the 95 Karrow project developers' in the months after he resigned as president of the foundation and from its board." [Politico, [2/16/22](#)]

## ***February 2022: The Watchdog's Report Found That Zinke Knowingly Misled An Investigator By Claiming That He Had Not Represented The Foundation In Any Capacity***

**February 2022: The Watchdog's Report Found That Zinke Knowingly Misled An Investigator By Claiming That He Had Not Represented The Foundation In Any Capacity.** The New York Times reported, "Ryan Zinke, the former interior secretary, misused his position and lied to investigators about his involvement in a Montana land deal, repeatedly breaking federal ethics rules, a government watchdog said on Wednesday. [...] Questioned about his role in the negotiations, Mr. Zinke knowingly misled an investigator, the report added. Despite his extensive



involvement with the project, Mr. Zinke told the investigator that he had merely helped his wife file taxes for the foundation and that he did not represent the foundation in any capacity.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]

***Zinke Claimed That He Had No Connection To The Company, Yet “Emails And Text Messages The Developers Produced Showed That Secretary Zinke Continued To Be Involved In Foundation Matters While He Was Secretary Of The Interior, Even After Resigning From The Foundation And Committing In Required Documentation To Relevant Federal Officials That He Would No Longer Manage Or Provide Services To The Foundation”***

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## **February 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Had Broken Federal Ethics Rules Multiple Times By Improperly Participating In Real Estate Negotiations With Halliburton And Other Developers**

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The Washington Post reported, “The report found that Zinke broke federal ethics rules repeatedly by improperly participating in real estate negotiations with the then-chairman of the energy giant Halliburton and other developers. Zinke continued to represent his family’s foundation in the negotiations for nearly a year, investigators found, even after committing to federal officials that he would resign from the foundation and would not do any work on its behalf after he joined the Trump administration. He met with the developers in his office at Interior headquarters in the summer of 2017, after which he gave them a personal tour of the Lincoln Memorial and dined with them at a German beer garden in the District, Biergarten Haus, according to records of his official schedule. Although investigators said they could not be sure what was discussed during this visit, they found it was not entirely social, as the developers presented Zinke with a plan for the parking lot during their trip to Washington.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

### ***February 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Continued Representing His Family Foundation In The 95 Karrow Project For Almost A Year, Even After He Committed To Federal Officials That He Would Resign From The Foundation And Cut Ties After Becoming Secretary***

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### ***The Inspector General Report Found That In 2017, Zinke Met With Developers At The Interior Department And Gave Them A Personal Lincoln Memorial Tour And Ate With Them At A German Beer Garden***

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### ***Zinke Did Not Include His Wife On The Emails, Despite Her Being Listed As The Head Of The Foundation Whose Land Was Being Discussed***

**Zinke Did Not Include His Wife On The Emails, Despite Her Being Listed As The Head Of The Foundation Whose Land Was Being Discussed.** Politico reported, “Emails from Zinke to the developers included in the report show Zinke taking an active hand in negotiating the use of the foundation’s property to benefit the development of a commercial district, including his telling one developer of his plans to be in Whitefish when ‘it may be a good idea to walk the property. Zinke did not include his wife in the back-and-forth, despite her being listed as the head of the foundation whose land was being discussed, the report said. Even so, Zinke sought to hide his role in the discussions when a news reporter started asking questions, according to an email cited in the report. ‘[The news organization] is not our friend,’ Zinke wrote in an April 2018 text message to a developer whose name was retracted in the report after the developer told Zinke he had been contacted by a reporter.” [Politico, [2/16/22](#)]

### ***Zinke Sought To Hide His Role In The Discussions When A News Reported Started Asking Questions, Writing In A Text To A Developer, “[The News Organization] Is Not Our Friend”***

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### ***February 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That While Zinke Claimed His Wife Had Taken Over The Project, Investigators Found Only One Email Mentioning Lola Zinke’s Involvement In The Project From One Developer To Another Noting That Lola Zinke Had Rescinded The Parking Lot Deal***



**February 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That While Zinke Claimed His Wife Had Taken Over The Project, Investigators Found Only One Email Mentioning Lola Zinke’s Involvement In The Project From One Developer To Another Noting That Lola Zinke Had Rescinded The Parking Lot Deal.** The Washington Post reported, “Investigators also found that contrary to Zinke’s claims that his wife had taken over the project, the only evidence of communications between Lola Zinke and the developers was a single email from one developer to another, saying that Lola Zinke was rescinding the parking lot arrangement. In a statement, the Zinke campaign called the investigation a ‘Biden Administration led report’ that ‘published false information, and was shared with the press as a political hit job.’ ‘The report is totally subjective and [they] admitted they released it because their conclusions were too flimsy and biased for DOJ to even consider,’ the campaign said. Greenblatt was appointed by Trump.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

## **The Report Additionally Found That Zinke Misused His Office For Private Gain By Using His Office At The Department Of The Interior To Host A Meeting With Project Developers And Directing His Staff To Print Documents Related To The Land Deal**

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**The Report Additionally Found That Zinke Misused His Office For Private Gain By Using His Office At The Department Of The Interior To Host A Meeting With Project Developers And Directing His Staff To Print Documents Related To The Land Deal.** The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former interior secretary, misused his position and lied to investigators about his involvement in a Montana land deal, repeatedly breaking federal ethics rules, a government watchdog said on Wednesday. [...] Additionally, the inspector general found that Mr. Zinke misused his office for private gain when he directed his staff to arrange a meeting with the developers in his office at the Interior Department and print documents related to the real estate project.” [New York Times, [2/16/22](#)]

## ***August 2017 – July 2018: Emails And Text Messages From Zinke To Developers Showed The Negotiations, As Well As Meetings With Halliburton’s Chair And Other Developers In Zinke’s Office At The Department Of The Interior’s Headquarters In D.C., Despite The Department Having Oversight Of Halliburton’s Activities On Federal Land***

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## ***Zinke Had Interior Department Employees Do Work For The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park, His Family’s Foundation, And Staff Did Not Even Try To Conceal Zinke’s Involvement In Foundation Matters Or The 95 Karrow Project***



**Zinke Had Interior Department Employees Do Work For The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park, His Family's Foundation, And Staff Did Not Even Try To Conceal Zinke's Involvement In Foundation Matters Or The 95 Karrow Project.** Politico reported, "Zinke also had Interior employees do work for the foundation — the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park — and help with negotiations over the commercial development, the report stated. But the inspector general did not find evidence to support allegations that his staff actively tried to conceal his involvement in foundation matters or the 95 Karrow project." [Politico, [2/16/22](#)]

## **The Inspector General's Report Led To An Investigation By The Department Of Justice**

### **October 2018: The Interior Department's Inspector General Referred An Investigation Of Zinke To The Justice Department**

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**October 2018: The Interior Department's Inspector General Referred An Investigation Of Zinke To The Justice Department.** The New York Times reported, "The Interior Department's top watchdog has referred an investigation into a possible conflict of interest by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department, according to a person familiar with the matter, a sign that the federal government is considering a criminal investigation of Mr. Zinke's actions. It is not known which investigation was referred to the Justice Department. Mr. Zinke is the subject of at least six known federal investigations into allegations of ethical misconduct or other policy violations." [New York Times, 10/30/18]

- **It Was Not Known Which Investigation The Inspector General Referred To The Department Of Justice, But An Anonymous Source Familiar With The Matter Speculated That It Was The Investigation Regarding The Halliburton Land Deal.** The New York Times reported, "It is not known which investigation was referred to the Justice Department. Mr. Zinke is the subject of at least six known federal investigations into allegations of ethical misconduct or other policy violations. However, the person familiar with the matter, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said it was highly likely that the investigation now being examined by the Justice Department was one involving a Montana land deal involving Mr. Zinke and the chairman of the energy giant Halliburton." [New York Times, 10/30/18]

### **January 2019: The Department Of Justice Began Investigating Whether Zinke Lied To The Interior Department's Inspector General Investigators, A Potential Violation Of Criminal Law**

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**January 2019: The Department Of Justice Began Investigating Whether Zinke Lied To The Interior Department's Inspector General Investigators, A Potential Violation Of Criminal Law.** The Denver Post reported, "Justice Department's public integrity section is examining whether newly departed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke lied to his agency's inspector general investigators, according to people familiar with the matter, a potential criminal violation that would exacerbate Zinke's legal woes." [Denver Post, 1/4/19]

### **Around The Time Of Congress's First Impeachment Inquiry Into Trump, Then-Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen Directed Justice Department Prosecutors To Hold Off On Bringing Charges Against Zinke, On The Basis That Rosen Believed The Case Was Not Yet Strong Enough**

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**Around The Time Of Congress's First Impeachment Inquiry Into Trump, Then-Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen Directed Justice Department Prosecutors To Hold Off On Bringing Charges Against Zinke, On The Basis That Rosen Believed The Case Was Not Yet Strong Enough.** The New York Times reported,



“But once Congress began its impeachment inquiry, top Justice Department officials decided that an investigation of Mr. Trump had been overtaken by the events of impeachment, according to two people briefed on the matter. [...] Around that time, the deputy attorney general, Jeffrey A. Rosen, also told prosecutors in the section that they could not proceed with charges against Mr. Zinke of making false statements to federal investigators, a case that stemmed from a referral from the Interior Department inspector general, according to three people familiar with the case. Mr. Rosen expressed doubts about the strength of the case and sought a stronger prosecution. The prosecutors agreed to work further, and the inquiry has not been officially closed, according to people familiar with the matter.” [New York Times, 11/11/20]

## **2021: Biden Administration Prosecutors Declined To Pursue Criminal Charges Against Zinke**

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**2021: Biden Administration Prosecutors Declined To Pursue Criminal Charges Against Zinke.** The New York Times reported, “The department’s inspector general’s office—led by Inspector General Mark Greenblatt, a Trump nominee—referred the results of the Zinke investigation to federal prosecutors for potential prosecution. But the prosecutors who work for Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland, appointed by President Biden, declined to pursue criminal charges in the summer of 2021, according to the investigative report.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]

## **2022: Zinke Called The Inspector General Report Concerning His Involvement In A Land Deal With A Halliburton Executive A “Political Hit Job” By The Biden Administration And Called It “Shots Fired By The Deep State”**

**2022: Zinke Called The Inspector General Report Concerning His Involvement In A Land Deal With A Halliburton Executive A “Political Hit Job” By The Biden Administration And Called It “Shots Fired By The Deep State.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Another inspector general report released in February stated Zinke misused his position at Interior to advance a commercial development project in Whitefish and misled agency ethics official about his involvement. [...] Zinke characterized the report as a ‘political hit job’ to the Associated Press and accused Interior, now overseen by appointees of Democrat Joe Biden, of sitting on the report to MTN. On social media he said, ‘Shots fired by the deep state’ and ‘Not backing down.’ ‘It is in Trump’s mold of don’t back down, don’t give an inch, but one does have to wonder how big a problem it is for his narrative that this inspector general is a Republican and a Trump appointee,’ Saldin said.” [Billings Gazette, 2/16/22]

- **Zinke: “When You Start Exposing The Serpents When You Drain The Swamp, They Don’t Like It, And They Attack... And Time And Time Again, They Attack Me, And Time And Time Again If You Read The IG Report Closely, No Wrongdoing.”** The Independent Record reported, “Zinke has denounced the investigations at Interior as politically motivated and a product of the so-called ‘deep state.’ ‘When you start exposing the serpents when you drain the swamp, they don’t like it, and they attack,’ he said. ‘And time and time again, they attack me, and time and time again if you read the IG report closely, no wrongdoing.’ When asked about his opponents in the race, particularly those lodging attacks against him, Zinke replied, ‘You know I don’t think of them at all, I just think about my country and our state.’” [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

## **Critics Called The Deal “A Classic Conflict Of Interest: The One Benefiting Financially From An Energy Company Also Regulates That Industry On Behalf Of The American People”**

**Independent Record Columnist Jock Conyngham: “I Choked On My Coffee When I Saw Ryan Zinke’s Campaign Piece Lying About His Record On Public Lands... Zinke Has — Through His Statements, Actions, Votes And Policies — Joined The Assault On America’s Public Lands And The Strong Drive To**

**Transfer Or Sell The Lands That Support Out Hunting, Fishing, And Outdoor Culture.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “When someone who rigs his fly rod backwards promises you that he supports our public lands, think twice. I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ The truth is that Zinke has — through his statements, actions, votes and policies — joined the assault on America’s public lands and the strong drive to transfer or sell the lands that support out hunting, fishing, and outdoor culture. Zinke seems to think that Montanans will forget his support for multiple public land giveaways in his checkered political past. Well, we haven’t. Here are a few highlights from Zinke’s real record on public lands: — As a Montana state senator, Zinke signed a pledge showing his support for transferring public lands to the states, leading inevitably to the sale of Montana’s public lands to private interests. — On Zinke’s first day in Congress, he voted to change House rules to make it easier to transfer federal public lands to the highest bidder. — At the Interior Department, Zinke oversaw the administration’s largest reduction of public lands ever by shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante by nearly 2 million acres. The management plans also included selling off hundreds of acres while prioritizing oil and gas development.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

- **Conyngham: “He Is Currently Under Investigation For A Sweetheart Real Estate Deal Backed By The Chairman Of Halliburton, America’s Largest Oil-Services Company — All Ironed Out While He Was At The Helm Of The Interior Department. Ethics Experts Call This A Classic Conflict Of Interest: The One Benefiting Financially From An Energy Company Also Regulates That Industry On Behalf Of The American People.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ [...] Time and time again, his cozy relationship with oil and gas has come at the expense of our public lands. When given the choice, he always throws our public lands under the bus. He is currently under investigation for a sweetheart real estate deal backed by the chairman of Halliburton, America’s largest oil-services company — all ironed out while he was at the helm of the Interior Department. Ethics experts call this a classic conflict of interest: the one benefiting financially from an energy company also regulates that industry on behalf of the American people.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

## **Rob Saldin, University Of Montana Political Science Professor: “The Findings In The Report Seem To Be Significant, That He Behaved Unethically, Misused His Office And Then Lied About It To Cover It Up— Those Are Serious Findings”**

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**Rob Saldin, University Of Montana Political Science Professor: “The Findings In The Report Seem To Be Significant, That He Behaved Unethically, Misused His Office And Then Lied About It To Cover It Up— Those Are Serious Findings.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “The report from inspector general Mark Greenblatt, a Trump appointee, found that Zinke continued working with a foundation on a commercial development in Whitefish after previously saying he would step away, and then denied involvement to ethics officials. Those findings are serious, said Rob Saldin, University of Montana political science professor and analyst for Montana Public Radio’s ‘Campaign Beat.’ [...] ‘The findings in the report seem to be significant, that he behaved unethically, misused his office and then lied about it to cover it up— those are serious findings,’ he said.” [Billings Gazette, 2/16/22]

## **2022: Al Olszewski, One Of Zinke’s Republican Primary Opponents, Called Zinke “One Of The Most Corrupt Person’s In Washington” And “A Dishonest Man” Following The Release Of The Inspector General’s Report**

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**2022: Al Olszewski, One Of Zinke’s Republican Primary Opponents, Called Zinke “One Of The Most Corrupt Person’s In Washington” And “A Dishonest Man” Following The Release Of The Inspector General’s Report.** The Independent Record reported, “Olszewski has also attacked Zinke on his resignation from Interior, as well as raised issues about the amount of time Zinke spends out of state and travel violations while in the Navy. Following the release of the inspector general’s report earlier this year, Olszewski released a statement calling Zinke ‘one of the most corrupt persons in Washington’ and ‘a dishonest man.’ ‘What the inspector general, who was appointed by Trump, stated was he lied, lack of candor,’ Olszewski said. ‘... That is an integrity issue.’” [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

## **Zinke Misled Federal Investigators Regarding His Conversations With MGM Lobbyists And Lawmakers Who Pushed Him To Deny A Petition For A Tribal Casino That Would Have Competed With MGM**

**2017: MGM Resorts International Launched A Lobbying Campaign Against Two Native American Tribes' Joint Proposal To Operate A Casino Nearby**

**2017: Two Native American Tribes Petitioned The Interior Department, Asking Officials To Approve Amendments Saying Their Plans To Jointly Operate The Facility Would Not Violate Their Existing Gambling Agreements**

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**2017: The Mashantucket Pequot And Mohegan Tribes Petitioned The Interior Department To Approve Amendments That Would Rule That A Joint Casino Operation Did Not Violate Existing Gambling Agreements.** The Washington Post reported, “In 2017, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes wanted to open a casino in East Windsor, Conn. They petitioned Interior, asking department officials to approve amendments saying their plans to jointly operate a facility would not violate their existing gambling agreements. This sparked a lobbying campaign by MGM Resorts International, which operates a competing casino a short distance away, to persuade Zinke not to sign off on the tribes’ plans. The inspector general’s report found that from the spring to fall of 2017, lobbyists, a political consultant and a U.S. senator spoke repeatedly with Zinke and his chief of staff, urging them to reject the amendments. The report said that on one occasion, Zinke had dinner at his residence with a political consultant and a lobbyist. The lobbyist spent the evening texting a casino executive with updates on the discussions.” [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

**In Response, MGM Resorts International, Which Operated A Competing Casino Nearby, Launched A Lobbying Campaign Against The Proposed New Casino, Including Lobbying Interior Secretary Zinke To Not Sign Off On The Tribes’ Plans**

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**2017: MGM Resorts International Operated A Competing Casino Nearby And Launched A Lobbying Campaign Against The Proposed New Casino.** The Washington Post reported, “In 2017, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes wanted to open a casino in East Windsor, Conn. They petitioned Interior, asking department officials to approve amendments saying their plans to jointly operate a facility would not violate their existing gambling agreements. This sparked a lobbying campaign by MGM Resorts International, which operates a competing casino a short distance away, to persuade Zinke not to sign off on the tribes’ plans. The inspector general’s report found that from the spring to fall of 2017, lobbyists, a political consultant and a U.S. senator spoke repeatedly with Zinke and his chief of staff, urging them to reject the amendments. The report said that on one occasion, Zinke had dinner at his residence with a political consultant and a lobbyist. The lobbyist spent the evening texting a casino executive with updates on the discussions.” [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

**2018: The Two Tribes Filed A Lawsuit Saying Zinke’s Denial Of Their Joint Petition To Operate A Casino Near An MGM Resorts Casino Was Due To “Improper Political Influence”**



## **2018: The Two Tribes Filed A Lawsuit Saying Zinke’s Denial Of Their Joint Petition To Operate A Casino Near An MGM Resorts Casino Was Due To “Improper Political Influence”**

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**2020: The Washington Post Reported That A U.S. Deputy Attorney General Delayed Pursuing Criminal Charges Against Zinke After He Allegedly Denied A Petition To Two Tribes To Run A Casino In Connecticut Due To Improper Influence.** The Independent Record reported, “In a story citing three anonymous sources, the Washington Post on Thursday reported that a U.S. Deputy Attorney General delayed pursuing potential criminal charges related to the actions of Ryan Zinke, former Montana congressman and Secretary of the Interior. Zinke was Montana’s lone representative in the U.S. House before joining the Trump administration’s cabinet. He resigned in 2019. The New York Times initially reported on Jeffrey A. Rosen, the deputy attorney general, pushing back a case against Zinke as part of a story about frustrations held by prosecutors in the U.S. Justice Department. The Post expanded on the story specific to Zinke. The issue started with Zinke’s denial of a petition by two tribes that asked Interior for permission to run a casino in Connecticut. The tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan, filed a lawsuit in 2018 saying Zinke’s denial of their petition was due to ‘improper political influence,’ according to Politico.” [Independent Record, 11/12/20]

### **Zinke Was Investigated Over His Decision To, Against The Advice Of Interior Department Employees, Block Native Tribes From Building In A Casino After Zinke Was Lobbied To Do So By A Competitor To The Casino**

**2019: One Investigation Into Zinke’s Conduct In Office Focused On Zinke’s Decision To, Against The Advice Of Interior Department Employees, Block Native Tribes From Building In A Casino After Zinke Was Lobbied To Do So By A Competitor To The Casino.** The Boston Globe reported, “Zinke, who enraged environmentalists by, among other things, lifting an Obama administration moratorium on selling coal mining rights and scaling back protections on federal land, left the administration amid a swirl of federal investigations into his travel, potential conflicts of interest and his political activity — including a picture he posted on Twitter showing socks with Trump’s ‘Make America Great Again’ slogan. ‘My family got investigated. My family had death threats. I got investigated over my socks,’ Zinke said. One inquiry focused on a potential conflict of interest involving a Montana land deal between a charitable foundation Zinke created and a property development foundation backed by David Lesar, the former chairman of oilfield services provider Halliburton. Another inquiry scrutinized Zinke’s decision to block Indian tribes from building a casino in Connecticut after lobbying from their chief competitor, MGM Resorts International, despite the advice of employees with the Interior Department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

### **In 2022, The Interior Department’s Inspector General Found That Zinke Had Lied To Investigators About Conversations He Had With Lobbyists And Lawmakers Concerning A Tribal Casino Bid In Connecticut**

## **2022: The Interior Department’s Inspector General Released A Report Concluding That Zinke Lied To Investigators About Conversations He Had With Lobbyists And Lawmakers Concerning A Bid By Two Tribes To Operate A Casino In Connecticut**

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**2022: The Interior Department’s Inspector General Released A Report Finding That Zinke Lied To Investigators About Conversations He Had With Lobbyists And Lawmakers Concerning A Bid By Two**



**Tribes To Operate A Casino In Connecticut.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke also made no mention of a report released last week by the Interior inspector general, which says Zinke lied to investigators about conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. Zinke’s attorney called the IG’s report ‘distorted and misleading.’ On accountability, Zinke advocated for more transparency in government.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]

## **August 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Had Neither Granted Nor Denied The Tribal Amendment Request But Had Sent It Back And Noted It Was “Premature And Likely Unnecessary”**

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**August 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Had Neither Granted Nor Denied The Tribal Amendment Request But Send It Back And Noted It Was “Premature And Likely Unnecessary.”** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke neither granted nor denied the tribes’ request; instead, he sent it back to them, saying it was ‘premature and likely unnecessary.’ His action became the subject of intense scrutiny at Interior and the White House during President Donald Trump’s first months in office. The inspector general’s office opened an investigation into whether Zinke had been improperly influenced and had sidestepped the recommendations of career staff members at the Interior Department to approve the casino application. But the office shifted its focus from the decision in the casino case to the truthfulness of Zinke’s and his chief of staff’s statements.” [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

## **The Report Found That Zinke Denied Having Been Involved In Significant Conversations With Lobbyists, Contrary To Evidence**

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**The Report Found That Zinke Denied Having Been Involved In Significant Conversations With Lobbyists, Contrary To Evidence.** The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, a former interior secretary during the Trump administration, intentionally misled investigators looking into his department’s decision not to act on two Native American tribes’ requests to open a new casino in Connecticut, the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General concluded in a report released on Wednesday. [...] The 44-page report on Wednesday focused not on the casino decision itself — litigation over that was resolved separately — but on whether Mr. Zinke and his former chief of staff had been honest about it. Extensive efforts by unnamed lobbyists to persuade Mr. Zinke not to approve the tribes’ applications, as well as conversations between Mr. Zinke and an unnamed senator, are described in the report. It says that, in interviews with investigators, Mr. Zinke denied having significant conversations with the lobbyists and stated repeatedly that he had decided not to approve the tribes’ applications based on advice from the Interior Department’s Office of the Solicitor. But lawyers in that office told the investigators that they had never spoken directly with Mr. Zinke.” [New York Times, 8/24/22]

## ***The Report Found That, From Spring 2017 To Fall 2017, Lobbyists For MGM, A Political Consultant, And A U.S. Senator Spoke Multiple Times With Zinke And His Chief Of Staff To Urge Them To Reject The Tribal Casino***

**August 2022: An Inspector General Report Found That From Spring 2017 To Fall 2017, Lobbyists For MGM, A Political Consultant, And A U.S. Senator Spoke Multiple Times With Zinke And His Chief Of Staff To Urge Them To Reject The Tribal Casino.** The Washington Post reported, “In 2017, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes wanted to open a casino in East Windsor, Conn. They petitioned Interior, asking department officials to approve amendments saying their plans to jointly operate a facility would not violate their existing gambling agreements. This sparked a lobbying campaign by MGM Resorts International, which operates a competing casino a short distance away, to persuade Zinke not to sign off on the tribes’ plans. The inspector general’s report found that from the spring to fall of 2017, lobbyists, a political consultant and a U.S. senator spoke repeatedly with Zinke and his chief of staff, urging them to reject the amendments. The report said that on one



occasion, Zinke had dinner at his residence with a political consultant and a lobbyist. The lobbyist spent the evening texting a casino executive with updates on the discussions.” [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

### ***August 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Had Dinner At His Residence With A Political Consultant And A Lobbyist, During Which The Lobbyist Texted A Casino Executive With Updates On His Discussion With Zinke***

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### ***The Report Also Found That Zinke Claimed To Have Denied The Tribes’ Application Based On Advice From The Interior Department’s Lawyers, Who Said That They Had Not Spoken To Zinke***

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**The Report Also Found That Zinke Claimed To Have Denied The Tribes’ Application Based On Advice From The Interior Department’s Lawyers, Who Said That They Had Not Spoken To Zinke.** The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, a former interior secretary during the Trump administration, intentionally misled investigators looking into his department’s decision not to act on two Native American tribes’ requests to open a new casino in Connecticut, the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General concluded in a report released on Wednesday. [...] The 44-page report on Wednesday focused not on the casino decision itself — litigation over that was resolved separately — but on whether Mr. Zinke and his former chief of staff had been honest about it. Extensive efforts by unnamed lobbyists to persuade Mr. Zinke not to approve the tribes’ applications, as well as conversations between Mr. Zinke and an unnamed senator, are described in the report. It says that, in interviews with investigators, Mr. Zinke denied having significant conversations with the lobbyists and stated repeatedly that he had decided not to approve the tribes’ applications based on advice from the Interior Department’s Office of the Solicitor. But lawyers in that office told the investigators that they had never spoken directly with Mr. Zinke.” [New York Times, [8/24/22](#)]

### ***August 2022: The Inspector General Report Noted That Zinke Had Told Investigators That He Had Based His Decision On Advice From Attorneys In The Interior Department Solicitor’s Office***

**August 2022: The Inspector General Report Noted That Zinke Had Told Investigators That He Had Based His Decision On Advice From Attorneys In The Interior Department Solicitor’s Office.** The Washington Post reported, “The inspector general’s office opened an investigation into whether Zinke had been improperly influenced and had sidestepped the recommendations of career staff members at the Interior Department to approve the casino application. But the office shifted its focus from the decision in the casino case to the truthfulness of Zinke’s and his chief of staff’s statements. According to the report, Zinke told investigators that he based his decision on the recommendation of attorneys in Interior’s solicitor’s office. But the report found the evidence contradicted this claim. Interior attorneys denied to investigators that they spoke with Zinke, gave him advice or





approved his decision not to take a position on the petition. And people Zinke denied meeting with said they had regular contact with him to press him to deny the tribes' application, according to emails and other documents obtained by investigators." [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

### ***August 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Attorneys From The Solicitor's Office Denied That They Had Spoken With Zinke About The Petition Approval***

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### ***August 2022: The Inspector General Concluded That Zinke Intentionally Misled Investigators Who Were Scrutinizing His Decision To Deny The Requests Of Two Native American Tribes To Open A New Casino In Connecticut***

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**August 2022: The Inspector General Concluded That Zinke Intentionally Misled Investigators Who Were Scrutinizing His Decision To Deny The Requests Of Two Native American Tribes To Open A New Casino In Connecticut.** The New York Times reported, "Ryan Zinke, a former interior secretary during the Trump administration, intentionally misled investigators looking into his department's decision not to act on two Native American tribes' requests to open a new casino in Connecticut, the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General concluded in a report released on Wednesday. [...] The 44-page report on Wednesday focused not on the casino decision itself — litigation over that was resolved separately — but on whether Mr. Zinke and his former chief of staff had been honest about it. Extensive efforts by unnamed lobbyists to persuade Mr. Zinke not to approve the tribes' applications, as well as conversations between Mr. Zinke and an unnamed senator, are described in the report. It says that, in interviews with investigators, Mr. Zinke denied having significant conversations with the lobbyists and stated repeatedly that he had decided not to approve the tribes' applications based on advice from the Interior Department's Office of the Solicitor. But lawyers in that office told the investigators that they had never spoken directly with Mr. Zinke." [New York Times, 8/24/22]

### ***The Report Found That Zinke Made Statements To Investigators "With The Overall Intent To Mislead Them... [And] Presented An Inaccurate Version Of The Circumstances In Which (Interior) Made Key Decisions' On The Casino Project"***

**2022: The Report Found That Zinke Made Statements To Investigators "With The Overall Intent To Mislead Them... [And] Presented An Inaccurate Version Of The Circumstances In Which (Interior) Made Key Decisions' On The Casino Project."** The Billings Gazette reported, "In late August, Interior's Office of Inspector General released a report stating Zinke made statements to investigators 'with the overall intent to mislead them' over conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. Both Zinke and his former chief of staff, Scott Hommel, 'presented



an inaccurate version of the circumstances in which (Interior) made key decisions' on the casino project, the report said. 'As a result, we concluded that Secretary Zinke and (Hommel) did not comply with their duty of candor when questioned,' the report reads." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**The Report Found That When Discussing The Casino Project, Zinke “Made Statements To ... Investors With The Overall Intent To Mislead Them.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘I don’t lie, but neither am I going to be intimidated or bullied by biased investigators from the very department that I was trying to change,’ Zinke said. Prosecutors have declined to pursue criminal charges and Zinke has repeatedly denied wrongdoing. A report into a Whitefish project found he didn’t comply with ethical obligations and duty of candor. The Inspector General, a Trump appointee, reviewing the casino dealings found Zinke ‘made statements to ... investors with the overall intent to mislead them.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/1/22]

### ***The Inspector General Report: “As A Result, We Concluded That Secretary Zinke And (Hommel) Did Not Comply With Their Duty Of Candor When Questioned”***

**The Inspector General Report: “As A Result, We Concluded That Secretary Zinke And (Hommel) Did Not Comply With Their Duty Of Candor When Questioned.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In late August, Interior’s Office of Inspector General released a report stating Zinke made statements to investigators ‘with the overall intent to mislead them’ over conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. Both Zinke and his former chief of staff, Scott Hommel, ‘presented an inaccurate version of the circumstances in which (Interior) made key decisions’ on the casino project, the report said. ‘As a result, we concluded that Secretary Zinke and (Hommel) did not comply with their duty of candor when questioned,’ the report reads.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

### **Zinke Claimed That The Report Was “Distorted And Misleading”**

**Zinke Claimed The Report Was “Distorted And Misleading.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke also made no mention of a report released last week by the Interior inspector general, which says Zinke lied to investigators about conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. Zinke’s attorney called the IG’s report ‘distorted and misleading.’ On accountability, Zinke advocated for more transparency in government.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]

### **The Interior Department’s Inspector General Had Also Referred The Investigation Of Zinke’s Involvement In The Casino Dispute To The Justice Department, Which Investigated Zinke’s Claims**

### **October 2018: The Interior Department’s Inspector General Referred An Investigation Of Zinke To The Justice Department**

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**October 2018: The Interior Department’s Inspector General Referred An Investigation Of Zinke To The Justice Department.** The New York Times reported, “The Interior Department’s top watchdog has referred an investigation into a possible conflict of interest by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department, according to a person familiar with the matter, a sign that the federal government is considering a criminal investigation of Mr. Zinke’s actions. It is not known which investigation was referred to the Justice Department. Mr. Zinke is the subject of at least six known federal investigations into allegations of ethical misconduct or other policy violations.” [New York Times, 10/30/18]



## **It Was Not Known Which Investigation The Inspector General Referred To The Department Of Justice**

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**It Was Not Known Which Investigation The Inspector General Referred To The Department Of Justice, But An Anonymous Source Familiar With The Matter Speculated That It Was The Investigation Regarding The Halliburton Land Deal.** The New York Times reported, “It is not known which investigation was referred to the Justice Department. Mr. Zinke is the subject of at least six known federal investigations into allegations of ethical misconduct or other policy violations. However, the person familiar with the matter, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said it was highly likely that the investigation now being examined by the Justice Department was one involving a Montana land deal involving Mr. Zinke and the chairman of the energy giant Halliburton.” [New York Times, 10/30/18]

## **January 2019: The Department Of Justice Began Investigating Whether Zinke Misled The Interior Department’s Inspector General Investigators In The Casino Dispute, A Potential Violation Of Criminal Law**

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**January 2019: The Department Of Justice Began Investigating Whether Zinke Lied To The Interior Department’s Inspector General Investigators, A Potential Violation Of Criminal Law.** The Denver Post reported, “Justice Department’s public integrity section is examining whether newly departed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators, according to people familiar with the matter, a potential criminal violation that would exacerbate Zinke’s legal woes.” [Denver Post, 1/4/19]

**August 2022: The Interior’s Office Of Inspector General Released A Report Stating Zinke Made Statements To Investigators ‘With The Overall Intent To Mislead Them’ Over Conversations He Had With Lobbyists, Lawmakers And Other Officials Regarding A Bid By Two Indian Tribes To Operate A Casino In Connecticut.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In late August, Interior’s Office of Inspector General released a report stating Zinke made statements to investigators ‘with the overall intent to mislead them’ over conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. [...] Another inspector general report released in February stated Zinke misused his position at Interior to advance a commercial development project in Whitefish and misled agency ethics official about his involvement. Zinke, after being named Interior Secretary, said he would step away from the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation under ethics rules barring involvement with nonprofits. [...] The inspector general’s findings in both cases were referred to the U.S. Justice Department, which declined to prosecute the cases.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## **November 2020: The Washington Post Reported That U.S. Deputy Attorney General Had Delayed Pursuing Potential Criminal Charges Related To Zinke Denying Two Tribes’ Joint Proposal For A Casino Due To “Improper Political Influence”**

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**Independent Record: “The New York Times Initially Reported On Jeffrey A. Rosen, The Deputy Attorney General, Pushing Back A Case Against Zinke As Part Of A Story About Frustrations Held By Prosecutors In The U.S. Justice Department.”** The Independent Record reported, “In a story citing three anonymous sources, the Washington Post on Thursday reported that a U.S. Deputy Attorney General delayed pursuing potential criminal charges related to the actions of Ryan Zinke, former Montana congressman and Secretary of the Interior. Zinke was Montana’s lone representative in the U.S. House before joining the Trump administration’s cabinet. He resigned in 2019. The New York Times initially reported on Jeffrey A. Rosen, the deputy attorney general, pushing back a case against Zinke as part of a story about frustrations held by prosecutors in the U.S. Justice Department. The Post expanded on the story specific to Zinke. The issue started with Zinke’s denial of a petition by two tribes that asked



Interior for permission to run a casino in Connecticut. The tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan, filed a lawsuit in 2018 saying Zinke's denial of their petition was due to 'improper political influence,' according to Politico." [Independent Record, 11/12/20]

## **The Report Concerning Zinke's Misconduct Was Referred To The U.S. Department Of Justice, Which Declined To Prosecute Him Because The Case Was Not Yet Strong Enough**

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**The Two Inspector General's Reports Concerning Zinke's Misconduct Were Referred To The U.S. Department Of Justice, Which Declined To Prosecute Him In Both Cases.** The Billings Gazette reported, "In late August, Interior's Office of Inspector General released a report stating Zinke made statements to investigators 'with the overall intent to mislead them' over conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. [...] Another inspector general report released in February stated Zinke misused his position at Interior to advance a commercial development project in Whitefish and misled agency ethics official about his involvement. Zinke, after being named Interior Secretary, said he would step away from the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation under ethics rules barring involvement with nonprofits. [...] The inspector general's findings in both cases were referred to the U.S. Justice Department, which declined to prosecute the cases." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**Around The Time Of Congress's First Impeachment Inquiry Into Trump, Then-Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen Directed Justice Department Prosecutors To Hold Off On Bringing Charges Against Zinke, On The Basis That Rosen Believed The Case Was Not Yet Strong Enough.** The New York Times reported, "But once Congress began its impeachment inquiry, top Justice Department officials decided that an investigation of Mr. Trump had been overtaken by the events of impeachment, according to two people briefed on the matter. [...] Around that time, the deputy attorney general, Jeffrey A. Rosen, also told prosecutors in the section that they could not proceed with charges against Mr. Zinke of making false statements to federal investigators, a case that stemmed from a referral from the Interior Department inspector general, according to three people familiar with the case. Mr. Rosen expressed doubts about the strength of the case and sought a stronger prosecution. The prosecutors agreed to work further, and the inquiry has not been officially closed, according to people familiar with the matter." [New York Times, 11/11/20]

## **The Investigation Into Zinke's Involvement In The Casino Dispute Was One Of 12 Ethics Investigations That Forced Zinke To Resign As Interior Secretary**

**Zinke Resigned After Facing More Than 12 Investigations By The Interior Department's Inspector General, Congress, And The U.S. Office Of Special Counsel, Alleging That All Of The Investigations Were Politically Motivated.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department's headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency's inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency's inspector general investigators." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

- **Daily Inter Lake: "At The Time, The Inspector General Had Been Investigating A Whitefish Land Deal That Zinke Struck With The Chairman Of Halliburton, The Massive Oil Services Corporation, As Well As Zinke's Involvement In A Dispute Over A Casino That Two Native American Tribes Were Seeking To Operate In Connecticut."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 —



following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators. At the time, the inspector general had been investigating a Whitefish land deal that Zinke struck with the chairman of Halliburton, the massive oil services corporation, as well as Zinke’s involvement in a dispute over a casino that two Native American tribes were seeking to operate in Connecticut. Some of the investigations into Zinke cleared him of wrongdoing, while others stalled due to lack of cooperation, as well as alleged interference by other Trump administration officials.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]



## **Swamp Creature: Zinke Went Straight Through The Revolving Door After Resigning As Interior Secretary, Ballooning His Net Worth By Consulting For Companies That He Had Previously Regulated**

### **Within Months Of Resigning, Zinke Went To Work For Oil And Gas Companies At A Lobbying Firm Which Lobbied The Interior Department**

#### **February 2019: Zinke Joined The Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions As A Senior Advisor Alongside Ex-Trump Campaign Manager Corey Lewandowski**

**2019: Zinke Joined The D.C. Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions As A Senior Adviser, With Politico Noting That “Zinke’s Quick Turn To The Lobbying World... Shows The Appetite Among The President’s Allies To Cash In On Their High-Profile Positions, Even When They’ve Been Dogged By Controversy.”** The Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, who resigned as interior secretary last year amid scandal, is teaming up with Corey Lewandowski, President Donald Trump’s former campaign manager, to work as senior advisers at Washington lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions. Jason Osborne, a partner at Turnberry, said Lewandowski won’t do any work that would require him to register as a lobbyist, but said that Zinke was likely to do so. ‘Zinke will if it’s the right clients and it’s something he’s passionate about,’ Osborne said. Zinke is the first former member of Trump’s Cabinet to join a lobbying firm - a new milestone for a president who took office promising to ‘drain the swamp.’ Lewandowski, meanwhile, is one of a multitude of former Trump campaign staffers and fundraisers who have offered to advise corporate America on how to deal with the administration. Some of them have registered as lobbyists, while others, including Lewandowski, have declined to do so. Zinke’s quick turn to the lobbying world and his move alongside Lewandowski also shows the appetite among the president’s allies to cash in on their high-profile positions, even when they’ve been dogged by controversy.” [Politico, 2/8/19]

- **Zinke Said He Was “Excited To Join Turnberry Solutions And I Look Forward To Helping Companies Navigate The Washington, DC Bureaucracy.”** The Politico reported, “Lewandowski said in a statement that he looked ‘forward to working with Secretary Zinke to provide strategic advice and counsel to clients.’ Zinke, meanwhile, plans to work on energy and defense matters. He’ll split his time among Montana, California and Washington. The former Interior secretary is limited in his ability to lobby the administration by Trump’s ethics pledge and doesn’t plan to do so, according to Osborne. But he’s allowed to lobby Congress, in which he represented Montana for one term before resigning to join Trump’s Cabinet. Zinke said in a statement that he was ‘excited to join Turnberry Solutions and I look forward to helping companies navigate the Washington, DC bureaucracy.’” [Politico, 2/8/19]
- **Zinke Joined Turnberry Alongside Former Trump Campaign Manager Corey Lewandowski, With The Firm’s Partner Saying That Lewandowski Would Not Register As A Lobbyist, But Zinke Might.** The Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, who resigned as interior secretary last year amid scandal, is teaming up with Corey Lewandowski, President Donald Trump’s former campaign manager, to work as senior advisers at Washington lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions. Jason Osborne, a partner at Turnberry, said Lewandowski won’t do any work that would require him to register as a lobbyist, but said that Zinke was likely to do so. ‘Zinke will if it’s the right clients and it’s something he’s passionate about,’ Osborne said. Zinke is the first former member of Trump’s Cabinet to join a lobbying firm - a new milestone for a president who took office promising to ‘drain the swamp.’ Lewandowski, meanwhile, is one of a multitude of former Trump campaign staffers and fundraisers who have offered to advise corporate America on how to deal with the administration. Some of them have registered as lobbyists, while others, including Lewandowski, have declined to do so. Zinke’s quick turn to the lobbying world and his move alongside Lewandowski also shows the appetite among

the president's allies to cash in on their high-profile positions, even when they've been dogged by controversy." [Politico, 2/8/19]

- **Politico: "Zinke, Meanwhile, Plans To Work On Energy And Defense Matters... The Former Interior Secretary Is Limited In His Ability To Lobby The Administration By Trump's Ethics Pledge And Doesn't Plan To Do So... But He's Allowed To Lobby Congress."** The Politico reported, "Lewandowski said in a statement that he looked 'forward to working with Secretary Zinke to provide strategic advice and counsel to clients.' Zinke, meanwhile, plans to work on energy and defense matters. He'll split his time among Montana, California and Washington. The former Interior secretary is limited in his ability to lobby the administration by Trump's ethics pledge and doesn't plan to do so, according to Osborne. But he's allowed to lobby Congress, in which he represented Montana for one term before resigning to join Trump's Cabinet. Zinke said in a statement that he was 'excited to join Turnberry Solutions and I look forward to helping companies navigate the Washington, DC bureaucracy.'" [Politico, 2/8/19]
- **Turnberry Reportedly Worked As A Lobbyist For The Government Of The Northern Mariana Islands.** The Politico reported, "Zinke said in a statement that he was 'excited to join Turnberry Solutions and I look forward to helping companies navigate the Washington, DC bureaucracy.' Zinke declined to comment further. Lewandowski did not respond to a request for further comment. Turnberry's other clients include the government of the Northern Mariana Islands, which is a U.S. commonwealth. Osborne is also registered to lobby for the government of Azerbaijan and Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa, the Polish state defense conglomerate, through another lobbying firm, the BGR Group." [Politico, 2/8/19]

## **At Turnberry, Zinke Helped Oil And Gas Firms Navigate The Energy Permitting Process And Helped Tribal Groups Seeking Recognition From The Interior Department, But Did Not Register As A Lobbyist**

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**2019: Zinke Said He Was Not Lobbying For Turnberry, But Rather Helping Firms Navigate The Energy Permitting Process, Saying, "I Promote Energy... It Is Better To Produce Energy In This Country With Reasonable Regulation Than Watch It Get Produced Overseas With None."** The Boston Globe reported, "He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides. Zinke said he is not lobbying but, rather, helping firms navigate local permitting processes. 'I promote energy,' he said. 'It is better to produce energy in this country with reasonable regulation than watch it get produced overseas with none.' Zinke said his work does not run afoul of prohibitions on post-government employment." [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

- **HEADLINE: "Industries He Oversaw Are Zinke Clients."** [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**Turnberry Solutions Reportedly Had Clients Including Oil And Gas Companies And Native American Tribes.** The Associated Press reported, "Zinke resigned in December 2018 amid several investigations that he had misused his office for personal gain. He quickly joined Turnberry Solutions, a D.C. lobbying firm whose clients include oil and gas companies and Native American tribes. Phone messages seeking comment from Zinke about the wildlife council's dissolution did not receive a response." [Associated Press, 2/11/20]

**Center For Responsive Politics: "Ryan Zinke Joined Trump-Connected Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions Shortly After Leaving The Administration, But Did Not Register As A Lobbyist."** According to a press release from the Center for Responsive Politics, "Several former Trump officials now work for lobbying firms but are not registered as lobbyists. Former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus has not registered as a lobbyist, but he leads a lobbying firm that saw record revenues in 2020. Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke joined Trump-connected lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions shortly after leaving the administration, but did not register as a lobbyist." [Center for Responsive Politics, Press Release, 1/21/21]

**2019: Turnberry Solutions Was Reportedly Lobbying To Help The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe Achieve Recognition By The Federal Government.** The Greenwire reported, “A Trump-connected lobbying firm that includes former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is helping an American Indian tribe that has worked for decades to be recognized by the federal government. Turnberry Solutions, where Zinke has been a senior adviser since February, disclosed in a filing last month the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area paid the company \$30,000 for work in May and June. Zinke joined the firm months after he resigned from the Interior Department under the pressure of numerous allegations that he violated ethics policies. While it’s unclear what role, if any, Zinke is playing in the tribe’s advocacy, his position at the firm could give Muwekma a significant leg up over other tribes. As Interior secretary, he oversaw nearly the entirety of the federal government’s relations with tribes, including the officials who decide which tribes get federal recognition. Turnberry did not specify on what issue or issues it is advocating, writing only that it lobbied on ‘Guidance on issues impacting the Tribe,’ despite a legal requirement that quarterly disclosures include ‘a list of the specific issues’ on which the firm worked.” [Greenwire, 8/7/19]

- **Greenwire: “[Zinke’s] Position At The Firm Could Give Muwekma A Significant Leg Up Over Other Tribes. As Interior Secretary, He Oversaw Nearly The Entirety Of The Federal Government’s Relations With Tribes, Including The Officials Who Decide Which Tribes Get Federal Recognition.”** The Greenwire reported, “A Trump-connected lobbying firm that includes former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is helping an American Indian tribe that has worked for decades to be recognized by the federal government. Turnberry Solutions, where Zinke has been a senior adviser since February, disclosed in a filing last month the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area paid the company \$30,000 for work in May and June. Zinke joined the firm months after he resigned from the Interior Department under the pressure of numerous allegations that he violated ethics policies. While it’s unclear what role, if any, Zinke is playing in the tribe’s advocacy, his position at the firm could give Muwekma a significant leg up over other tribes. As Interior secretary, he oversaw nearly the entirety of the federal government’s relations with tribes, including the officials who decide which tribes get federal recognition. Turnberry did not specify on what issue or issues it is advocating, writing only that it lobbied on ‘Guidance on issues impacting the Tribe,’ despite a legal requirement that quarterly disclosures include ‘a list of the specific issues’ on which the firm worked.” [Greenwire, 8/7/19]
- **Greenwire: “Zinke’s Connections Could Be Valuable For The Tribe. Turnberry’s Disclosure Said The Company Is Targeting Interior In Its Lobbying.”** The Greenwire reported, “Nonetheless, Zinke’s connections could be valuable for the tribe. Turnberry’s disclosure said the company is targeting Interior in its lobbying, in addition to the House and the Senate. Zinke has established at least one more tie with Muwekma: He led a business delegation last month to Turkey that was slated to include textile recycling company 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Recycling Inc., according to the Daily Sabah, an Istanbul newspaper. That company’s CEO, according to California records, is Charlene Nijmeh—Muwekma’s chairwoman. People familiar with American Indian policy told E&E News that Muwekma appears to be banking on Turnberry’s connections to Trump to get federal recognition—an unusual tactic in the highly specialized business of Indian law. The tribe doesn’t currently have land, meaning it would be difficult to pay Turnberry’s \$30,000 fee.” [Greenwire, 8/7/19]

## **Zinke’s Work At Turnberry Broke The Spirit Of Trump’s Pledge To Not Allow Ex-Administration Officials To Lobby The White House**

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**Keene Sentinel Editorial Board: “In February, ProPublica Documented A List Of Nearly Three Dozen Former Trump Hires Who Are Doing What Trump Said They Shouldn’t, With Impunity. The Leading Scofflaw Is Probably Ryan Zinke.”** According to the Keene Sentinel Editorial Board, “Trump never details how he will accomplish most of his promises, but regarding influence-peddling in our nation’s capital, one thing he did insist on -- in the form of an executive order -- was that his political appointees who leave office not lobby the agencies from which they departed for five years. Further, they cannot lobby anyone in the Trump administration while he’s in office. [...] In February, ProPublica documented a list of nearly three dozen former Trump hires who

are doing what Trump said they shouldn't, with impunity. The leading scofflaw is probably Ryan Zinke, former Interior Department secretary, whose abuse of ethics while in office was both appalling and legendary, eventually leading to his resignation. Zinke didn't suffer long, landing a job at the lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions, along with former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski—who's now mulling a challenge to New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. That has led Zinke to work with U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development. Zinke says he won't lobby for U.S. Gold, but the head of the company noted Zinke's 'excellent relationship' with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining the hiring." [Keene Sentinel, Editorial, 9/12/19]

- **Keene Sentinel Editorial Board: "Zinke Didn't Suffer Long, Landing A Job At The Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions... That Has Led Zinke To Work With U.S. Gold Corp... Zinke Says He Won't Lobby For U.S. Gold, But The Head Of The Company Noted Zinke's 'Excellent Relationship' With The Bureau Of Land Management And The Interior Department In Explaining The Hiring."** According to the Keene Sentinel Editorial Board, "In February, ProPublica documented a list of nearly three dozen former Trump hires who are doing what Trump said they shouldn't, with impunity. The leading scofflaw is probably Ryan Zinke, former Interior Department secretary, whose abuse of ethics while in office was both appalling and legendary, eventually leading to his resignation. Zinke didn't suffer long, landing a job at the lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions, along with former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski—who's now mulling a challenge to New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. That has led Zinke to work with U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development. Zinke says he won't lobby for U.S. Gold, but the head of the company noted Zinke's 'excellent relationship' with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining the hiring." [Keene Sentinel, Editorial, 9/12/19]

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## **Turnberry Solutions' Income Grew Significantly After Zinke Joined**

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**Turnberry Solutions' Lobbying Income Grew From \$510,000 In 2017 To \$790,000 In 2018, With The Firm Receiving \$230,000 In The First Quarter Of 2019 As It Continued To Represent T-Mobile In Its Attempt To Merge With Spring.** According to a press release from the Center for Responsive Politics, "A Corey Lewandowski-linked firm, Turnberry Solutions, is based out of a D.C. row home frequented by the former Trump campaign manager, but Lewandowski maintains he doesn't do any work that requires him to be a lobbyist. Former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, who resigned under pressure after numerous ethics investigations were launched into his behavior, joined Turnberry after he left the Cabinet. Jason Osborne, a former senior advisor to the Trump campaign and formerly of Avenue Strategies is a registered lobbyist at the firm. The firm's lobbying grew from \$510,000 to \$790,000 between 2017 and 2018, and the momentum seems to have carried into 2019. Turnberry reported \$230,000 in lobbying for the first quarter. Among other clients, it continues to represent T-Mobile as the company seeks a merger with Sprint." [Center for Responsive Politics, Press Release, 4/23/19]

**2019: Turnberry Solutions Received \$1.2 Million In Fees For Lobbying.** According to a press release from the Center for Responsive Politics, "Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski joined Turnberry Solutions last year, and former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke also began working at Turnberry Solutions in 2019. Zinke became the first cabinet member of the Trump administration to join a lobbying firm after leaving the administration. Turnberry Solutions saw its earnings increase from about \$790,000 in 2018 to \$1.2 million in 2019." [Center for Responsive Politics, Press Release, 1/29/20]

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## **Turnberry Solutions' Lobbying Clients Included The American Ethane Company, The Center For Sportfishing Policy, T-Mobile, And Multiple Tribal Groups**

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**2017-2020: Turnberry Solutions Registered As A Lobbying Firm For 21 Companies, Including The American Ethane Company, The Center For Sportfishing Policy, T-Mobile, Multiple Tribal Groups, And Others.** [United States Senate Lobbying Disclosure, Turnberry Solutions, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



Turnberry Solutions Lobbying Clients	
Client	Registration Date
AMERICAN ETHANE COMPANY LLC	2/19/19
BIG CAT RESCUE	10/11/17
CENTER FOR SPORTFISHING POLICY	9/20/17
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	10/11/17
COMMUNITY CHOICE FINANCIAL INC.	10/11/17
COX OPERATIONS, LLC	1/8/19
ELEVATE TEXTILES	7/7/20
ELIO MOTORS	9/18/17
GARNER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	5/21/19
HARVEY GULF INTERNATIONAL MARINE, LLC	7/22/19
HICHAM CHAHINE	3/22/18
KAZI INVESTMENT GROUP	11/2/18
MUWEKMA OHLONE TRIBE OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA	5/21/19
NAC FOUNDATION, LLC	11/2/18
NORTHERN MARIANA BUSINESS ALLIANCE	10/11/17
REDHORSE CORPORATION	10/20/17
SUFFOLK ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES LLC	1/8/19
THE GREATEST GENERATIONS FOUNDATION	11/2/18
T-MOBILE USA, INC.	1/23/18
TRANSIT LABS	12/2/20
TURN THERAPEUTICS	7/7/20

[United States Senate Lobbying Disclosure, Turnberry Solutions, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## **2018-2021: Turnberry Solutions Reported Lobbying The Department Of The Interior**

**2018-2021: Turnberry Solutions Reported Lobbying The Department Of The Interior.** [Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



Select year: 2018

**Agencies lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2018** [Export to CSV](#)

Agency	Number of Lobbyists
Dept of Labor	3
Dept of the Interior	3
Executive Office of the President	3
Environmental Protection Agency	3
White House	3
Dept of the Treasury	3

[Opensecrets.org, accessed 7/9/24]

Select year: 2019

**Agencies lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2019** [Export to CSV](#)

Agency	Number of Lobbyists
Dept of Labor	2
Dept of Defense	2
Dept of the Interior	2
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	2

[Opensecrets.org, accessed 7/9/24]

Select year: 2020

**Agencies lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2020** [Export to CSV](#)

Agency	Number of Lobbyists
Dept of Labor	2
Dept of Defense	2
Dept of the Interior	2
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	2

[Opensecrets.org, accessed 7/9/24]

Select year: **2021** ▾

**Agencies lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2021** Export to CSV

Agency	Number of Lobbyists
/federal-lobbying/agencies/summary?id=0000&year=2021	2
Dept of the Interior	2
Dept of Transportation	2
Federal Emergency Management Agency	2

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## 2017-2021: Turnberry Solutions Lobbied On Issues Including Energy & Nuclear Power, Indian/Native American Affairs, Animals, Marine, Boats, & Fisheries, Health Issues, And More

2017-2021: Turnberry Solutions Lobbied On Issues Including Energy & Nuclear Power, Indian/Native American Affairs, Animals, Marine, Boats, & Fisheries, Health Issues, And More. [Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2017** Export to CSV

Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients
Economics & Econ Development	4	3	2
Finance	2	3	1
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	2	3	1
Small Business	2	3	1
Animals	2	3	1
Automotive Industry	2	3	1
Telecommunications	1	0	1

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



**Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2018** Export to CSV

Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients
Economics & Econ Development	5	3	2
Animals	4	3	1
Telecommunications	4	3	1
Civil Rights & Civil Liberties	3	2	1
Government Issues	3	2	1
Health Issues	1	2	1
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	1	3	1
Small Business	1	3	1
Automotive Industry	1	3	1
Energy & Nuclear Power	1	2	1
Finance	1	3	1

Showing 1 to 11 of 11 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2019** Export to CSV

Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients
Economics & Econ Development	4	2	1
Government Issues	4	1	1
Health Issues	4	2	1
Animals	4	2	1
Telecommunications	4	2	1
Defense	3	2	1
Disaster & Emergency Planning	3	2	1
Indian/Native American Affairs	3	2	1
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	3	2	1

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2020				<a href="#">Export to CSV</a>
Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients	
Health Issues	7	2	2	
Defense	5	2	2	
Disaster & Emergency Planning	4	2	1	
Economics & Econ Development	4	2	1	
Government Issues	4	1	1	
Indian/Native American Affairs	4	2	1	
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	4	2	1	
Telecommunications	4	2	1	
Animals	4	2	1	
Veterans Affairs	1	2	1	

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2021				<a href="#">Export to CSV</a>
Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients	
Animals	1	2	1	
Disaster & Emergency Planning	1	2	1	
Economics & Econ Development	1	2	1	
Government Issues	1	1	1	
Indian/Native American Affairs	1	2	1	
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	1	2	1	
Telecommunications	1	2	1	

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Zinke's Financial Disclosures Reveal That He Made Hundreds Of Thousands Each Year From Consulting For Oil, Gas, And Mining Companies

**2021: Zinke Made Nearly \$788,000 In Consulting Income From ConocoPhillips, U.S. Gold Corp, JVL Enterprises, U.S. Trinity, Oasis Petroleum, And The Domestic Energy Producers Alliance**



**2021: Zinke Reported \$826,000 In Current Year Income From A Navy Pension And Multiple Consulting Clients, Including ConocoPhillips, U.S. Gold Corp, JVL Enterprises, And Others, And \$583,463 In Prior Year Income From The Same Sources**

**2021: Zinke Reported \$826,000 In Current Year Income From Multiple Consulting Clients And A Navy Pension And \$583,463 In Prior Year Income From The Same Sources.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

<b>Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Earned Income</b>			
<b>Source</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Amount Current Year To Filing</b>	<b>Amount Preceding Year</b>
CDI Client -JVL Enterprises Dallas TX  COMMENTS: Amount represents Gross Income to CDI before Expenses and Taxes	Consultant	\$350,000	\$60,000
CDI Client-Conoco Phillips  COMMENTS: Amount represents Gross Income to CDI before expenses and taxes	Consultant	\$220,000	\$240,000
CDI Client-Cyber Range Solutions (CRS)	Consultant	\$50,000	\$80,000
United States Navy	Retirement	\$38,000	\$36,438
US Gold Corp	Consultant	\$68,000	\$67,025
Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC	Consultant Business	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$826,000</b>	<b>\$583,463</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

**2021: Zinke Reported Positions With U.S. Gold Corp, Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, Double Tap LLC, And Dalrado Corp**

**2021: Zinke Reported Positions With U.S. Gold Corp, Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, Double Tap LLC, And Dalrado Corp.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

<b>Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Positions</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name Of Organization</b>
Board Member. Technical Committee Chair	US Gold Corp (NASDAQ: USAU)
Managing Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC





Partner	Snowfrog LLC
Partner	Double Tap LLC
Advisory Board Member	Dalrado Corp

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

**2021: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From U.S. Trinity, Oasis Petroleum Company, Keelen Group, DM Group, And Domestic Energy Producers Alliance**

**2021: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From U.S. Trinity, Oasis Petroleum Company, Keelen Group, DM Group, And Domestic Energy Producers Alliance.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Compensation	
Source (Name And Address)	Brief Description Of Duties
US Trinity (FT Worth, TX, US)	Consultant
Oasis Petroleum Company (Houston, TX, US)	Consultant
Keelen Group (Washington, DC, US)	Advisor
DM Group (Las Vegas, NV, US)	Advisor
Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) (Oklahoma City, OK, US)	Advisor

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

**2022: Zinke Disclosed \$168,000 In Consulting Income From Companies Including U.S. Gold Corp, U.S. Trinity, JVL Enterprises, And Oasis Petroleum**

**June 2022: Zinke Reported \$249,240 In Current Year Income From The U.S. Navy, U.S. Gold Corp, CDI LLC, And LC Land Holdings LLC, And \$266,000 In Prior Year Income From The Same Sources**

**June 2022: Zinke Reported \$249,240 In Current Year Income From The U.S. Navy, U.S. Gold Corp, CDI LLC, And LC Land Holdings LLC, And \$266,000 In Prior Year Income From The Same Sources.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Earned Income			
Source	Type	Amount Current Year To Filing	Amount Preceding Year
US Navy	Retirement Income	\$21,240	\$38,000
US Gold Corp	Consultant	\$68,000	\$68,000
CDI LLC Whitefish MT	Partner	\$100,000	\$100,000
LC Hand Holdings LLC	Sole Spouse Ownership	\$60,000	\$60,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$249,240</b>	<b>\$266,000</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]



**June 2022: Zinke Reported Positions With U.S. Gold Corp, Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, Double LLC, And Dalrado Corp, Shield AI, And The Deason Institute For Cybersecurity**

June 2022: Zinke Reported Positions With U.S. Gold Corp, Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, Double LLC, And Dalrado Corp, Shield AI, And The Deason Institute For Cybersecurity. [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Positions</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name Of Organization</b>
Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC
Partner	Snowfrog LLC
Partner	Double Tap LLC
Board Member. Technical Committee Chair	US Gold Corp (NASDAQ: USAU)
Clean Energy Advisory Board	Dalrado Corp
Advisory Board Member	Shield AI
Advisory Board Member	Deason Institute for CyberSecurity. SMU

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

**July 2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From Nine Separate Entities, Including ConocoPhillips, JVL Enterprises, U.S. Gold Corp, U.S. Trinity, And Oasis Petroleum**

July 2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From Nine Separate Entities. [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Compensation</b>	
<b>Source (Name And Address)</b>	<b>Brief Description Of Duties</b>
JVL Enterprises Dallas TX (Dallas, TX, US)	Consultant. End of Service: May 2022
CDI (Whitefish, MT, US)	Partner
Conoco Phillips (Houston, TX, US)	Consultant. End of Service: Dec 2021.
Cyber Range Solutions (CRS) (Washington DC, DC, US)	Advisor. End of Service: Dec 2021
DM Group (Las Vegas, NV, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020
US Gold Corp (Cheyenne, WY, US)	Consultant
US Trinity (FT Worth, TX, US)	Consultant End of Service: 2020
Keelen Group (Washington, DC, US)	Advisor End of Service 2020
Oasis Petroleum Company (Houston, TX, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

**Zinke’s Most Recent Financial Disclosure From 2022 Indicated That He Had Ended All Of His Consulting Arrangements**

**2022: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Earned Income**

2022: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Earned Income. [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]



SCHEDULE C: EARNED INCOME
None disclosed.

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

***2022: Zinke Reported Positions With Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, And Double Tap LLC***

**2022: Zinke Reported Positions With Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, And Double Tap LLC.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

Zinke 2022 Financial Disclosure Positions	
Position	Name Of Organization
Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC Whitefish MT
Partner	Snowfrog LLC Whitefish MT
Partner	Double Tap LLC Whitefish MT

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

***2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From JVL Enterprises***

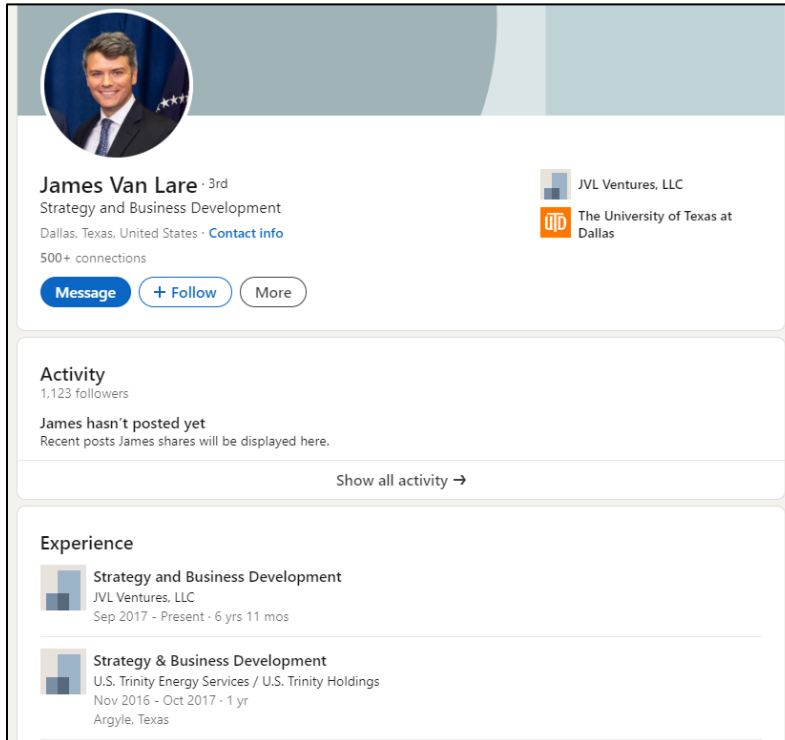
**2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From JVL Enterprises.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Compensation	
Source (Name And Address)	Brief Description Of Duties
JVL Enterprises (Dallas, TX, US)	Consultant Ended 2022

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

**James Van Lare Worked For Both JVL Ventures And U.S. Trinity**

**James Van Lare Worked For Both JVL Ventures And U.S. Trinity.** [LinkedIn, accessed [7/18/24](#)]



[LinkedIn, accessed [7/18/24](#)]

- **2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$2,000 In Contributions From Employees Of JVL Enterprises.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

JVL Enterprises Employee Contributions To Zinke		
Contributor	Position	Contribution Amount
Van Lare, James	Owner	\$2,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$2,000.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Zinke Was Hired By U.S. Gold Corp, Which Needed Projects To Be Approved By The Interior Department, For His “Excellent Relationship” With The Bureau Of Land Management

**April 2019: Zinke Began Working As A Consultant For U.S. Gold Corp For Over \$100,000 A Year.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has a new job, making more than \$100,000 a year with a gold mining firm that’s pursuing project approvals involving the federal agency that Zinke left less than four months ago. Zinke said Tuesday that his work for Nevada-based U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development, would not constitute lobbying. But that company’s chief executive cited Zinke’s ‘excellent relationship’ with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining his hiring.” [Los Angeles Times, 4/17/19]

- **U.S. Gold Corp. Was A Mining Company Whose Projects Needed To Be Approved By The Interior Department.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has a new job, making more than \$100,000 a year with a gold mining firm that’s pursuing project approvals involving the federal agency that Zinke left less than four months ago. Zinke said Tuesday that his work for Nevada-based U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development, would not constitute lobbying. But that



company's chief executive cited Zinke's 'excellent relationship' with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining his hiring." [Los Angeles Times, 4/17/19]

- **The Company's Chief Executive Said That Zinke's "Excellent Relationship" With The Bureau Of Land Management Was A Factor Considered In Hiring Him.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has a new job, making more than \$100,000 a year with a gold mining firm that's pursuing project approvals involving the federal agency that Zinke left less than four months ago. Zinke said Tuesday that his work for Nevada-based U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development, would not constitute lobbying. But that company's chief executive cited Zinke's 'excellent relationship' with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining his hiring." [Los Angeles Times, 4/17/19]

**2022: U.S. Gold Corp. Announced That Zinke Would Resign From Its Board Of Directors At The End Of The Year.** The Independent Record reported, "U.S. Gold Corp. announced that Ryan Zinke will resign from its board of directors effective Dec. 31. Zinke won the election to Congress in Montana's western congressional district and will be divesting his interests in U.S. Gold and will have no ongoing agreements or relationship with the company after Dec. 31, the company said in a November news release." [Independent Record, 12/7/22]

## **July 2019: Zinke Was A Consultant For Companies In Industries That He Oversaw As Secretary Of The Interior, Including Oasis Petroleum And U.S. Trinity**

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**July 2019: Zinke Was A Consultant For Companies In Industries That He Oversaw As Secretary Of The Interior, Including Oasis Petroleum.** The Boston Globe reported, "Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke was a freshman representative from Montana in December 2016 when Donald Trump chose him to run the Interior Department, an \$11 billion agency that oversees drilling, mining, and other activities on public lands. Now, he's going to work for oil and mining companies. Among them: Texas pipeline supplier Cressman Tubular Products and Oasis Petroleum, a Houston-based oil and gas explorer that donated tens of thousands of dollars to Zinke when he was seeking reelection to the House. In April, Zinke joined the board of US Gold Corp., and is set to receive \$90,000 in consulting fees from the Nevada-based mining company, according to filings. He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides." [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**After Resigning From The Trump Cabinet, Zinke Worked As A Consultant For The Oil Company ConocoPhillips, A Pipeline Construction Company Called U.S. Trinity, And Keelen Group, A Lobbying Firm.** The Sidney Herald reported, "According to financial disclosures, Zinke served as consultant for various companies and groups working in the energy space in the years between his resignation from Trump's cabinet and his current bid for the western district House seat. Those include oil giant ConocoPhillips, Texas-based pipeline construction company U.S. Trinity, and Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm Keelen Group. Asked how he would separate his prior consulting work from his role as a congressional representative if elected, Zinke said his consulting background will serve him in D.C. 'It included wind, it included advanced grid technology, it included UAV drone technology and design of plastics that would break down,' he said. 'My background as a consultant was pretty broad, and I'll use that experience in Congress. I'm not embedded on any energy except American energy.'" [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

**Zinke's Personal Wealth Dramatically Increased Between His Exit From The Interior Department And His Decision To Run For Office Again**





## 2018: Zinke Reported 12 Assets Worth Between \$1,812,010 And \$2,831,000+ With Income Between \$72,005 And \$171,407

2018: Zinke Reported 12 Assets Worth Between \$1,812,010 And \$2,831,000+ With Income Between \$72,005 And \$171,407. [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

Ryan Zinke Reported Assets And Income				
Description	EIF	Value	Income Type	Income Amount
Continental Divide International LLC – Residential real estate, Whitefish, MT	No	\$500,001 - \$1,000,00	Rent or Royalties	\$15,001 - \$50,000
Art Collection	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
Auto Collection	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
Double Tap LLC – Residential real estate, Whitefish, MT	No	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Rent or Royalties	\$5,001 - \$15,000
U.S. bank account #1 (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
U.S. bank account #2 (cash)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
U.S. brokerage money market account (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
USAA Growth & Income Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
USAA Science and Technology Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
USAA Tax Exempt and Intermediate Term Fund	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
Family Trust – Residential Real Estate in Santa Barbara, CA; Undeveloped Land, Santa Barbara, CA	No	Over \$1,000,000	Rent or royalties	\$50,001 - \$100,00
PROOF Research (firearm product company)	No	None (or less than \$1,000)		None (or less than \$201)
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$1,812,010 – \$2,831,000+</b>		<b>\$72,005 – \$171,407</b>

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

## 2021: Zinke Reported 19 Assets Worth Between \$8,033,018 And \$34,397,000, With Current Year Income Between \$75,010 And \$181,200 And Prior Year Income Between \$16,010 And \$48,700

2021: Zinke Reported 19 Assets Worth Between \$8,033,018 And \$34,397,000, With Current Year Income Between \$75,010 And \$181,200 And Prior Year Income Between \$16,010 And \$48,700. [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Assets						
Asset	Owner	Min Value	Max Value	Income Type(s)	Income Current Year	Income Preceding Year



21" Pontoon Boat Whitefish MT [OT]  DESCRIPTION: 21" Pontoon Boat. Value noted	Joint	\$15,001	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
Auto Collection [CO]	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	None	N/A	N/A
CDI Bank Account Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Coca-Cola Company (KO) [ST]	Spouse	\$1	\$1,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Dalrado Corp [PS]  DESCRIPTION: Advisory Board Member	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
Double Tap LLC Property Whitefish [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish , MT, US	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
Family Art and Furniture Collection [CO]	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	None	N/A	N/A
Hand Property [RP]  LOCATION: SANTA BARBARA, CA, US	Spouse	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000	None	N/A	N/A
Harlow House Whitefish MT 59937 [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
LC Hand Holdings [RP]  LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA, US  COMMENTS: The LC Hand Holdings property was previous in Trust and the asset was transferred to Lolita Zinke, as the sole owner of LC Hand Holdings, in 2021.	Spouse	\$5,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rent	\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$1,001 - \$2,500
NFCU Bank Account [BA]	Joint	\$15,001	\$50,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200



Proof Research Stock [PS]  DESCRIPTION: Common shares. Stock is not publicly traded. Estimated value is noted above.	Joint	\$1	\$1,000	None	N/A	N/A
Snowfrog LLC Bank Account Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	Interest	None	None
Snowfrog LLC Property Whitefish MT 59937 [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US  COMMENTS: Amount reflected is net income	Joint	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$15,001 - \$50,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
U.S. Gold Corp. (USAU) [ST] DESCRIPTION: Common Stock	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
Undeveloped Property Flathead County MT [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Spouse	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
USAA Science and Technology [MF]	Spouse	\$1,001	\$15,000	Capital Gains	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Wells Fargo Bank Account [BA]	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Whitefish Credit Union Account [BA]	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$8,033,018</b>	<b>\$34,397,000</b>		<b>\$75,010 - \$181,200</b>	<b>\$16,010 - \$48,700</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

## Zinke Used Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars Of Taxpayer Money On Office Customizations As Interior Secretary

### Zinke Was The First Cabinet Secretary In History To Commission Personalized Commemorative Coins To Distribute To Department Staff And Visitors, Costing \$2,000

#### 2017: Zinke Made Personalized Commemorative Coins With His Name Around The Ring As Interior Secretary, The First Secretary To Personalize A Coin

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**December 2017: Zinke Made Personalized Commemorative Coins As Interior Secretary To Distribute To Staff And Visitors.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke rode to work on horseback on his first day in office and displays animal heads on his wood-paneled office walls. For a while, he kept a glass-case display of hunting knives but was asked to remove them because of security risks, according to people familiar with the decision. He has commissioned commemorative coins with his name on them to give to staff and visitors, but the cost to taxpayers is unclear. Zinke’s predecessors and some other Cabinet secretaries have coins bearing agency seals, but not personalized ones.” [Washington Post, [12/12/17](#)]

- **December 2017: Some Former Cabinet Secretaries Had Issued Commemorative Coins, But Zinke Was The Only Secretary To Commission A Personalized Coin.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke rode to work on horseback on his first day in office and displays animal heads on his wood-paneled office walls. For a while, he kept a glass-case display of hunting knives but was asked to remove them because of security risks, according to people familiar with the decision. He has commissioned commemorative coins with his name on them to give to staff and visitors, but the cost to taxpayers is unclear. Zinke’s predecessors and some other Cabinet secretaries have coins bearing agency seals, but not personalized ones.” [Washington Post, [12/12/17](#)]
- **April 2018: Zinke Issued A Souvenir Coin With His Name Stamped Around The Ring.** The New York Times reported, “When Scott Pruitt wanted to refashion the Environmental Protection Agency’s “challenge coin” — a type of souvenir medallion with military origins that has become a status symbol among civilians — he proposed an unusual design: Make it bigger, and delete the E.P.A. logo. [...] Other agencies have made changes to their own challenge coins. Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, issued coins last year that display the United States seal on one side and his agency’s logo, a buffalo on a prairie with mountains and a rising sun, on the other. Mr. Zinke’s name is stamped around the rim. Earlier Interior Department challenge coins did not bear the secretary’s name.” [New York Times, 4/11/18]

#### Zinke’s Personalized Coins Reportedly Cost \$2,000

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**Zinke Drew Scrutiny As Interior Secretary When He Commissioned \$2,000 In Commemorative Coins Emblazoned With His Name To Be Handed Out To Visitors And Staff.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department’s headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency’s inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

## **Zinke Ordered Custom Flags To Be Raised Each Time He Was Physically Present At The Interior Department**

### **Zinke Ordered A Custom Flag To Be Raised Each Time He Was Physically Present At The Interior Department**

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**December 2017: Zinke Had A Flag Raised Each Time He Was Physically Present At The Interior Department And A Different Flag Raised For Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.** The Washington Post reported, “At the Interior Department’s headquarters in downtown Washington, Secretary Ryan Zinke has revived an arcane military ritual that no one can remember ever happening in the federal government. A security staffer takes the elevator to the seventh floor, climbs the stairs to the roof and hoists a special secretarial flag whenever Zinke enters the building. When the secretary goes home for the day or travels, the flag — a blue banner emblazoned with the agency’s bison seal flanked by seven white stars representing the Interior bureaus — comes down. In Zinke’s absence, the ritual is repeated to raise an equally obscure flag for Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt.” [Washington Post, [12/12/17](#)]

### **Zinke’s Flag Requests Were Quoted To Cost As Much As \$200,000 Because Existing Interior Department Poles Were Too Small For Zinke’s Larger Flags**

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#### ***The Interior Department Received An Estimate For As Much As \$200,000 To Install Zinke’s Flags***

**The Interior Department Took Estimates To Set Up Four Flag Poles Outside Of The D.C. Office To Fly Zinke’s Personalized Flags, Which Would Have Cost As Much As \$200,000.** The Hill reported, “The Interior Department took estimates for setting up four flag poles outside its main building in Washington, D.C., to fly personal flags for Secretary Ryan Zinke at a cost as high as \$200,000, according to internal emails released Monday by the agency. The department ultimately decided against installing the new poles, the documents show, choosing instead in March 2017 to use three smaller, existing poles on top of its building.” [The Hill, [4/16/18](#)]

- **The Interior Department Ultimately Used The Three Existing Flagpoles Atop The Interior Department Building.** The Hill reported, “The Interior Department took estimates for setting up four flag poles outside its main building in Washington, D.C., to fly personal flags for Secretary Ryan Zinke at a cost as high as \$200,000, according to internal emails released Monday by the agency. The department ultimately decided against installing the new poles, the documents show, choosing instead in March 2017 to use three smaller, existing poles on top of its building.” [The Hill, [4/16/18](#)]

#### ***Office Of Facilities And Administrative Services Director Joseph Nassar Noted That Zinke’s Larger Flags Would Have “Compromised” The Existing Poles***

**The Interior Department Requested New Poles To Fly Zinke’s Specialized Flags Because They Were Much Larger Than The Existing Posts Could Accommodate.** The Hill reported, “The Interior Department took estimates for setting up four flag poles outside its main building in Washington, D.C., to fly personal flags for Secretary Ryan Zinke at a cost as high as \$200,000, according to internal emails released Monday by the agency. The department ultimately decided against installing the new poles, the documents show, choosing instead in March 2017 to use three smaller, existing poles on top of its building. [...] It approved the purchase of three flags at a cost of \$189.51 each from the National Flag Company, according to the emails. The flags are 5 feet by 9.5 feet. [...] The new poles were needed because Interior intended to fly much larger flags, which the existing poles would



not have been able to accommodate. In one email released by Interior, Office of Facilities and Administrative Services Director Joseph Nassar wrote that the larger flags would have ‘compromised’ the existing poles.” [The Hill, [4/16/18](#)]

- **The Interior Department Approved Purchases For Three Custom Flags Costing \$189.51 Each And Measuring 5 Feet By 9.5 Feet.** The Hill reported, “The Interior Department took estimates for setting up four flag poles outside its main building in Washington, D.C., to fly personal flags for Secretary Ryan Zinke at a cost as high as \$200,000, according to internal emails released Monday by the agency. The department ultimately decided against installing the new poles, the documents show, choosing instead in March 2017 to use three smaller, existing poles on top of its building. [...] It approved the purchase of three flags at a cost of \$189.51 each from the National Flag Company, according to the emails. The flags are 5 feet by 9.5 feet. [...] The new poles were needed because Interior intended to fly much larger flags, which the existing poles would not have been able to accommodate. In one email released by Interior, Office of Facilities and Administrative Services Director Joseph Nassar wrote that the larger flags would have ‘compromised’ the existing poles.” [The Hill, [4/16/18](#)]

## **2021: Corvallis Residents Archie Thomas And Merry Schrupf Called Zinke Out For His Custom Flags, Asking Readers In A Letter To The Editor, “Have You Ever Considered A Need For Your Own Flag?”**

**Zinke Drew Scrutiny As Interior Secretary When He Required That A Special Flag Be Flown Whenever He Or His Deputy Were In The Interior Department’s Headquarters.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department’s headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency’s inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators.” [Daily Inter Lake, [4/29/21](#)]

- **Letter To The Editor: “Have You Ever Considered A Need For Your Own Flag? Probably Not, But You Might Want To Ask Your Boss For One And Further Ask That Somebody Hike It Up A Pole Every Time You Get To Work In The Morning. Ryan Zinke Did Just That On The Days He Was Present At The Interior Department Office Building In DC.”** According to a letter to the editor by Archie Thomas and Merry Schrupf in the Ravalli Republic, “Have you ever priced out the cost of a door? Think about that a minute. Probably not, but as a taxpayer you have paid \$139,000 for new office doors and remodel for Ryan Zinke’s Washington office as Secretary of the Department of Interior. Have you ever considered a need for your own flag? Probably not, but you might want to ask your boss for one and further ask that somebody hike it up a pole every time you get to work in the morning. Ryan Zinke did just that on the days he was present at the Interior Department office building in DC.” [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, [10/9/22](#)]

## **Zinke Spent At Least \$139,000 To Renovate His Interior Department Office With Three New Sets Of Double Doors**

## **Zinke Spent At Least \$139,000 To Upgrade Three Sets Of Double Doors In His Interior Department Office**

**March 2018: Zinke Spent \$139,000 To Renovate His Office Doors At The Interior Department.** The Washington Post reported, “Others considered at risk for being fired or reprimanded include Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, who has generated bad headlines for ordering a \$31,000 dining room set for his office; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, who has been under fire for his first-class travel at taxpayer expense; and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, whose agency spent \$139,000 to renovate his office doors. Meanwhile, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos drew attention this week when she stumbled through a pair of high-profile television interviews. Kelly watched DeVos’s sit-down with Lesley Stahl of CBS’s ‘60 Minutes’ with frustration and complained about the secretary’s apparent lack of preparation, officials said. Other Trump advisers mocked DeVos’s shaky appearance with Savannah Guthrie on NBC’s ‘Today’ show.” [Washington Post, [3/15/18](#)]

- **March 2018: The Interior Department Spent \$139,000 To Upgrade Three Sets Of Double Doors In Zinke’s Office.** The Denver Post reported, “The Interior Department is spending nearly \$139,000 to upgrade three sets of double doors in the office of Secretary Ryan Zinke. Zinke was not aware of the contract for the work prior to a request about it from The Associated Press, spokeswoman Heather Swift said.” [Denver Post, 3/9/18]
- **Zinke’s Spokeswoman Claimed That Zinke Was Not Aware Of The Contract.** The Denver Post reported, “The Interior Department is spending nearly \$139,000 to upgrade three sets of double doors in the office of Secretary Ryan Zinke. Zinke was not aware of the contract for the work prior to a request about it from The Associated Press, spokeswoman Heather Swift said.” [Denver Post, 3/9/18]

## **2021: Corvallis Residents Archie Thomas And Merry Schrupf Called Zinke Out For His \$139,000 Doors, Asking Readers In A Letter To The Editor, “Have You Ever Priced Out The Cost Of A Door?”**

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**Zinke Drew Scrutiny As Interior Secretary After Replacing His Office Doors For \$130,000.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department’s headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency’s inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

- **Letter To The Editor: “Have You Ever Priced Out The Cost Of A Door? Think About That A Minute. Probably Not, But As A Taxpayer You Have Paid \$139,000 For New Office Doors And Remodel For Ryan Zinke’s Washington Office As Secretary Of The Department Of Interior.”** According to a letter to the editor by Archie Thomas and Merry Schrupf in the Ravalli Republic, “Have you ever priced out the cost of a door? Think about that a minute. Probably not, but as a taxpayer you have paid \$139,000 for new office doors and remodel for Ryan Zinke’s Washington office as Secretary of the Department of Interior. Have you ever considered a need for your own flag? Probably not, but you might want to ask your boss for one and further ask that somebody hike it up a pole every time you get to work in the morning. Ryan Zinke did just that on the days he was present at the Interior Department office building in DC.” [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 10/9/22]

## **Zinke Used Taxpayer Funds On A \$12,000 Private Jet To Speak With His Biggest Donor's NHL Team & Tested Ethics Rules On Travel For His Family Members**

### **Zinke Stuck Taxpayers With A \$12,000 Bill To Give A Pep Talk To A Hockey Team Owned By One Of His Top Donors**

### **Zinke Was On Official Department Business In Nevada And Was Scheduled To Appear In Montana For A Western Governors Association Meeting The Next Day**

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**September 2017: Zinke Was In Nevada The Day Of The Hockey Team Dinner On Official Department Business And Was Scheduled To Be In Montana For A Western Governors Association Meeting The Next Day.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team dinner. The team is owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke's most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke's or Pruitt's travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin's actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price." [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]

### **After His Official Nevada Business, Zinke Gave A Talk To A Vegas Hockey Team Owned By One Of His Biggest Donors**

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### ***Zinke Stayed In Nevada To Speak At A Dinner For The Las Vegas Golden Knights, Owned By Fidelity National Chairman Bill Foley***

**September 2017: Zinke Was In Nevada The Day Of The Hockey Team Dinner On Official Department Business And Was Scheduled To Be In Montana For A Western Governors Association Meeting The Next Day.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team dinner. The team is owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke's most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke's or Pruitt's travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin's actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price." [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]

- **The Hockey Team Was Owned By Bill Foley, Who Was Reportedly One Of Zinke's "Most Generous Political Donors."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team dinner. The team is owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke's most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke's or Pruitt's travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin's actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price." [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]



## October 2017: Fidelity Employees And PACs Had Contributed Nearly \$200,000 To Zinke’s Past Congressional Campaigns

**October 2017: Employees And PACs Associated With Bill Foley’s Fidelity National Financial Had Contributed Close To \$200,000 To Zinke’s Past Congressional Campaigns.** The Denver Post reported, “The flight cost taxpayers \$12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as \$300. Zinke’s spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said no commercial flight was available that would have worked with his schedule that night. Zinke appeared at an event held by a major campaign donor, giving a motivational speech at a dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a hockey team owned by Bill Foley, the chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and PACs associated with the financial services company have given close to \$200,000 to Zinke’s past congressional campaigns. ‘Claims that the Secretary’s full schedule required the use of chartered aircraft deserve scrutiny,’ the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Kendall last week. ‘It appears as though Secretary Zinke and his staff could have taken a commercial flight from Las Vegas to Montana if he did not attend the motivational speech to the hockey team owned by his friend and campaign contributor.’” [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

- **2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donors By Employer Included Fidelity National Financial, Chord Energy, ConocoPhillips, Langlas & Associates, Berkshire Hathaway, And Halliburton.** [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donors			
Contributor	Individuals	PACs	Total
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## **Zinke Chartered A Private Jet Owned By An Oil And Gas Executive For Over \$12,000 To Travel Between Nevada And Montana**

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### ***Zinke Chartered A \$12,375 Private Jet To Travel Between Nevada And Montana***

**September 2017: Zinke Could Have Taken A Less-Expensive Commercial Flight Between His Department Business In Nevada And The Western Governors Association Meeting In Montana, But Would Have Missed The Hockey Team Dinner.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team dinner. The team is owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke’s most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke’s or Pruitt’s travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin’s actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]

- **Denver Post: “The Flight Cost Taxpayers \$12,375, According To An Interior Department Spokeswoman. Commercial Airlines Run Daily Flights Between The Two Airports And Charge As Little As \$300.”** The Denver Post reported, “The flight cost taxpayers \$12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as \$300. Zinke’s spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said no commercial flight was available that would have worked with his schedule that night. Zinke appeared at an event held by a major campaign donor, giving a motivational speech at a dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a hockey team owned by Bill Foley, the chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and PACs associated with the financial services company have given close to \$200,000 to Zinke’s past congressional campaigns. ‘Claims that the Secretary’s full schedule required the use of chartered aircraft deserve scrutiny,’ the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Kendall last week. ‘It appears as though Secretary Zinke and his staff could have taken a commercial flight from Las Vegas to Montana if he did not attend the motivational speech to the hockey team owned by his friend and campaign contributor.’” [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

### ***Zinke’s Chartered Jet Was Owned By Oil And Gas Executive Jay Nielson***

**September 2017: Zinke’s Private Flight From Las Vegas To Nevada Was Aboard A Plane Owned By Oil And Gas Executive Jay Nielson.** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke chartered a flight from Las Vegas to near his home in Montana this summer aboard a plane owned by oil-and-gas executives, internal documents show. [...] Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson & Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm, co-owns the plane through a holding company, but he said he was not in control of the plane at the time and that it was chartered through a company called Choice Aviation. He told The Washington Post he was unsure whether Zinke flew on the plane and added, ‘Part of why people charter planes is they like to remain somewhat private.’ A representative at Choice Aviation, who declined to give her name, said she was unsure whether Choice chartered a flight for Zinke, then said the company did not charter the flight. She then ended the call.” [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

- **September 2017: Nielson Co-Owned The Private Plane Through A Holding Company And Said The Plane Was Chartered Through A Company Called Choice Aviation.** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke chartered a flight from Las Vegas to near his home in Montana this summer aboard a plane owned by oil-and-gas executives, internal documents show. [...] Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson & Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm, co-owns the plane through a holding company, but he said he was not in control of the plane at the time and that it was chartered through a



company called Choice Aviation. He told The Washington Post he was unsure whether Zinke flew on the plane and added, ‘Part of why people charter planes is they like to remain somewhat private.’ A representative at Choice Aviation, who declined to give her name, said she was unsure whether Choice chartered a flight for Zinke, then said the company did not charter the flight. She then ended the call.” [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

## **Zinke Could Have Taken A Commercial Flight For As Low As \$300, But Would Have Missed The Golden Knights Speaking Event**

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**September 2017: Zinke Could Have Taken A Less-Expensive Commercial Flight Between His Department Business In Nevada And The Western Governors Association Meeting In Montana, But Would Have Missed The Hockey Team Dinner.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team dinner. The team is owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke’s most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke’s or Pruitt’s travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin’s actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]

- **Denver Post: “The Flight Cost Taxpayers \$12,375, According To An Interior Department Spokeswoman. Commercial Airlines Run Daily Flights Between The Two Airports And Charge As Little As \$300.”** The Denver Post reported, “The flight cost taxpayers \$12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as \$300. Zinke’s spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said no commercial flight was available that would have worked with his schedule that night. Zinke appeared at an event held by a major campaign donor, giving a motivational speech at a dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a hockey team owned by Bill Foley, the chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and PACs associated with the financial services company have given close to \$200,000 to Zinke’s past congressional campaigns. ‘Claims that the Secretary’s full schedule required the use of chartered aircraft deserve scrutiny,’ the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Kendall last week. ‘It appears as though Secretary Zinke and his staff could have taken a commercial flight from Las Vegas to Montana if he did not attend the motivational speech to the hockey team owned by his friend and campaign contributor.’” [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

## **Zinke’s Choice To Take The Expensive Private Flight Was Scrutinized By The Government Officials, Advocacy Groups, And Watchdog Organizations**

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### ***The Interior Department Inspector General Sent A Letter To The Department For Missing Travel Records, Which The Inspector General Noted Had “Delayed” The Investigation***

**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Sent A Letter To Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt Requesting Complete Travel Records To Investigate Zinke’s Travel With Taxpayer Funds.** According to a management advisory memorandum from the Interior Department Inspector General to Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt, “The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently investigating multiple allegations regarding Secretary Ryan Zinke’s travel. During our work, we discovered several issues that need prompt attention and changes to current IOS procedures. Our investigation has been delayed by absent, or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include proper documentation and accountability. Although we have received full cooperation from all employees contacted, we have found the documentation and adherence to Departmental travel policies deficient and without proper



management oversight and accountability. Many authorizations and vouchers required for Secretary Zinke's fiscal year (FY) 2017 travel have yet to be completed and processed. [...] Finally, based on the documents we have received to date, we have not been able to determine the full extent to which Lolita Zinke, the Secretary's wife, accompanied the Secretary on official travel." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Memorandum, [11/15/17](#)]

- **November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Wrote That Investigations Into Zinke's Travel Had Been "Delayed By Absent, Or Incomplete Documentation For Several Pertinent Trips."** According to a management advisory memorandum from the Interior Department Inspector General to Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt, "The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently investigating multiple allegations regarding Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel. During our work, we discovered several issues that need prompt attention and changes to current IOS procedures. Our investigation has been delayed by absent, or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include proper documentation and accountability. Although we have received full cooperation from all employees contacted, we have found the documentation and adherence to Departmental travel policies deficient and without proper management oversight and accountability. Many authorizations and vouchers required for Secretary Zinke's fiscal year (FY) 2017 travel have yet to be completed and processed. [...] Finally, based on the documents we have received to date, we have not been able to determine the full extent to which Lolita Zinke, the Secretary's wife, accompanied the Secretary on official travel." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Memorandum, [11/15/17](#)]

### ***An Interior Department Inspector General Investigation Cleared Zinke Of Violating The Law, But Criticized Zinke's Staff For Failing To Include Information That Would Have Jeopardized Travel Approval***

**April 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke's \$12,375 Taxpayer-Funded Flight From Las Vegas To Montana "Might Have Been Avoided."** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's Investigative Report On Secretary Zinke's Use Of Chartered And Military Aircraft Between March And September 2017, "We determined that Zinke's use of chartered flights in fiscal year (FY) 2017 generally followed relevant law, policy, rules, and regulations. We found, however, that a June 2017 trip during which he used a \$12,375 chartered flight after speaking at the developmental camp for the Golden Knights, a National Hockey League team in Las Vegas, was reviewed and approved by DOI ethics officials without complete information, and that the use of the chartered flight might have been avoided if the DOI employees who were scheduling Zinke's trip had worked with the Golden Knights to better accommodate his schedule. We also determined that Zinke had been aware of the Golden Knights event as early as March 7, 2017, and that a grant announcement in nearby Pahrump, NV, was scheduled after Zinke and his staff had already planned to be in Las Vegas for the event. While it was Zinke's chief of staff, Scott Hommel, who ultimately authorized the trip and the cost of the flight, he said he did so based in part on approval from the Ethics Office." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [4/16/18](#)]

- **The Report Said That Zinke's Staff Failed To Include Relevant Information To The Government Ethics Team That Approved The Trip.** The New York Times reported, "The report said that a government ethics team approved the trip with incomplete information from Mr. Zinke's staff, which failed to mention, for example, the cost of the flight, the fact that the team's owner had funded Mr. Zinke's campaigns, and the fact that the secretary's speech to hockey players would not mention the Department of the Interior. 'If ethics officials had known Zinke's speech would have no nexus to the DOI,' the report says, 'they likely would not have approved this as an official event.'" [New York Times, 4/16/18]
- **Ethics Officials Said That If They Had Known All The Information About The Travel, They Would Not Have Approved Zinke's Trip.** The New York Times reported, "The report said that a government ethics team approved the trip with incomplete information from Mr. Zinke's staff, which failed to mention, for example, the cost of the flight, the fact that the team's owner had funded Mr. Zinke's campaigns, and the fact that the



secretary's speech to hockey players would not mention the Department of the Interior. 'If ethics officials had known Zinke's speech would have no nexus to the DOI,' the report says, 'they likely would not have approved this as an official event.'" [New York Times, 4/16/18]

### ***The Campaign For Accountability Requested An Investigation Into Whether Zinke Violated The Hatch Act With His Hockey Team Dinner Speech***

**October 2017: Campaign For Accountability, A Watchdog Group, Requested An Investigation Into Whether Zinke's Speech To The Hockey Team As Part Of His Official Duties Violated The Hatch Act.** The Denver Post reported, "The secretary and his official entourage also boarded private flights between the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix during a three day trip to the Virgin Islands in March, his first month on the job. Swift said Zinke's charter flights were authorized by ethics officials and booked only when feasible commercial flights were unavailable. She said previous interior secretaries flew charter flights when needed. The watchdog group Campaign for Accountability also requested an investigation into whether Zinke violated the federal Hatch Act by speaking to the hockey team as part of his official duties. The act prevents executive branch employees from engaging in partisan political activity. It is unclear whether taxpayers paid the costs of Zinke's political appearances. In remarks on American energy independence at the Heritage Foundation last Friday, Zinke called the media scrutiny 'a little B.S.' and defended flights he has taken on military and charter aircraft since he took office." [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

- **2018: Zinke Was Cleared By Federal Investigators Of An Alleged Hatch Act Violation Over The Cost Of A Charter Flight To Give A Speech To The Golden Knights NHL Team, Whose Owner Was A Zinke Campaign Donor.** The Billings Gazette reported, "In June of 2018, federal investigators cleared Zinke in a complaint filed by the group Campaign For Accountability for a speech he gave to the Golden Knights NHL team. The complaint alleged Hatch Act violations due to the cost of a charter flight to the speech and Zinke's ties to team owner Bill Foley, a contributor to Zinke's political campaigns. But investigators concluded that the donations alone were not enough to constitute a violation. The Office of Special Counsel also cleared Zinke of travel violations for several other events that included both official and political events. Investigators found the travel was properly documented and approved." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

### ***The Center For Western Priorities Called Zinke's Official Nevada Business A "Flimsy Excuse For A Political Event"***

**September 2017: Center For Western Priorities Spokesman Aaron Weiss Called Zinke's Nevada Trip A "Flimsy Excuse For A Political Event" And "A Thank-You Dinner With His Biggest Campaign Bundler."** The Washington Post reported, "Just before the Golden Knights dinner, Zinke had appeared in the tiny rural Nevada town of Pahrump to announce a routine local funding grant from Congress to rural communities. It was one of several official trips that coincided with weekends Zinke spent at his homes in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Montana. Aaron Weiss of the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, said, 'Secretary Zinke's entire Nevada trip appears to be a flimsy excuse for a political event in Tahoe and a thank-you dinner with his biggest campaign bundler. 'There was no legitimate reason for the secretary to be there in the first place,' Weiss said. 'Then he saddles taxpayers with the bill for a private plane when he could have easily flown commercial.'" [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

- **Weiss: "Secretary Zinke's Entire Nevada Trip Appears To Be A Flimsy Excuse For A Political Event In Tahoe And A Thank-You Dinner With His Biggest Campaign Bundler."** The Washington Post reported, "Just before the Golden Knights dinner, Zinke had appeared in the tiny rural Nevada town of Pahrump to announce a routine local funding grant from Congress to rural communities. It was one of several official trips that coincided with weekends Zinke spent at his homes in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Montana. Aaron Weiss of the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, said, 'Secretary Zinke's entire Nevada trip appears to be a flimsy excuse for a political event in Tahoe and a thank-you dinner with his biggest campaign bundler. 'There was no legitimate reason for the secretary to be there in the first place,' Weiss said.

‘Then he saddles taxpayers with the bill for a private plane when he could have easily flown commercial.’” [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

- **Weiss: “There Was No Legitimate Reason For The Secretary To Be There In The First Place. Then He Saddles Taxpayers With The Bill For A Private Plane When He Could Have Easily Flown Commercial.”** The Washington Post reported, “Just before the Golden Knights dinner, Zinke had appeared in the tiny rural Nevada town of Pahrump to announce a routine local funding grant from Congress to rural communities. It was one of several official trips that coincided with weekends Zinke spent at his homes in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Montana. Aaron Weiss of the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, said, ‘Secretary Zinke’s entire Nevada trip appears to be a flimsy excuse for a political event in Tahoe and a thank-you dinner with his biggest campaign bundler. ‘There was no legitimate reason for the secretary to be there in the first place,’ Weiss said. ‘Then he saddles taxpayers with the bill for a private plane when he could have easily flown commercial.’” [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

## **Zinke Tested Interior Department Travel Rules For His Wife To Travel In Government Vehicles And For A \$25,000 Security Detail On Their Family Vacation**

### **Zinke Violated Department Policy When He Allowed His Wife To Travel With Him In Government Vehicles**

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**October 2018: A Report By The Interior Department’s Inspector General Found That Zinke Violated The Department’s Policy By Allowing His Wife To Travel With Him In Government Vehicles.** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated his agency’s travel policy by having his wife travel with him in government vehicles, a new report by the Interior Department’s inspector general found. The report, which has not yet been made public but was posted online Thursday by The Washington Post, also found that Mr. Zinke considered requesting that his wife, Lolita, become an Interior Department volunteer in order to legitimize her travel. Mr. Zinke also had an agency security detail travel with him and his family during a vacation, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$25,000.” [New York Times, 10/18/18]

### **The Interior Department Inspector General Found That The Agency Officials Who Approved Zinke’s Request For His Wife To Travel With Him Weren’t Bound By The Rules**

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**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke’s Wife Was Approved By DOI Staff To Ride In Government Vehicles Along With Zinke, Which Was Against DOI Policy.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, “We determined that, despite a DOI policy prohibiting non-Government employees from riding in Government vehicles, the DOI Office of the Solicitor’s Division of General Law approved Lolita Zinke and other individuals to ride in Government vehicles with Secretary Zinke. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt and Deputy Solicitor Edward Keable said Secretary Zinke was not bound by DOI policy, while Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani said he was unsure. We also determined that the Zinkes reimbursed costs associated with Lolita Zinke’s travel in DOI vehicles when required. In addition, Lolita Zinke ultimately did not become a volunteer; while Secretary Zinke confirmed that his staff had researched the implications of making her a volunteer, he denied that it was an effort to circumvent the requirement to reimburse the DOI for her travel.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

- **2018: An Inspector General Report Found That Zinke’s Wife Was Allowed To Ride In Government Vehicles, In Violation Of Agency Rules, And That Agency Officials Who Preapproved The Trips Believed The Zinkes Were Not Bound By The Rules.** The Billings Gazette reported, “A 2018 inspector



general report found that Ryan Zinke's wife, Lola Zinke, was allowed to ride in government vehicles with him in violation of agency rules. Interior ethics officials preapproved the trips where Lola Zinke traveled with him in vehicles, boats and Air Force One. That violated rules, but investigators found trips were approved by officials who believed the secretary was not bound by the policy. The Zinkes reimbursed the department for the travel expenses, ABC News reported." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

- **The Zinkes Reportedly Reimbursed The Interior Department For The Travel Expenses.** The Billings Gazette reported, "A 2018 inspector general report found that Ryan Zinke's wife, Lola Zinke, was allowed to ride in government vehicles with him in violation of agency rules. Interior ethics officials preapproved the trips where Lola Zinke traveled with him in vehicles, boats and Air Force One. That violated rules, but investigators found trips were approved by officials who believed the secretary was not bound by the policy. The Zinkes reimbursed the department for the travel expenses, ABC News reported." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## **Zinke Had Considered Making His Wife A Department Volunteer To Allow Her To Travel In Government Vehicles**

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**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke's Staff Had Researched Making His Wife A Volunteer In Order For Her To Travel With Zinke, But Denied That It Was An Effort To "Circumvent" The Reimbursement Requirement.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, "We determined that, despite a DOI policy prohibiting non-Government employees from riding in Government vehicles, the DOI Office of the Solicitor's Division of General Law approved Lolita Zinke and other individuals to ride in Government vehicles with Secretary Zinke. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt and Deputy Solicitor Edward Keable said Secretary Zinke was not bound by DOI policy, while Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani said he was unsure. We also determined that the Zinkes reimbursed costs associated with Lolita Zinke's travel in DOI vehicles when required. In addition, Lolita Zinke ultimately did not become a volunteer; while Secretary Zinke confirmed that his staff had researched the implications of making her a volunteer, he denied that it was an effort to circumvent the requirement to reimburse the DOI for her travel." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

- **The Report Found That Zinke Asked Interior Department Officials To Research The Implications Of Making His Wife An Official Volunteer With The Department, But That He Denied To Investigators That The Purpose Was To Eliminate Travel Reimbursement Restrictions.** The Billings Gazette reported, "A 2018 inspector general report found that Ryan Zinke's wife, Lola Zinke, was allowed to ride in government vehicles with him in violation of agency rules. Interior ethics officials preapproved the trips where Lola Zinke traveled with him in vehicles, boats and Air Force One. That violated rules, but investigators found trips were approved by officials who believed the secretary was not bound by the policy. The Zinkes reimbursed the department for the travel expenses, ABC News reported. The same OIG report found Ryan Zinke asked department officials to research the implications of making Lola Zinke an official volunteer with the department. He denied to investigators that the purpose was to ease the travel and reimbursement restrictions and she ultimately was never named a volunteer, the report states." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## **Zinke Used A Protective Service Detail For A Family Vacation To Turkey And Greece, Which Cost The Interior Department More Than \$25,000**

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**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke Had Used A Protective Service Detail For A Family Vacation To Turkey And Greece, Which Cost The Interior Department Over \$25,000.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, "In addition, we examined Secretary Zinke's use of his protective service detail, including during a vacation the Zinkes took to Turkey and Greece. We also reviewed the Office of the Secretary's





purchase of secretarial challenge coins (small coins bearing an organization's emblem, logo, or insignia, given as tokens of recognition or appreciation), and an allegation that a DOI employee resigned because Secretary Zinke made her walk his dog while at work. [...] While we found no prohibition against a security detail protecting Secretary Zinke during the Zinkes' vacation, we learned that the U.S. Park Police had no finalized policy governing the detail's activities and that the detail, which was unarmed, cost the DOI over \$25,000. We also determined that Secretary Zinke told his security detail on one occasion to drive a nongovernment employee to the airport, but he was later told that this direction was not appropriate, and it has not happened again." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

- **The Report Found That Zinke Had An Interior Department Security Detail Travel With Him And His Family While They Were On Vacation, Costing Taxpayers Over \$25,000.** The New York Times reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated his agency's travel policy by having his wife travel with him in government vehicles, a new report by the Interior Department's inspector general found. The report, which has not yet been made public but was posted online Thursday by The Washington Post, also found that Mr. Zinke considered requesting that his wife, Lolita, become an Interior Department volunteer in order to legitimize her travel. Mr. Zinke also had an agency security detail travel with him and his family during a vacation, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$25,000." [New York Times, 10/18/18]
- **October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That The U.S. Park Police Had No Finalized Policy Governing Zinke's Unarmed Vacation Detail.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, "In addition, we examined Secretary Zinke's use of his protective service detail, including during a vacation the Zinkes took to Turkey and Greece. We also reviewed the Office of the Secretary's purchase of secretarial challenge coins (small coins bearing an organization's emblem, logo, or insignia, given as tokens of recognition or appreciation), and an allegation that a DOI employee resigned because Secretary Zinke made her walk his dog while at work. [...] While we found no prohibition against a security detail protecting Secretary Zinke during the Zinkes' vacation, we learned that the U.S. Park Police had no finalized policy governing the detail's activities and that the detail, which was unarmed, cost the DOI over \$25,000. We also determined that Secretary Zinke told his security detail on one occasion to drive a nongovernment employee to the airport, but he was later told that this direction was not appropriate, and it has not happened again." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

## **Zinke Improperly Billed Travel To The Government While Serving As A Navy SEAL, Which Caused Superiors To Block Him From Ever Moving Up In Command**

### **Zinke Was Investigated And Found To Have Improperly Billed The Navy For Two Trips To Montana As A Midlevel Seal Team Six Officer In The 1990s**

#### **Zinke Billed The Government For Two Trips To Montana While He Was A Midlevel SEAL Team Six Officer**

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**1990s: Zinke Improperly Billed The Government For Travel To Montana While He Was A Midlevel SEAL Team 6 Officer.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **1990s: Zinke Repaid \$211 For One Of The Trips He Had Improperly Billed But Also Maintained That His “Brilliant” Career Was Not Derailed By The Incident.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

#### **Zinke Claimed That He Had Returned Home To Montana To Scout Training Locations, But Officials Reportedly Doubted His Reasoning As He Was Finishing A Tour As An Assault Team Leader**

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##### ***Zinke Said That He Had Taken The Trips Home To Montana To Scout Training Locations***

**January 2017: Zinke Claimed That He Took The Trips Home To Montana To Scout Training Locations.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career. [...] Mr. Zinke has said he took the trips to scout training locations in Montana and nearby parts of Washington and took leave while he was there to do construction work on a family home in Whitefish, Mont. But officials who were at the command said he had less reason to scout sites at the time because he was finishing a two-year tour as an assault team leader. They said one of the trips also seemed suspicious because he had sought reimbursement for excess airline baggage even though he was traveling alone.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

## ***Officials Reportedly Said That Zinke Had Even Less Reason To Scout Sites When He Claimed He Did Because He Was Finishing Up A Tour As An Assault Team Leader And Reported Excess Airline Baggage Charges***

**January 2017: Officials Who Were At The Command Said Zinke Had Less Reason To Scout Sites At The Times Of His Visits Because He Was Finishing A Two-Year Tour As An Assault Leader.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career. [...] Mr. Zinke has said he took the trips to scout training locations in Montana and nearby parts of Washington and took leave while he was there to do construction work on a family home in Whitefish, Mont. But officials who were at the command said he had less reason to scout sites at the time because he was finishing a two-year tour as an assault team leader. They said one of the trips also seemed suspicious because he had sought reimbursement for excess airline baggage even though he was traveling alone.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017: Officials Who Were At The Command Said One Of Zinke’s Trips Was Suspicious Because Of Excess Airline Baggage Reimbursements He Had Filed Despite Travelling Alone.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career. [...] Mr. Zinke has said he took the trips to scout training locations in Montana and nearby parts of Washington and took leave while he was there to do construction work on a family home in Whitefish, Mont. But officials who were at the command said he had less reason to scout sites at the time because he was finishing a two-year tour as an assault team leader. They said one of the trips also seemed suspicious because he had sought reimbursement for excess airline baggage even though he was traveling alone.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

## **Zinke’s Commander Issued A Fitness Report That He Said He Knew Would Prohibit Zinke From Becoming A Captain, And Later Noted That Zinke “Never Got Command”**

### **Zinke’s Former Commanding Officer Issued A Fitness Report That He Said Would “Not Allow [Zinke] To Get To Captain” And Called It “An Easy Decision”**

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### ***Zinke’s Former Commanding Officer Calland Issued A Fitness Report That He Said Would “Not Allow [Zinke] To Get To Captain”***

**January 2017: Zinke’s Former Commanding Officer, Retired Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III, Said That He Gave Zinke A Fitness Report That Would “Not Allow Him To Get To Captain” And That Zinke “Never Got Command.”** The New York Times reported, “But two retired admirals under whom Mr. Zinke served say his account understates the damage that it did. Mr. Zinke was in fact punished for abusing his travel expenses, they say, through an evaluation that prevented him from rising to senior levels in the Navy. His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was ‘an easy decision’ to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses. ‘I gave him a fitness report that I thought would not allow him to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.,’ Admiral Calland said. Even though Mr. Zinke

served in a succession of No. 2 jobs in special operations after that, ‘he never got command,’ the admiral said.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017 – Retired Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III: “I Gave [Zinke] A Fitness Report That I Thought Would Not Allow Him To Get To Captain, And That Seemed, In That Regard, To Work O.K.”** The New York Times reported, “But two retired admirals under whom Mr. Zinke served say his account understates the damage that it did. Mr. Zinke was in fact punished for abusing his travel expenses, they say, through an evaluation that prevented him from rising to senior levels in the Navy. His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was ‘an easy decision’ to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses. ‘I gave him a fitness report that I thought would not allow him to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.,’ Admiral Calland said. Even though Mr. Zinke served in a succession of No. 2 jobs in special operations after that, ‘he never got command,’ the admiral said.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

### ***Calland Called His Decision An “Easy” One Because Zinke Was Supposed To Have Been Helping Detect Fraud When He Improperly Billed The Navy***

**January 2017: Retired Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III Said In An Interview That It Was “An Easy Decision” To Punish Zinke For The Improper Billing Because Zinke Was Supposed To Have Been Helping Detect Fraud At The Time.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career. But two retired admirals under whom Mr. Zinke served say his account understates the damage that it did. Mr. Zinke was in fact punished for abusing his travel expenses, they say, through an evaluation that prevented him from rising to senior levels in the Navy. His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was ‘an easy decision’ to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017: Retired Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III Said In An Interview That There Was “A Lot Of Discussion” Among Senior Officers About How To Punish Zinke For His Fraudulent Filings.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke has said he took the trips to scout training locations in Montana and nearby parts of Washington and took leave while he was there to do construction work on a family home in Whitefish, Mont. But officials who were at the command said he had less reason to scout sites at the time because he was finishing a two-year tour as an assault team leader. They said one of the trips also seemed suspicious because he had sought reimbursement for excess airline baggage even though he was traveling alone. Admiral Calland recalled that there was ‘a lot of discussion’ among senior officers about how to punish him. It also hurt Mr. Zinke, the officials said, that the trips came when SEAL Team 6 - which, though now best known for killing Osama bin Laden, had initially been filled with hard-drinking mavericks who flouted the rules - wanted to project a more professional image to compete with the Army’s Delta Force for top missions.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

### ***Zinke’s Last Boss Before Leaving SEAL Team Six Noted That Calland’s Report Citing Zinke’s “Lapses In Judgment” Was A Red Flag For Coveted Command Spots***

**January 2017: Zinke’s Last Boss After Leaving SEAL Team 6, Retired Vice Admiral Sean A. Pybus, Said That Admiral Calland’s Decision To Cite Zinke For “Lapses In Judgment” Was A Red Flag For Boards**

**That Screened Officers For Coveted Command Positions.** The New York Times reported, “His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was ‘an easy decision’ to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses. ‘I gave him a fitness report that I thought would not allow him to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.,’ Admiral Calland said. Even though Mr. Zinke served in a succession of No. 2 jobs in special operations after that, ‘he never got command,’ the admiral said. Another retired vice admiral, Sean A. Pybus, who was Mr. Zinke’s boss after he left SEAL Team 6, said that Admiral Calland’s decision to cite Mr. Zinke for ‘lapses in judgment’ in failing to set a proper example was a red flag for boards screening officers for coveted command jobs. Even if a fitness report - essentially a performance evaluation - gives top marks in other areas, as Mr. Zinke’s did, ‘language there like ‘hey, this officer has questionable judgment,’ that would keep him from being selected for a command position,’ Admiral Pybus said. ‘And I think that’s exactly what happened.’” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017: Vice Admiral Pybus Said That He Thought “Language Like, ‘Hey, This Officer Has Questionable Judgment,’” On Zinke’s Fitness Report Prevented Zinke From Command Positions.** The New York Times reported, “His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was ‘an easy decision’ to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses. ‘I gave him a fitness report that I thought would not allow him to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.,’ Admiral Calland said. Even though Mr. Zinke served in a succession of No. 2 jobs in special operations after that, ‘he never got command,’ the admiral said. Another retired vice admiral, Sean A. Pybus, who was Mr. Zinke’s boss after he left SEAL Team 6, said that Admiral Calland’s decision to cite Mr. Zinke for ‘lapses in judgment’ in failing to set a proper example was a red flag for boards screening officers for coveted command jobs. Even if a fitness report - essentially a performance evaluation - gives top marks in other areas, as Mr. Zinke’s did, ‘language there like ‘hey, this officer has questionable judgment,’ that would keep him from being selected for a command position,’ Admiral Pybus said. ‘And I think that’s exactly what happened.’” [New York Times, 1/16/17]
- **January 2017: Vice Admiral Pybus Said That Zinke Was “Embarrassed And Humbled” When He Left SEAL Team 6.** The New York Times reported, “He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled ‘American Commander.’ And his biography on his congressional website says that he was ‘deputy and acting commander’ of a task force ‘where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq’ in 2004. In an interview, Michael S. Repass, who retired from the Army as a major general and was Mr. Zinke’s boss in Iraq, chuckled and said, ‘That might be a stretch.’ General Repass said that while Mr. Zinke was his deputy commander for four months, he had named him acting commander for only about a week and a half, when the general traveled to the United States. General Repass said Mr. Zinke ‘did a good job’ as his deputy and was ‘a competent guy,’ and he had nominated Mr. Zinke for one of two Bronze Stars he received. Admiral Pybus said that Mr. Zinke was ‘embarrassed and humbled’ when he left SEAL Team 6 and ‘did quite well’ as his deputy at a command using less-elite SEAL units in Europe.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]



## **Zinke Inflated His Resume As A Navy SEAL And Geologist In Order To Pursue His Own Agenda**

### **Zinke's Former Military Boss Characterized The Title Of Zinke's Autobiography, "American Commander," As "A Stretch"**

### **Zinke Published An Autobiography Titled, "American Commander," And Boasted On His Congressional Website That He Was "Deputy And Acting Commander" In Iraq**

**November 2016: Zinke Published An Autobiography Titled "American Commander," Which Zinke's Boss In Iraq Said "Might Be A Stretch."** The New York Times reported, "He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled 'American Commander.' And his biography on his congressional website says that he was 'deputy and acting commander' of a task force 'where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq' in 2004. In an interview, Michael S. Repass, who retired from the Army as a major general and was Mr. Zinke's boss in Iraq, chuckled and said, 'That might be a stretch.' General Repass said that while Mr. Zinke was his deputy commander for four months, he had named him acting commander for only about a week and a half, when the general traveled to the United States. General Repass said Mr. Zinke 'did a good job' as his deputy and was 'a competent guy,' and he had nominated Mr. Zinke for one of two Bronze Stars he received. Admiral Pybus said that Mr. Zinke was 'embarrassed and humbled' when he left SEAL Team 6 and 'did quite well' as his deputy at a command using less-elite SEAL units in Europe." [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **New York Times: "He Published An Autobiography In November That Was Grandly Titled 'American Commander.' And His Biography On His Congressional Website Says That He Was 'Deputy And Acting Commander' Of A Task Force."** The New York Times reported, "But some former SEAL team members claim that Mr. Zinke has also exploited his past - he placed the SEALs' insignia (with six stars, presumably for SEAL Team 6) on his campaign bus in violation of Defense Department guidelines against politicizing such symbols - and that he exaggerated what he did in his later military jobs to obscure that he never received commands of his own. He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled 'American Commander.' And his biography on his congressional website says that he was 'deputy and acting commander' of a task force 'where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq' in 2004." [New York Times, 1/16/17]
- **Zinke Spent 23 Years Working For The Navy SEALs, Earning A Bronze Star And Rising To The Rank Of Commander Before Retiring In 2008.** The Bigfork Eagle reported, "ZINKE SPENT 23 years with the Navy SEALs, earning a Bronze Star and rising to the rank of commander before retiring in 2008. Though the world is full of threats, the American public should feel confident in its armed forces, he said." [Bigfork Eagle, 11/15/23]

### **Zinke's Former Military Boss Refuted Zinke's "Commander" Claims, Noting That Zinke Was A Deputy Commander For Four Months, But An Acting Commander For Around 1.5 Weeks**

**Retired Army Major General Michael S. Repass Said That Zinke Served As A "Deputy Commander" For Four Months And As An "Acting Commander" For 1.5 Weeks To Cover The General During Travel To The U.S.**

**November 2016: Zinke Published An Autobiography Titled "American Commander," Which Zinke's Boss In Iraq Said "Might Be A Stretch."** The New York Times reported, "He published an autobiography in

November that was grandly titled ‘American Commander.’ And his biography on his congressional website says that he was ‘deputy and acting commander’ of a task force ‘where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq’ in 2004. In an interview, Michael S. Repass, who retired from the Army as a major general and was Mr. Zinke’s boss in Iraq, chuckled and said, ‘That might be a stretch.’ General Repass said that while Mr. Zinke was his deputy commander for four months, he had named him acting commander for only about a week and a half, when the general traveled to the United States. General Repass said Mr. Zinke ‘did a good job’ as his deputy and was ‘a competent guy,’ and he had nominated Mr. Zinke for one of two Bronze Stars he received. Admiral Pybus said that Mr. Zinke was ‘embarrassed and humbled’ when he left SEAL Team 6 and ‘did quite well’ as his deputy at a command using less-elite SEAL units in Europe.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017: Zinke’s Boss In Iraq, Retired Army Major General Michael S. Repass, Said That While Zinke Was Repass’s Deputy Commander For Four Months, He Was Only Named Acting Commander For A Week And A Half To Cover Repass On Travel To The United States.** The New York Times reported, “He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled ‘American Commander.’ And his biography on his congressional website says that he was ‘deputy and acting commander’ of a task force ‘where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq’ in 2004. In an interview, Michael S. Repass, who retired from the Army as a major general and was Mr. Zinke’s boss in Iraq, chuckled and said, ‘That might be a stretch.’ General Repass said that while Mr. Zinke was his deputy commander for four months, he had named him acting commander for only about a week and a half, when the general traveled to the United States. General Repass said Mr. Zinke ‘did a good job’ as his deputy and was ‘a competent guy,’ and he had nominated Mr. Zinke for one of two Bronze Stars he received. Admiral Pybus said that Mr. Zinke was ‘embarrassed and humbled’ when he left SEAL Team 6 and ‘did quite well’ as his deputy at a command using less-elite SEAL units in Europe.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

## **Zinke Repeatedly Claimed He Was A Geologist Despite Never Holding A Job As One And Used That “Experience” To Push For Oil & Mining Priorities**

### **May 2017 – April 2018: Zinke Suggested That He Was A Geologist Or Former Geologist At Least 40 Times, Including Reportedly Under Oath**

**May 2017 – April 2018: Zinke Suggested That He Was A Geologist Or A Former Geologist At Least 40 Times In Public, Including Several Times Reportedly Under Oath.** CNN reported, “Since becoming leader of the 70,000-employee agency, Zinke has suggested that he was a geologist or former geologist at least 40 times in public settings, including many under oath before Congress. He uses it as a credential booster, saying things such as, ‘I can tell you, from a geologist, offshore mining of sand is enormously destructive environmentally, as in comparison to seismic,’ as he told the House Natural Resources Committee last month.” [CNN, [4/17/18](#)]

- **New York Times: “[Zinke] Has Been Criticized For Claiming On Dozens Of Occasions That He Is A Geologist, Though He Has Never Held A Job As One.”** The New York Times reported, “The federal investigations follow several other examinations of Mr. Zinke’s behavior. He has been criticized for claiming on dozens of occasions that he is a geologist, though he has never held a job as one.” [New York Times, 12/15/18]

### **Zinke Said That He Had Majored In And Considered A Career In Geology, But The Interior Department Refused To Answer Whether Zinke Had Ever Joined Professional Organizations**

**Zinke Wrote In His Autobiography That He Majored In Geology At The University Of Oregon And Considered A Career In Subsurface Geological Surveying Before Joining That Military.** CNN reported, “In

his autobiography, Zinke wrote that he majored in geology at the University of Oregon, which he attended on a football scholarship, and chose his major at random. ‘I studied geology as a result of closing my eyes and randomly pointing to a major from the academic catalog, and I never looked back. I am just glad I did not find electronics,’ he wrote, adding that he was focused and a good student, and earned an outstanding academic achievement award his senior year.” [CNN, [4/17/18](#)]

- **April 2018: The Interior Department Did Not Answer Whether Zinke Was Or Had Been A Member Of Either The American Institute Of Professional Geologists Or The Association Of State Boards Of Geologists.** CNN reported, “Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift provided this statement to CNN: ‘Ryan Zinke graduated with honors with a B.S. in Geology. His intended career path was underwater geology - and he had college jobs to support that career. Upon graduation he was recruited to be an officer in the US Navy SEALs where he proudly served for 23 years and retired with the rank of Commander.’ Interior did not answer if Zinke is or has been a member of the American Institute of Professional Geologists or the Association of State Boards of Geologists.” [CNN, [4/17/18](#)]

## **Zinke Cited Being A Geologist As He Discussed Coal Revenues With The Senate Appropriations Committee And Proposed Shrinking National Monuments To Open Up Energy Opportunities**

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### ***Zinke Told The Senate Appropriations Committee He Was A Geologist As He Discussed Coal Revenue And New Potential Drilling Sites***

**July 2017: Zinke Called Himself A Geologist In Front Of The Senate Appropriations Committee While Discussing Coal Revenue And Potential Drilling Sites.** CNN reported, “And in July, when discussion national monuments he was considering shrinking, Zinke was quoted in the Albuquerque Journal saying, ‘the area of the monument - it’s actually four separate parcels - is a ‘little disconnected,’ he told reporters during a helicopter tour. ‘The boundaries are difficult to discern - between private, public, state lands,’ he said. ‘The features, as a geologist, I was particularly fascinated with the basalts and the volcanics - beautiful ground.’ In one Senate Appropriations hearing last June, Zinke called himself a geologist four times, including while discussing coal revenue and potential drilling sites. ‘I’m a geologist,’ Zinke said. ‘And I don’t consider myself a genius, but I’m a pretty smart guy.’” [CNN, [4/17/18](#)]

### ***Zinke Told Lawmakers That He Was A Geologist When He Discussed Shrinking Bears Ears National Monument, Which Was Subject To A Lobbying Campaign By A Uranium Company***

**April 2018: Zinke Defended Shrinking Bears Ears National Monument By Noting He Was “A Geologist.”** CNN reported, “Defending his decision to shrink the Bears Ears national monument to lawmakers last week, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke fell back one of his favorite credentials. ‘I’m a geologist,’ he said. ‘I can assure you that oil and gas in Bears Ears was not part of my decision matrix. A geologist will tell you there is little, if any, oil and gas.’” [CNN, [4/17/18](#)]

- **Zinke: “I’m A Geologist. I Can Assure You That Oil And Gas In Bears Ears Was Not Part Of My Decision Matrix. A Geologist Will Tell You There Is Little, If Any, Oil And Gas.”** CNN reported, “Defending his decision to shrink the Bears Ears national monument to lawmakers last week, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke fell back one of his favorite credentials. ‘I’m a geologist,’ he said. ‘I can assure you that oil and gas in Bears Ears was not part of my decision matrix. A geologist will tell you there is little, if any, oil and gas.’” [CNN, [4/17/18](#)]
- **December 2017: Documents Obtained By The Washington Post Showed That Energy Fuels Resources USA Urged The Trump Administration To Limit Bears Ears Monument To The Smallest Size Necessary**

**To Protect Key Areas To Make It Easier To Access Uranium Ore.** The Denver Post reported, “But the nation’s sole uranium processing mill sits directly next to the boundaries President Barack Obama designated a year ago when he established Bears Ears. The documents show that Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc., a subsidiary of a Canadian firm, urged the Trump administration to limit the monument to the smallest size needed to protect key objects and areas, such as archeological sites, to make it easier to access radioactive ore. Energy Fuels Resources did not just weigh in on national monuments through public comment letters. According to federal lobbying records, the company spent \$30,000 to hire a team of lobbyists at Faegre Baker Daniels led by Andrew Wheeler, who is awaiting Senate confirmation as the Environmental Protection Agency’s deputy secretary to work on the matter and other federal policies.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]

## **Zinke Was Criticized By Geologists Who Claimed He Was Not “Familiar With Modern Geologic Knowledge” As A Partial Climate Change Denier**

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**April 2018: Several Geologists Spoke With CNN And Noted That Zinke’s Comments On Climate Were Out Of Touch With “Modern Geologic Knowledge.”** CNN reported, “Several geologists who CNN has spoken with have flagged his comments as disingenuous, saying that someone with a 34-year-old degree who never worked in the field is not considered a geologist. ‘He seems not to be familiar with modern geologic knowledge,’ said Seth Stein, a professor at the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. ‘In particular, geologists now know that the climate is warming rapidly because of human activities. This is causing many serious problems including rising sea level, which is a major threat to coastal communities.’” [CNN, [4/17/18](#)]

- **Northwestern University Professor Seth Stein: “[Zinke] Seems Not To Be Familiar With Modern Geologic Knowledge. In Particular, Geologists Now Know That The Climate Is Warming Rapidly Because Of Human Activities.”** CNN reported, “Several geologists who CNN has spoken with have flagged his comments as disingenuous, saying that someone with a 34-year-old degree who never worked in the field is not considered a geologist. ‘He seems not to be familiar with modern geologic knowledge,’ said Seth Stein, a professor at the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. ‘In particular, geologists now know that the climate is warming rapidly because of human activities. This is causing many serious problems including rising sea level, which is a major threat to coastal communities.’” [CNN, [4/17/18](#)]

## **Zinke Was Accused Of Steering A \$300 Million Federal Contract To His Friend's Two-Person Company**

**After A Small Company With Ties To Zinke Received A \$300 Million Contract To Build 100 Miles Of Power Transmission Lines In Puerto Rico, Critics Alleged That Zinke Had Abuse His Power As Secretary Of The Interior To Direct The Contract To His Friend's Company**

### **October 2017: Utility-Contracting Company Whitefish Energy Won A \$300 Million Contract With The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority To Build 100 Miles Of Power Transmission Lines**

**October 2017: Utility-Contracting Company Whitefish Energy Won A \$300 Million Contract With The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority To Build 100 Miles Of Power Transmission Lines.** The New York Times reported, "For the past two years, Andy Techmanski ran a tiny family utility-contracting company out of his home in the ski town of Whitefish, Mont., getting relatively modest jobs out West. They helped rebuild a fire-ravaged power line in mountainous Washington State and are in the process of supplying a transformer to a Montana electric cooperative. But now, Mr. Techmanski and his father-and-son firm, Whitefish Energy, are drawing widespread attention and congressional scrutiny for an outsized deal half a world away: a \$300 million contract with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority to rebuild 100 miles of power transmission lines across the island's shattered electric grid. 'We just answered the call,' Mr. Techmanski said in an interview from Puerto Rico. 'We got on a plane and came over here right after.'" [New York Times, 10/24/17]

### **The New York Times Described Whitefish Energy "A Tiny And Inexperienced Montana Contractor"**

**The New York Times Described Whitefish Energy "A Tiny And Inexperienced Montana Contractor" And Noted That "Beyond Questions About Whitefish's Capability, The Uproar Was Magnified By The Opaque Wording Of The \$300 Million Contract, The Size Of The Company's Markups And A Twitter Threat To Withdraw From San Juan After Criticism By The Mayor."** The New York Times reported, "After Maria and the hurricane that preceded it, called Irma, Puerto Rico all but slipped from the modern era. Even now, while officials say the \$2.5 billion reconstruction effort has restored power to 98 percent of the grid's customers, swaths of hilly country across the island are still pitch black after dark, punctuated by lights run on private generators. (About 60 percent of Yabucoa's residents had power as of May 1.) Even restored sections of the grid are nightmarishly unreliable, as evidenced by last month's outage, the second major power failure in a week and the fourth since early February. On the mainland, much of the coverage of the recovery has focused on the struggles of the island's beleaguered power authority and its politically disastrous hiring of Whitefish Energy Holdings, a tiny and inexperienced Montana contractor linked to the Trump administration's interior secretary. [...] The political brouhaha ignited by the Whitefish hiring vastly complicated matters. Initially, questions focused on Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, whose hometown is Whitefish, Mont., where the company is based. Mr. Zinke and the company itself said he had nothing to do with awarding the contract, even though his son worked a summer job at Whitefish. Beyond questions about Whitefish's capability, the uproar was magnified by the opaque wording of the \$300 million contract, the size of the company's markups and a Twitter threat to withdraw from San Juan after criticism by the mayor. Whitefish soon apologized." [New York Times, 5/7/18]



## **New York Times: “The Size Of The Contract And The Scale Of The Job Awarded To A Company That Had Just Two Full-Time Employees Is Now Raising Questions About How Puerto Rico’s Bankrupt Power Authority Awarded Contracts”**

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**New York Times: “The Size Of The Contract And The Scale Of The Job Awarded To A Company That Had Just Two Full-Time Employees Is Now Raising Questions About How Puerto Rico’s Bankrupt Power Authority Awarded Contracts.”** The New York Times reported, “The size of the contract and the scale of the job awarded to a company that had just two full-time employees is now raising questions about how Puerto Rico’s bankrupt power authority awarded contracts and reached out for assistance in the chaotic days after Hurricane Maria, which snapped utility poles like Popsicle sticks and tore down hundreds of miles of power lines. ‘Absolutely outrageous,’ said Eduardo Bhatia, a Puerto Rican opposition senator who wrote an energy law in 2014. ‘A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?’ Mr. Bhatia said the authority did not appear to have made any open requests for proposals, to have performed any regular background checks or to have followed normal safeguards and checks before awarding the contract.” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

## **Zinke Denied Having Anything To Do With The Contract, Despite His Personal Ties To The Company, Including The Fact That His Son Worked A Summer Job At Whitefish**

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**Zinke Denied Having Anything To Do With The Contract, Despite The Fact That His Son Worked A Summer Job At Whitefish.** The New York Times reported, “After Maria and the hurricane that preceded it, called Irma, Puerto Rico all but slipped from the modern era. Even now, while officials say the \$2.5 billion reconstruction effort has restored power to 98 percent of the grid’s customers, swaths of hilly country across the island are still pitch black after dark, punctuated by lights run on private generators. (About 60 percent of Yabucoa’s residents had power as of May 1.) Even restored sections of the grid are nightmarishly unreliable, as evidenced by last month’s outage, the second major power failure in a week and the fourth since early February. On the mainland, much of the coverage of the recovery has focused on the struggles of the island’s beleaguered power authority and its politically disastrous hiring of Whitefish Energy Holdings, a tiny and inexperienced Montana contractor linked to the Trump administration’s interior secretary. [...] The political brouhaha ignited by the Whitefish hiring vastly complicated matters. Initially, questions focused on Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, whose hometown is Whitefish, Mont., where the company is based. Mr. Zinke and the company itself said he had nothing to do with awarding the contract, even though his son worked a summer job at Whitefish. Beyond questions about Whitefish’s capability, the uproar was magnified by the opaque wording of the \$300 million contract, the size of the company’s markups and a Twitter threat to withdraw from San Juan after criticism by the mayor. Whitefish soon apologized.” [New York Times, 5/7/18]

## **October 2017: Andy Techmanski Of Whitefish Energy Knew Zinke And Zinke’s Son Held A 2017 Summer Job Working On A Whitefish Energy Project In Washington State**

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**October 2017: Andy Techmanski Of Whitefish Energy Knew Zinke And Zinke’s Son Held A 2017 Summer Job Working On A Whitefish Energy Project In Washington State.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Luce, the company spokesman, said Mr. Techmanski had worked as a utility lineman and power-company executive for more than 20 years in the United States and abroad. His hometown, Whitefish, is also home to the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. The two men know each other, and Mr. Zinke’s son had a job this past summer working on a Whitefish project in Washington State, according to officials with the company and the Interior Department. But Interior officials as well as Mr. Techmanski said the secretary had not helped Whitefish Energy obtain the contract or held any meetings or taken any action on the company’s behalf. ‘We both come from the same town,’ Mr.



Techmanski said of Mr. Zinke. ‘I knew him before he was a politician. But other than that, other than informing him that we were here, we have not requested anything from him.’” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

### ***Techmanski: “We Both Come From The Same Town. I Knew Him Before He Was A Politician. But Other Than That, Other Than Informing Him That We Were Here, We Have Not Requested Anything From Him”***

**Techmanski: “We Both Come From The Same Town. I Knew Him Before He Was A Politician. But Other Than That, Other Than Informing Him That We Were Here, We Have Not Requested Anything From Him.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Luce, the company spokesman, said Mr. Techmanski had worked as a utility lineman and power-company executive for more than 20 years in the United States and abroad. His hometown, Whitefish, is also home to the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. The two men know each other, and Mr. Zinke’s son had a job this past summer working on a Whitefish project in Washington State, according to officials with the company and the Interior Department. But Interior officials as well as Mr. Techmanski said the secretary had not helped Whitefish Energy obtain the contract or held any meetings or taken any action on the company’s behalf. ‘We both come from the same town,’ Mr. Techmanski said of Mr. Zinke. ‘I knew him before he was a politician. But other than that, other than informing him that we were here, we have not requested anything from him.’” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

### **October 2017: Zinke’s Wife Lolita Had Liked Family and Profile Pictures On Facebook Uploaded By Techmanski’s Wife, Amanda At Least Four Times**

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**October 2017: Zinke’s Wife Lolita Had Liked Family and Profile Pictures On Facebook Uploaded By Techmanski’s Wife, Amanda At Least Four Times.** The Washington Post reported, “‘The original decision by PREPA to have Whitefish Energy come to the Puerto Rico only sped up the repairs, and if it were not for that action, crews would just now be getting to the island to begin the process of rebuilding the system and restoring power,’ Whitefish’s statement said. Whitefish Energy is based in Whitefish, Mont., the home town of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Techmanski and Zinke know one another, The Washington Post reported last week, and at least four times Zinke’s wife, Lolita, has ‘liked’ family and profile pictures uploaded by Techmanski’s wife, Amanda, on Facebook. One of the Zinkes’ sons had a summer job with Whitefish. Zinke’s office has said he had no role in Whitefish securing the Puerto Rico contract. Andrew Techmanski also has said Zinke was not involved.” [Washington Post, [10/29/17](#)]

### **October 2017: Interior Department Officials Said That Zinke Had Not Helped Whitefish Energy Obtain The Puerto Rico Contract Or Taken Any Action For The Company**

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**October 2017: Interior Department Officials Said That Zinke Had Not Helped Whitefish Energy Obtain The Puerto Rico Contract Or Taken Any Action For The Company.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Luce, the company spokesman, said Mr. Techmanski had worked as a utility lineman and power-company executive for more than 20 years in the United States and abroad. His hometown, Whitefish, is also home to the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. The two men know each other, and Mr. Zinke’s son had a job this past summer working on a Whitefish project in Washington State, according to officials with the company and the Interior Department. But Interior officials as well as Mr. Techmanski said the secretary had not helped Whitefish Energy obtain the contract or held any meetings or taken any action on the company’s behalf. ‘We both come from the same town,’ Mr. Techmanski said of Mr. Zinke. ‘I knew him before he was a politician. But other than that, other than informing him that we were here, we have not requested anything from him.’” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

## **Officials In Puerto Rico Criticized The Contract As “Absolutely Outrageous” And The Governor Of Puerto Rico Moved To Cancel The Contract**

### **October 2017: Puerto Rican Opposition Sen. Eduardo Bhatia Called Whitefish Energy’s Contract “Absolutely Outrageous”**

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#### ***Bhatia: “Absolutely Outrageous. A Two-Employee Company From Whitefish, Mont. Gets A \$300 Million Contract Out Of Nowhere? Based On What?”***

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#### ***Bhatia Said That The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority Had Not Made Any Open Requests For Proposals, Performed Background Checks, Or Followed Normal Safeguards Before Awarding The Whitefish Energy Contract***

**Bhatia Said That The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority Had Not Made Any Open Requests For Proposals, Performed Background Checks, Or Followed Normal Safeguards Before Awarding The Whitefish Energy Contract.** The New York Times reported, “The size of the contract and the scale of the job awarded to a company that had just two full-time employees is now raising questions about how Puerto Rico’s bankrupt power authority awarded contracts and reached out for assistance in the chaotic days after Hurricane Maria, which snapped utility poles like Popsicle sticks and tore down hundreds of miles of power lines. ‘Absolutely outrageous,’ said Eduardo Bhatia, a Puerto Rican opposition senator who wrote an energy law in 2014. ‘A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?’ Mr. Bhatia said the authority did not appear to have made any open requests for proposals, to have performed any regular background checks or to have followed normal safeguards and checks before awarding the contract.” [New York Times, 10/24/17]



## **October 2017: The Governor Of Puerto Rico Moved To Cancel The Whitefish Contract**

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**October 2017: The Governor Of Puerto Rico Moved To Cancel The Whitefish Contract.** The New York Times reported, “Facing withering criticism from members of Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the governor of Puerto Rico moved on Sunday to cancel a \$300 million contract awarded to a small Montana company to rebuild part of the island’s battered power grid. While government officials in Washington and San Juan have argued over how a company from Whitefish, Mont., with connections to the secretary of the interior but only two full-time employees secured an emergency contract that requires the work of thousands of people, the majority of Puerto Rico is still without electricity, nearly six weeks after Hurricane Maria knocked down thousands of poles and lines. Some stores, medical centers, restaurants and a fortunate few private residences are running on generators, but most of the island’s 3.4 million people are plunged into darkness after sunset.” [New York Times, 10/29/17]

## **U.S. Officials Called For An Investigation Into The Contract, Leading To An Investigation By The House Committee On Natural Resources**

### **October 2017: The House Committee On Natural Resources Was Investigating The Whitefish Energy Contract**

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### **October 2017: Sen Maria Cantwell Asked The Government Accountability Office To Investigate The Whitefish Contract**

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## **October 2017: A Spokesman For Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Rob Bishop Agreed That Congressional Review Of The Whitefish Contract Was Necessary**

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**October 2017: A Spokesman For Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Rob Bishop Agreed That Congressional Review Of The Whitefish Contract Was Necessary.** The Denver Post reported, “Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said Congress ‘needs to understand why the Whitefish contract was awarded and whether other, more cost effective options were available.’ A spokesman for Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, R Utah, agreed that congressional review was needed. The resources panel oversees Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. ‘The size and unknown details of this contract raise numerous questions. This is one of many things the committee is taking a close look at as it continues to work with the resident commissioner, governor’s office and oversight board to ensure Puerto Rico’s recovery is robust, effective and sustained,’ said Parish Braden, a spokesman for Bishop.” [Denver Post, 10/25/17]

### ***October 2017 – Bishop Spokesman Parish Braden: “The Size And Unknown Details Of This Contract Raise Numerous Questions”***

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## **October 2017: The Federal Emergency Management Agency Warned That It Might Not Help Pay For Storm Recovery In Puerto Rico If The Whitefish Energy Contract Was Found To Be Improper**

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**October 2017: The Federal Emergency Management Agency Warned That It Might Not Help Pay For Storm Recovery In Puerto Rico If The Whitefish Energy Contract Was Found To Be Improper.** The New York Times reported, “The federal government’s disaster relief agency said on Friday that it had ‘significant concerns’ about how a tiny Montana company won a contract for up to \$300 million to rebuild part of Puerto Rico’s hurricane-ravaged electrical grid. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which normally would help pay for storm recovery, 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. ‘Based on initial review and information from Prepa, FEMA has significant concerns with how Prepa procured this contract and has not confirmed whether the contract prices are reasonable,’ the federal agency said in a statement on Friday.” [New York Times, 10/27/17]

### ***October 2017 – FEMA: “Based On Its Initial Review And Information From PREPA, FEMA Has Significant Concerns With How PREPA Procured This Contract And Has Not Confirmed Whether The Contract Prices Are Reasonable”***

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## **Zinke Was Implicated In A Pay To Play Scandal Involving A Residential Development In Arizona, Prompting Calls For A DOJ Investigation**

**May 2022: Democrats On The House Natural Resources Committee Called For A DOJ Investigation Into A Shady Development Project That Occurred While Zinke Was Interior Secretary**

### **May 2022: Democrats On The House Natural Resources Committee Sent A Referral To The Department Of Justice For Investigation Of A Development Project That Occurred While Zinke Was Interior Secretary**

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**May 2022: Democrats On The House Natural Resources Committee Sent A Referral To The Department Of Justice For Investigation Of A Development Project That Occurred While Zinke Was Interior Secretary.** The Arizona Republic reported, “Top Democrats with oversight of the U.S. Interior Department have asked federal prosecutors to investigate a proposed Benson development for possible political interference on the project under the Trump administration. The 37-page referral Wednesday to the U.S. Justice Department by the House Natural Resources Committee cites large, seemingly coordinated political contributions from Arizona donors to the campaign of former President Donald Trump and flags a Montana meeting that was kept off official schedules as potentially influencing the approval of a portion of the project. [...] The referral does not allege specific crimes by anyone. But it does suggest ‘pay-to-play’ politics helped advance a large-scale deal and seeks Justice Department scrutiny. The move, led by Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., who chairs the committee, is the latest turn for the long-sought Villages at Vigneto, a 28,000-home project on 12,000 acres near Arizona’s threatened San Pedro River. It also adds more detail to the checkered tenure of Ryan Zinke, who was the Interior secretary at the time.” [Arizona Republic, 5/12/22]

### **August 2017: The Report Alleged That Zinke Knew About An Undisclosed Meeting Between A Developer Associated With The Project And Zinke’s Deputy David Bernhardt, A Meeting Which Had Not Been Disclosed On The Official Calendar And Which Closely Preceded A Reversal In Interior Department Policy Regarding The Project That Was Directed By Bernhardt**

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## **October 2017: The Referral Alleged That There Were Coordinated Political Contributions From Arizona Donors To Trump's Campaign Made For The Purpose Of Advancing A Land Development Project To Create A 28,000 Home Project Named "Villages At Vigneto" Near Arizona's Threatened San Pedro River**

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## **October 2017: The Developer And Other Arizonians Gave The Trump Victory Fund And The Republican National Committee \$241,600 In Campaign Contributions, And Weeks Later, Vigneto Received Its Permits From Fish And Wildlife**

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## **The Report Also Alleged That Zinke Received An Email To His Personal Yahoo Account From The Developer Calling For "High Level Action" To Ensure Correct Application Of Fish And Wildlife Service Regulations, An Email That Zinke Did Not Transmit To His Government Records As Required By Federal Law**

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## **Zinke Took Actions As Interior Secretary To Benefit PROOF Research, A Montana Company He Was Invested In**

**Critics Suggested That Zinke Had Opened More Federal Land For Hunting As Secretary Of The Interior Due To His Financial Stake In PROOF Research, Inc**

### **January 2018: A HuffPost Report Suggested That Zinke Opened More Federal Land For Hunting Due To His Financial Stake In PROOF Research, Inc**

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### **Washington Post: “Zinke, Who Is An Avid Hunter, Has Opened More Federal Land To Hunting As Interior Secretary... He Might Have Been At Least Partially Motivated To Do So Because He Owns Shares In A Montana Company ‘That Manufactures And Sells Firearms And Advanced Weapons Materials, A Financial Interest He Did Not Disclose When Nominated Last Year’”**

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### **April 2017: Zinke And Other Interior Department Staff Met With Executives From Proof Research**

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participated in a meeting that included executives from Proof Research, a Montana-based firearms company, according to Mr. Zinke’s calendars, a meeting reported by Huffington Post. About six years ago, Mr. Zinke reported income from the company, which used a different name at the time, a 2014 disclosure showed. He did not disclose in financial filings that he retained a small stake in it. Mr. Zinke, in his 2018 financial disclosure, noted his interest, valuing it at less than \$1,000.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]

**PROOF Research Inc. Specialized In Producing Lightweight, High-Precision Rifles For Hunting And Military Applications**

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**Zinke Owned Shares In PROOF Research, A “Firearm Product Company”**

**2016: Zinke Reported “PROOF Research (Firearm Product Company)” As An Asset**

**2016: Zinke Reported “PROOF Research (Firearm Product Company)” As An Asset.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

Ryan Zinke Reported Assets And Income				
Description	EIF	Value	Income Type	Income Amount
Continental Divide International LLC – Residential real estate, Whitefish, MT	No	\$500,001 - \$1,000,00	Rent or Royalties	\$15,001 - \$50,000
Art Collection	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
Auto Collection	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
Double Tap LLC – Residential real estate, Whitefish, MT	No	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Rent or Royalties	\$5,001 - \$15,000
U.S. bank account #1 (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
U.S. bank account #2 (cash)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
U.S. brokerage money market account (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
USAA Growth & Income Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
USAA Science and Technology Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500



USAA Tax Exempt and Intermediate Term Fund	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
Family Trust – Residential Real Estate in Santa Barbara, CA; Undeveloped Land, Santa Barbara, CA	No	Over \$1,000,000	Rent or royalties	\$50,001 - \$100,00
PROOF Research (firearm product company)	No	None (or less than \$1,000)		None (or less than \$201)
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$1,812,010 – \$2,831,000+</b>		<b>\$72,005 – \$171,407</b>

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

## **2018: Zinke Disclosed Having A Financial Interest In Proof Research**

**2018: Zinke Disclosed Having A Financial Interest In Proof Research.** The New York Times reported, “In April 2017, Mr. Zinke and several members of his staff at the Interior Department participated in a meeting that included executives from Proof Research, a Montana-based firearms company, according to Mr. Zinke’s calendars, a meeting reported by Huffington Post. About six years ago, Mr. Zinke reported income from the company, which used a different name at the time, a 2014 disclosure showed. He did not disclose in financial filings that he retained a small stake in it. Mr. Zinke, in his 2018 financial disclosure, noted his interest, valuing it at less than \$1,000.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]

## **January 2018: Zinke Owned Shares In A Montana Company Called PROOF Research Inc, Which Was Originally Named Extreme Precision Armaments Inc And Did Not Disclose His Shares On His Financial Disclosure When Nominated To The Trump Cabinet**

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## **2021: Zinke Reported PROOF Research Stock As An Asset**

**2021: Zinke Reported PROOF Research Stock As An Asset.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

<b>Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Assets</b>						
<b>Asset</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Min Value</b>	<b>Max Value</b>	<b>Income Type(s)</b>	<b>Income Current Year</b>	<b>Income Preceding Year</b>
21" Pontoon Boat Whitefish MT [OT]	Joint	\$15,001	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A



DESCRIPTION: 21" Pontoon Boat. Value noted						
Auto Collection [CO]	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	None	N/A	N/A
CDI Bank Account Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Coca-Cola Company (KO) [ST]	Spouse	\$1	\$1,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Dalrado Corp [PS]  DESCRIPTION: Advisory Board Member	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
Double Tap LLC Property Whitefish [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
Family Art and Furniture Collection [CO]	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	None	N/A	N/A
Hand Property [RP]  LOCATION: SANTA BARBARA, CA, US	Spouse	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000	None	N/A	N/A
Harlow House Whitefish MT 59937 [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
LC Hand Holdings [RP]  LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA, US  COMMENTS: The LC Hand Holdings property was previous in Trust and the asset was transferred to Lolita Zinke, as the sole owner of LC Hand Holdings, in 2021.	Spouse	\$5,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rent	\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$1,001 - \$2,500
NFCU Bank Account [BA]	Joint	\$15,001	\$50,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Proof Research Stock [PS]	Joint	\$1	\$1,000	None	N/A	N/A



DESCRIPTION: Common shares. Stock is not publicly traded. Estimated value is noted above.						
Snowfrog LLC Bank Account Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	Interest	None	None
Snowfrog LLC Property Whitefish MT 59937 [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US  COMMENTS: Amount reflected is net income	Joint	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$15,001 - \$50,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
U.S. Gold Corp. (USAU) [ST] DESCRIPTION: Common Stock	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
Undeveloped Property Flathead County MT [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Spouse	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
USAA Science and Technology [MF]	Spouse	\$1,001	\$15,000	Capital Gains	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Wells Fargo Bank Account [BA]	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Whitefish Credit Union Account [BA]	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$8,033,018</b>	<b>\$34,397,000</b>		<b>\$75,010 - \$181,200</b>	<b>\$16,010 - \$48,700</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

## **2012 – 2014: Zinke Was Paid Thousands Of Dollars By PROOF Research For Consulting Services**

### **2012: Zinke Provided Consulting Services For PROOF Research**

**2012: Zinke Provided Consulting Services For PROOF Research.** The Washington Post reported, “PROOF Research Inc. was first established in 2011 in Zinke’s hometown of Whitefish, Montana, under the name Extreme Precision Armaments Inc., according to state of Montana business records. The company specializes in the production of lightweight rifles with high-precision carbon fiber barrels for hunting and military applications and was born as a merger of four smaller firearms and gun parts companies. It later changed its name to PROOF Research Inc. and moved to the nearby town of Columbia Falls. Zinke provided consulting services for the company in 2012, according to local Montana news reports and a disclosure he filed as a candidate for [House] two years later listing \$16,975 in compensation. After winning a House seat in November 2014, Zinke told a local



newspaper that he planned to retain a small stake in PROOF Research ‘because it’s a great company.’”  
[Washington Post, [1/23/18](#)]

## **2014: Zinke Listed \$16,975 In Compensation From PROOF Research On His House Candidate Financial Disclosure**

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**2014: Zinke Reported Income From Proof Research.** The New York Times reported, “In April 2017, Mr. Zinke and several members of his staff at the Interior Department participated in a meeting that included executives from Proof Research, a Montana-based firearms company, according to Mr. Zinke’s calendars, a meeting reported by Huffington Post. About six years ago, Mr. Zinke reported income from the company, which used a different name at the time, a 2014 disclosure showed. He did not disclose in financial filings that he retained a small stake in it. Mr. Zinke, in his 2018 financial disclosure, noted his interest, valuing it at less than \$1,000.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]



## **Zinke Used His Political Power To Help His Friends In The Drone Industry, Which He Promoted Before Joining Congress**

### **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Awarded A Series Of Contracts For Drone Services, Including To A Company He Had Ties To**

### **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Planned To Expand The Department's Use Of Drones For Measures Such As Fighting Wildfires**

**As Interior Secretary, Zinke Planned To Expand The Department's Use Of Drones For Measures Such As Fighting Wildfires.** The New York Times reported, "Over the past decade or so, Mr. Zinke has pursued dual careers as a politician and businessman. Some of his business dealings in that time formed relationships with individuals and industries that would become relevant in later years in his role as secretary of the interior. For instance, he was a director of a nonprofit group that pushed to develop Montana's drone industry by using the state's big open spaces as a testing ground. Under Mr. Zinke's leadership, the Interior Department has planned to increase its use of drones, particularly for fighting wildfires. Mr. Zinke's personal experience with the drone industry and ties to a number of stakeholders in the business come from having co-founded the Center for Remote Integration, the nonprofit organization that promoted their use." [New York Times, 10/31/18]

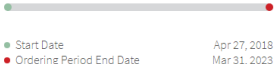
### **May 2018: Zinke Announced A Series Of Contracts For Drone Services, One Of Which Was A \$1.1 Million Contract Awarded To A Boeing Subsidiary Called Insitu**

**May 2018: Zinke Announced A Series Of Contracts For Drone Services, One Of Which Was Awarded To A Boeing Subsidiary Called Insitu.** The New York Times reported, "In May 2018, Mr. Zinke announced a round of contracts for drone services to assist in fighting wildfires. One of the contracts was awarded to a company called Insitu, a Boeing subsidiary with past ties to Mr. Zinke's efforts on behalf of the industry." [New York Times, 10/31/18]

### ***April 2018: The Department Of The Interior Awarded Insitu, Inc. A Contract Worth \$1.1 Million For "Call When Needed Unmanned Aircraft Systems"***

**April 2018: The Department Of The Interior Awarded Insitu, Inc. A Contract Worth \$1.1 Million For "Call When Needed Unmanned Aircraft Systems."** [USASpending, accessed [7/18/24](#)]

Indefinite Delivery / Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract PIID 140D8018D0006 Close

<b>Awarding Agency</b> <b>Department of the Interior (DOI)</b>	<b>Recipient</b> <b>INSITU, INC.</b> 118 E COLUMBIA RIVER WAY BINGEN, WA 98605-9086 UNITED STATES Congressional District: WA-04	<b>Related Awards</b> Parent Award Unique Key N/A	<b>Dates</b> 
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<b>\$ Award Amounts</b>	<b>Description</b>
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Awards Under this IDV | This IDV

**\$1.1 Million**  
Combined Obligated Amounts

CALL WHEN NEEDED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

<b>North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code</b> 54 : Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services 5413: Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services 541370: Surveying and Mapping (except Geophysical) Services	<b>Product or Service Code (PSC)</b> SERVICES T: PHOTO, MAP, PRINT, PUBLICATION T0: PHOTOGR, MAPPING, PRINTING, PUBLISH T009: PHOTO/MAP/PRINT/PUBLICATION-AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
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The information in this tab is pulled from the combined data of awards that reference this IDV, not the IDV itself. To see those awards, scroll to the table of awards under this IDV on this page.

[USASpending, accessed 7/18/24]

Recipient Details	
Recipient	INSITU, INC.
Recipient Identifier	QXMUHJ7XTF89 (UEI)
Parent Recipient	THE BOEING COMPANY
Parent Recipient Identifier	NU2UC8MX6NK1 (UEI)
Recipient Address	118 E COLUMBIA RIVER WAY BINGEN, WA 98605-9086 UNITED STATES
Congressional District	WA-04
Business Types	Category Business Corporate Entity Not Tax Exempt Manufacturer of Goods Not Designated a Small Business Special Designations U.S.-Owned Business

[USASpending, accessed 7/18/24]

Agency Details	
Awarding Agency	Department of the Interior (DOI)
Awarding Sub-Agency	Departmental Offices
Awarding Office	IBC ACQ SVCS DIRECTORATE (00004)
Funding Agency	Department of the Interior (DOI)
Funding Sub-Agency	Departmental Offices
Funding Office	OFFICE OF AVIATION SERVICES (00082)

[USASpending, accessed [7/18/24](#)]

Orders Made Under this IDV						
<span>Child Award Orders</span> <span>Child IDV Orders</span> <span>Grandchild Award Orders</span>						
Award ID	Awarding Agency	Award Type	Obligated Amount	Start Date	End Date	Base Transaction Description
140D8119F0092	Department of the Interior	DELIVERY ORDER	\$66,649	08/29/2019	09/30/2019	ON-CALL UAS IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) FIRE SUPPRESSION.
140D8019F0010	Department of the Interior	DELIVERY ORDER	\$379,706	10/26/2018	03/31/2019	ON-CALL UAS FLIGHT SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE (USFS) FIRE SUPPRESSION
140D8018F0527	Department of the Interior	DELIVERY ORDER	\$642,125	09/13/2018	03/31/2019	ON-CALL UAS IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) FIRE SUPPRESSION

[USASpending, accessed [7/18/24](#)]

## Zinke Reportedly Had Ties To Insitu From When He Was Affiliated With The Center For Remote Integration

**Zinke Had Past Ties To Insitu From When He Ran The Center For Remote Integration.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke’s personal experience with the drone industry and ties to a number of stakeholders in the business come from having co-founded the Center for Remote Integration, the nonprofit organization that promoted their use. [...] In May 2018, Mr. Zinke announced a round of contracts for drone services to assist in fighting wildfires. One of the contracts was awarded to a company called Insitu, a Boeing subsidiary with past ties to Mr. Zinke’s efforts on behalf of the industry.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]

### ***2012: Zinke Co-Founded And Served As The Director Of The Center For Remote Integration, A Nonprofit Organization That Promoted Montana’s Drone Industry***

**Zinke Co-Founded And Served As The Director Of The Center For Remote Integration, A Nonprofit Organization That Promoted Montana’s Drone Industry.** The New York Times reported, “Over the past decade or so, Mr. Zinke has pursued dual careers as a politician and businessman. Some of his business dealings in that time formed relationships with individuals and industries that would become relevant in later years in his role as secretary of the interior. For instance, he was a director of a nonprofit group that pushed to develop Montana’s drone industry by using the state’s big open spaces as a testing ground. Under Mr. Zinke’s leadership, the Interior Department has planned to increase its use of drones, particularly for fighting wildfires. Mr. Zinke’s personal experience with the drone industry and ties to a number of stakeholders in the business come from having co-founded the Center for Remote Integration, the nonprofit organization that promoted their use.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]

**2012 – 2013: Zinke Served As A Board Member For The Center For Remote Integration.** According to Zinke’s U.S. Senate Confirmation questionnaire, Zinke served as a board member for the Center for Remote Integration from 2012 to 2013. [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Questionnaire: Ryan Zinke, accessed [7/18/14](#)]



2012-2013	Board Member	Center for Remote Integration (501c3)	Whitefish, MT
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[U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Questionnaire: Ryan Zinke, accessed [7/18/14](#)]

## **Zinke Has Continued To Promote Drone Weaponry Since Resigning As Secretary Of The Interior And Joining Congress**

### **2022: Zinke Said The United States Should Support Ukraine With Advanced Drone Weaponry And Air Drop Humanitarian Aid Into The Country**

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**2022: Zinke Said The United States Should Support Ukraine With Advanced Drone Weaponry And Air Drop Humanitarian Aid Into The Country And That Vladimir Putin Was “The Face Of Evil.”** Hungry Horse News reported, “Zinke was formerly a Montana Congressman from 2015-2017 before becoming Secretary of Interior under the Trump Administration. ‘The campaign is going great,’ he said. ‘America is fixable.’ In a brief interview while shaking hands with folks, he said the U.S. needs to get back to energy independence and could shut down the southern border in three months to stop illegal immigration if need be. He said he would support building the southern border wall on the Mexican border and would support empowering the Border Patrol to do its job. On the war in Ukraine he said the U.S. should support them with advanced drone weaponry and he supported air dropping humanitarian aid to cities. ‘This is the face of evil,’ he said of Russian President Vladmir Putin. ‘I stand for freedom,’ Zinke, a former Navy SEAL added.” [Hungry Horse News, 3/16/22]

### **January 2024: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 5879, A Bill Creating A Pilot Research Program To Study The Use Of Drones By Law Enforcement Agencies**

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**January 2024: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 5879, A Bill Creating A Pilot Research Program To Study The Use Of Drones By Law Enforcement Agencies.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 5879, a bill “To amend title 49, United States Code, to permit small, unmanned aircraft pilot research for public safety, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 5879](#), introduced [10/3/23](#)]

## Zinke Had Significant Ties To Turkey

### **2019: The Zinkes Hosted Former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim For A Brunch At Their Home In Santa Barbara After Zinke Had Resigned From His Position In The Department Of The Interior**

**2019: The Zinkes Hosted Former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim For A Brunch At Their Home In Santa Barbara After Zinke Had Resigned From His Position In The Department Of The Interior.** Politico reported, “When I visited Whitefish in July, the towering Mission Mountains, famous for surrounding the Flathead Valley with their snowy peaks and as the gateway to Glacier National Park, were invisible through the screen of brown, ashy air blown in from the wildfires raging in Idaho and Oregon. It’s the type of weather Zinke seized on as Interior secretary to explain how the lack of logging in mismanaged national forests fuels fires. But Zinke wasn’t in town. His campaign consultant had not responded to requests to make him available for an interview in his home state. I eventually learned from his wife’s Instagram account that the Zinkes were on a beach vacation in Bodrum, Turkey. (Lolita has family ties to Turkey, and the Zinkes travel there often, including at least three separate trips documented on Lolita’s Instagram account in 2019.) [...] Other sources have placed Zinke in Santa Barbara, as well. In 2019, months after Zinke had resigned from the Interior Department, the Zinkes hosted former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim for brunch at their home in Santa Barbara, before Yildirim traveled to New York to attend the annual United Nations General Assembly, according to the Montecito Journal.” [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

### **2019 – 2021: Zinke’s Wife Had Family Ties To Turkey And The Zinkes Traveled There Often, Including At Least Three Separate Trips Documented On Lolita Zinke’s Instagram In 2019, Including A Beach Vacation In Turkey While Montana Was Suffering From Air Pollution**

### **2019 – 2021: Zinke’s Wife Had Family Ties To Turkey And The Zinkes Traveled There Often, Including At Least Three Separate Trips Documented On Lolita Zinke’s Instagram In 2019**

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### **July 2021: Zinke Was On A Vacation In Turkey While Montana Was Suffering From Air Pollution Due To Fires In Idaho And Oregon**

**July 2021: Zinke Was On A Vacation In Turkey While Montana Was Suffering From Air Pollution Due To Fires In Idaho And Oregon.** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke likes to tout his fifth-generation Montana roots. [...]”





But his opponents have seized on a weak point for a politician running as a son of Montana. Instagram photos of the Zinkes in Montana. ‘We really haven’t seen him in Montana,’ said Cora Neumann, a Democrat from Bozeman who is one of four candidates running against Zinke so far. [...] Montana also is a state with a strong independent streak, a sense of pride and a growing skepticism toward the outsiders who have flocked here in recent years, or who only parachute in for the summer months — a category some locals say includes Ryan Zinke. ‘That thing of getting on the horse and riding into the Interior Department — give me a break. What is this, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, for God’s sake?’ said Carol Williams, the former state Democratic majority leader who served with Zinke in the legislature. ‘Montanans don’t do that.’ When I visited Whitefish in July, the towering Mission Mountains, famous for surrounding the Flathead Valley with their snowy peaks and as the gateway to Glacier National Park, were invisible through the screen of brown, ashy air blown in from the wildfires raging in Idaho and Oregon. It’s the type of weather Zinke seized on as Interior secretary to explain how the lack of logging in mismanaged national forests fuels fires. But Zinke wasn’t in town. [...] I eventually learned from his wife’s Instagram account that the Zinkes were on a beach vacation in Bodrum, Turkey.” [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

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**Zinke Was Also Reprimanded By The Interior Department Inspector General For Using A Protective Service Detail For A Family Vacation To Turkey And Greece In 2018, Which Cost The Department And Taxpayers \$25,000**

**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Sent A Letter To Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt Requesting Complete Travel Records To Investigate Zinke’s Travel With Taxpayer Funds**

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**Funds.** According to a management advisory memorandum from the Interior Department Inspector General to Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt, “The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently investigating multiple allegations regarding Secretary Ryan Zinke’s travel. During our work, we discovered several issues that need prompt attention and changes to current IOS procedures. Our investigation has been delayed by absent, or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include proper documentation and accountability. Although we have received full cooperation from all employees contacted, we have found the documentation and adherence to Departmental travel policies deficient and without proper management oversight and accountability. Many authorizations and vouchers required for Secretary Zinke’s fiscal year (FY) 2017 travel have yet to be completed and processed. [...] Finally, based on the documents we have received to date, we have not been able to determine the full extent to which Lolita Zinke, the Secretary’s wife, accompanied the Secretary on official travel.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Memorandum, [11/15/17](#)]

- **November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Wrote That Investigations Into Zinke’s Travel Had Been “Delayed By Absent, Or Incomplete Documentation For Several Pertinent Trips.”**  
According to a management advisory memorandum from the Interior Department Inspector General to Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt, “The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently investigating multiple allegations regarding Secretary Ryan Zinke’s travel. During our work, we discovered several issues that need prompt attention and changes to current IOS procedures. Our investigation has been delayed by absent, or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include proper documentation and accountability. Although we have received full cooperation from all employees contacted, we have found the documentation and adherence to Departmental travel policies deficient and without proper management oversight and accountability. Many authorizations and vouchers required for Secretary Zinke’s fiscal year (FY) 2017 travel have yet to be completed and processed. [...] Finally, based on the documents we have received to date, we have not been able to determine the full extent to which Lolita Zinke, the Secretary’s wife, accompanied the Secretary on official travel.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Memorandum, [11/15/17](#)]

## **October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke Had Used A Protective Service Detail For A Family Vacation To Turkey And Greece, Which Cost The Interior Department Over \$25,000**

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**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke Had Used A Protective Service Detail For A Family Vacation To Turkey And Greece, Which Cost The Interior Department Over \$25,000.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, “In addition, we examined Secretary Zinke’s use of his protective service detail, including during a vacation the Zinkes took to Turkey and Greece. We also reviewed the Office of the Secretary’s purchase of secretarial challenge coins (small coins bearing an organization’s emblem, logo, or insignia, given as tokens of recognition or appreciation), and an allegation that a DOI employee resigned because Secretary Zinke made her walk his dog while at work. [...] While we found no prohibition against a security detail protecting Secretary Zinke during the Zinkes’ vacation, we learned that the U.S. Park Police had no finalized policy governing the detail’s activities and that the detail, which was unarmed, cost the DOI over \$25,000. We also determined that Secretary Zinke told his security detail on one occasion to drive a nongovernment employee to the airport, but he was later told that this direction was not appropriate, and it has not happened again.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

**After Resigning From The Department Of The Interior, Zinke Joined The D.C. Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions, Where He Used His Connections To Turkey To Benefit Clients**

## **2019: Zinke Joined The D.C. Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions As A Senior Adviser And Was “Excited” To Help Companies “Navigate The Washington, DC Bureaucracy”**

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**2019: Zinke Joined The D.C. Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions As A Senior Adviser, With Politico Noting That “Zinke’s Quick Turn To The Lobbying World... Shows The Appetite Among The President’s Allies To Cash In On Their High-Profile Positions, Even When They’ve Been Dogged By Controversy.”** The Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, who resigned as interior secretary last year amid scandal, is teaming up with Corey Lewandowski, President Donald Trump’s former campaign manager, to work as senior advisers at Washington lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions. Jason Osborne, a partner at Turnberry, said Lewandowski won’t do any work that would require him to register as a lobbyist, but said that Zinke was likely to do so. ‘Zinke will if it’s the right clients and it’s something he’s passionate about,’ Osborne said. Zinke is the first former member of Trump’s Cabinet to join a lobbying firm - a new milestone for a president who took office promising to ‘drain the swamp.’ Lewandowski, meanwhile, is one of a multitude of former Trump campaign staffers and fundraisers who have offered to advise corporate America on how to deal with the administration. Some of them have registered as lobbyists, while others, including Lewandowski, have declined to do so. Zinke’s quick turn to the lobbying world and his move alongside Lewandowski also shows the appetite among the president’s allies to cash in on their high-profile positions, even when they’ve been dogged by controversy.” [Politico, 2/8/19]

- **Zinke Said He Was “Excited To Join Turnberry Solutions And I Look Forward To Helping Companies Navigate The Washington, DC Bureaucracy.”** The Politico reported, “Lewandowski said in a statement that he looked ‘forward to working with Secretary Zinke to provide strategic advice and counsel to clients.’ Zinke, meanwhile, plans to work on energy and defense matters. He’ll split his time among Montana, California and Washington. The former Interior secretary is limited in his ability to lobby the administration by Trump’s ethics pledge and doesn’t plan to do so, according to Osborne. But he’s allowed to lobby Congress, in which he represented Montana for one term before resigning to join Trump’s Cabinet. Zinke said in a statement that he was ‘excited to join Turnberry Solutions and I look forward to helping companies navigate the Washington, DC bureaucracy.’” [Politico, 2/8/19]

## **2019: Zinke Reportedly Led A Business Delegation To Turkey On Behalf Of Turnberry Solutions’ Clients**

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**2019: Turnberry Solutions Was Reportedly Lobbying To Help The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe Achieve Recognition By The Federal Government.** The Greenwire reported, “A Trump-connected lobbying firm that includes former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is helping an American Indian tribe that has worked for decades to be recognized by the federal government. Turnberry Solutions, where Zinke has been a senior adviser since February, disclosed in a filing last month the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area paid the company \$30,000 for work in May and June. Zinke joined the firm months after he resigned from the Interior Department under the pressure of numerous allegations that he violated ethics policies. While it’s unclear what role, if any, Zinke is playing in the tribe’s advocacy, his position at the firm could give Muwekma a significant leg up over other tribes. As Interior secretary, he oversaw nearly the entirety of the federal government’s relations with tribes, including the officials who decide which tribes get federal recognition. Turnberry did not specify on what issue or issues it is advocating, writing only that it lobbied on ‘Guidance on issues impacting the Tribe,’ despite a legal requirement that quarterly disclosures include ‘a list of the specific issues’ on which the firm worked.” [Greenwire, 8/7/19]

- **Greenwire: “[Zinke’s] Position At The Firm Could Give Muwekma A Significant Leg Up Over Other Tribes. As Interior Secretary, He Oversaw Nearly The Entirety Of The Federal Government’s Relations With Tribes, Including The Officials Who Decide Which Tribes Get Federal Recognition.”** The Greenwire reported, “A Trump-connected lobbying firm that includes former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is



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- **Greenwire Claimed “Zinke’s Connections Could Be Valuable For The Tribe,” Including His Connections To Turkey.** The Greenwire reported, “Nonetheless, Zinke’s connections could be valuable for the tribe. Turnberry’s disclosure said the company is targeting Interior in its lobbying, in addition to the House and the Senate. Zinke has established at least one more tie with Muwekma: He led a business delegation last month to Turkey that was slated to include textile recycling company 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Recycling Inc., according to the Daily Sabah, an Istanbul newspaper. That company’s CEO, according to California records, is Charlene Nijmeh—Muwekma’s chairwoman. People familiar with American Indian policy told E&E News that Muwekma appears to be banking on Turnberry’s connections to Trump to get federal recognition—an unusual tactic in the highly specialized business of Indian law. The tribe doesn’t currently have land, meaning it would be difficult to pay Turnberry’s \$30,000 fee.” [Greenwire, 8/7/19]

# Section 4: Zinke Sold Out His Constituents To The Energy Industry



## After Resigning, Zinke Raked In Hundreds Of Thousands In Consulting Fees And Thousands In Campaign Cash From The Very Same Oil Giants That Received Leases While Zinke Was Interior Secretary

While Zinke Was Interior Secretary, ConocoPhillips, Chevron, ExxonMobil, And Marathon Oil All Received Leases For Oil Drilling Onshore Or Offshore

## During Zinke's Tenure At The Interior Department, The Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management Sold \$111,638,485 In Offshore Leasing Rights To Chevron

**2017 – 2018: Chevron USA Won 64 Bids Between Four Off-Shore Oil And Gas Lease Auctions.** According to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Chevron U.S.A. Inc. won 64 bids between off-shore oil and gas lease auctions 247, 249, 250, and 251 from 2017 – 2018. [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Lease Sale Statistics, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

<b>2017 -- 2018: Chevron &amp; Exxon Off-Shore Oil And Gas Lease Auction Winning Bids</b>			
Sale No.	Company Name	High Bids	Total Amount High Bids
247	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	20	\$35,566,603.00
249	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	15	\$27,917,668.00
250	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	24	\$29,448,882.00
251	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	5	\$18,705,332.00

[Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Lease Sale Statistics, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

## During Zinke's Tenure At The Interior Department, The Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management Sold \$82,850,900 In Offshore Leasing Rights To Exxon Mobil

**2017 – 2018: Exxon Mobil Corporation Won 51 Bids Between Three Off-Shore Oil And Gas Lease Auctions.** According to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Exxon Mobil Corporation won 51 bids between off-shore oil and gas lease auctions 247, 249, and 251 from 2017 – 2018. [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Lease Sale Statistics, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

<b>2017 -- 2018: Chevron &amp; Exxon Off-Shore Oil And Gas Lease Auction Winning Bids</b>			
Sale No.	Company Name	High Bids	Total Amount High Bids
247	Exxon Mobil Corporation	19	\$21,910,475.00
249	Exxon Mobil Corporation	7	\$20,385,425.00
251	Exxon Mobil Corporation	25	\$40,555,000.00

[Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Lease Sale Statistics, accessed [7/11/24](#)]





21st Century Exploration LLC	Hart Oil Company Inc	Raymond Oil Company Inc
3d Exploration LLC	Hat Creek Resources LLC	Rc Michael Company Inc
4x4 Energy Inc	Herbaly Exploration LLC	Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc.
5 Star Exploration LLC	Herco LLC	Red Willow Great Plains LLC
7h Energy LLC	Heritage Resources Inc	Renos Land & Minerals Co LLC
Aberdeen Petroleum LLC	High West Resources, LTD	Ridge Energy Partners LLC
Advance Energy Ptrns LLC	Highland Exploration LLC	Rio Energy LLC
Ameredev New Mexico LLC	Hilcorp Energy Company	Riverside Resources Inc
Ameredev Nm LLC	Hiline Resources LLC	Rm Oil Company LLC
American Shale Energy LLC	Hill Resources LLC	Robert A Schalla
Amy Adams	Hoover & Stacy Inc	Robert Dunbar
Anadarko E&P	HORNET ENERGY LLC	ROBERT L BAYLESS PRODUCER LLC
Anderson Oil LTD	Hrm Resources Iii LLC	Rock Creek Ranch I LTD
Annastin Energy LLC	Hunter Energy Corporation	Rockies Resources Agent Corp
Anschutz Corp	Impact Agent Co	Rockies Resources Holding LLC
Anschutz Exploration Corp	Independent Energy Partners	Rockies Standard Oil Co LLC
Antelope Energy Company LLC	International Petroleum LLC	Ronald Miles
Antelope Energy Company LLC	Interstate Exploration LLC	Roy G. Barton, Jr.
Antler Creek Land & Minerals LLC	Interwest Petroleum Corp	Royal Energy LLC
Apache Corp	Intrepid Production Corp	Rte Land Inc
Apache Corporation	Jane Swanson	Ryan Smith
Ari Kogut	Jasper Energy Resources LLC	Sage Energy Inc
Atomic Oil & Gas LLC	Jma Energy Co LLC	Sandridge Expl & Prod LLC
August Oil LLC	Johnson Exploration LLC	Sapphire Energy Company
Avinash Ahuja	Jones Energy Resources Inc	Sapphire Exploration LLC
Ayres Energy LLC	K2t2 Resources LLC	Sea Eagle Ford, LLC
Azalea Oil Co LLC	Kastleford Land Co LLC	Seven Sisters Oil & Gas LLC
Balidor Oil & Gas LLC	Kew Drilling	Shalin Shah
Baseline Minerals Inc	Kingsmill Resources, LLC	Sharbro Energy LLC
Bayou Well Service LLC	Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC	Shiloh Exploration LLC
Behm Energy, Inc.	Kkrep, LLC	Silver Energy LLC
Bissell Oil Operating Co Inc	Knox Exploration LLC	Silverbow Resources Operating, LLC
Black Hills Expl & Prod Inc	Lagrange Petroleum LLC	Skyworld Oil Nd LTD
Black Oak Energy LLC	Land Resources Usa, LLC	Slash Exploration LP
Black Tooth Exploration LLC	Larry R. Moyer Exploration, LLC	Slash Exploration LP Po
Blackbeard Operating LLC	Lawler Timothy	Slate Exploration LLC
Blue Devil Exploration, LLC	Layne Resources LLC	Smith Exploration Inc
Bmr Montana LLC	Leon Michael Wilkerson	Sonora Exploration LLC
Bold Resources, LLC	Lesrich Lane	Southern Resources LLC
Bro Energy LLC	Liberty Petroleum Corporation	Southern Royalty Company LLC
Broadway Petroleum LLC	Linn Energy Holdings LLC	Southland Royalty Company LLC
Brown Maurice W	Little Exploration LLC	Southwest Energy LLC
Browning Oil Co Inc	Logos Resources Ii LLC	Southwestern Energy
Bta Oil Producers LLC	Lonewolf Exploration & Prod	Special Energy Corp
Calm Fort Worth Ventures LLC	Lonewolf Operating, LLC	Spur Energy LLC
Canam Production LLC	Longhorn Energy LLC	St. Devote LLC
Cargo Energy Services LLC	Lowland Resources Inc	Staghorn Petroleum LLC



Caribou Land & Livestock Mt LLC	M B Resources Inc	Stanley Matzke
Carlow Exchange Properties LLC	Magnum Producing LP	Star Energy Inc
Carpenter & Sons Inc	Major Oil International LLC	Stephen Smith
Caspian Energy Inc	Marathon Oil Permian LLC	Straud Exploration Company LLC
Castleford Land Company LLC	Marshall & Winston, Inc.	Strong Petroleum LLC
Caza Petroleum LLC	Maurice W Brown O&G LLC	Summit Energy LLC
Century O&G South LLC	Mbogo Energy LLC	Sunset Exploration LLC
Chalfant Properties Inc	Mc Murray Turst Company	Sunset Production Company LLC
Chase Oil Corp	Mcdaniel Exploration LLC	Tacitus LLC
Chase Oil Corporation	Mcdonald Land Services LLC	Tap Rock Resources LLC
Cherokee Royalty LLC	Mcmahon Energy Partners, LP	Tc Craighead & Co
Chesapeake Exploration LLC	Medina Energy LLC	Teocali Energy LLC
Chevron Usa Inc	Merit Mgmt Partners Iii LP Et Al	Texas Royalty Company LLC
Chisholm Energy Agent, Inc.	Michael O'neal	The Allar Co
Cimarex Energy Co	Midstates Petroleum Company, LLC	Thunder Basin Resources LLC
Cimarex Energy Co 1700	Midway Exploration LLC	Tidewater Resources LLC
Cobra Oil & Gas Corporation	Mike Davis	Tierra Oil Co LLC
Cog Operating LLC	Missouri River Royalty Corp	Timber Exploration LLC
Colgate Production LLC	Monkota Petroleum Corp.	Titan Exploration LLC
Comanche Exploration Co LLC	Montana Resources Inc	Tk Production Co
Conocophillips	MRC Permian Company	Triad Hunter, LLC
Conocophillips Alaska, Inc.	Murchison Oil & Gas	Trident Energy LLC
Conocophillips Co	Mustang Energy LLC	Trident Oil & Gas LLC
Conquest Land Co LLC	Mystic Energy Inc	Triex Resources Inc
Contex Energy Co LLC	Name	Trinity Exploration LLC
Continental Energy Partners LLC	Nashville Exploration LLC	Triumph Exploration LLC
Continental Resources, Inc.	Navigation Petroleum LLC	Trove Energy LLC
Crow Creek Resources LLC	Navigation Powder River LLC	Trove Energy, LLC
Cypress Energy Corporation	New Century Production Co LLC	True Oil LLC
Daniel Yanke	Newcastle Resources Inc	Trujillo Ann M
Daubenergy LLC	Newfield Explrn Mid-Cont Inc	Tucson Exploration LLC
Debra S. Bohac	Newtex Partners LLC	TULSA RESOURCES INC
Delego Oil Company LLC	North American Helium	Twin Bridges Resources LLC
Dennis W. Yockim	Northstar Energy Co LLC	UNION EXPLORATION LLC
Dgp Energy LLC	Northwest Exploration LLC	United Exploration LLC
Dodson Exploration Co LLC	Northwoods Land Inc	United Natural Gas LLC
Dunlap Petroleum LLC	Novo O & G Northern Delawarll	Upl Pinedale LLC
E & B Natural Res Mgmt Corp	Oakspring Energy Holdings LLC	Valencia Rhodes
Eagle Oil & Gas Co	O'brien Energy Res Corp	Verduon Oil Ef LLC
Eastern Resources Inc	Overton Energy Inc	Vermilion Energy Usa LLC
Eclipse Resources I, LP	Oxy Usa Inc	Viking Energy LLC
Edge Petroleum LLC	Pacer Energy Acquisitions LLC	Wapiti Rocky Mountain LLC
Emerald House LLC	Pajaro Energy LLC	Warren American Oil Company
Empire Exploration LLC	Par Five Exploration LLC	Wasatch Energy Mgmt LLC
Equity Trust Company	Parker & O'connor Energy Inc	Wayne Sawka
Esco Energy Inc	Patrick Oil Company LLC	Wells Exploration LLC
Farleigh Oil Properties	Peach Exploration LLC	Wells Petroleum Inc
Featherstone Dev Corp	Peachtree Resources Inc	Western American Resources LLC







represents Gross Income to CDI before Expenses and Taxes			
CDI Client-Conoco Phillips  COMMENTS: Amount represents Gross Income to CDI before expenses and taxes	Consultant	\$220,000	\$240,000
CDI Client-Cyber Range Solutions (CRS)	Consultant	\$50,000	\$80,000
United States Navy	Retirement	\$38,000	\$36,438
US Gold Corp	Consultant	\$68,000	\$67,025
Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC	Consultant Business	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$826,000</b>	<b>\$583,463</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

## **July 2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From Nine Separate Entities, Including ConocoPhillips**

**July 2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From Nine Separate Entities, Including ConocoPhillips.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Compensation</b>	
<b>Source (Name And Address)</b>	<b>Brief Description Of Duties</b>
JVL Enterprises Dallas TX (Dallas, TX, US)	Consultant. End of Service: May 2022
CDI (Whitefish, MT, US)	Partner
Conoco Phillips (Houston, TX, US)	Consultant. End of Service: Dec 2021.
Cyber Range Solutions (CRS) (Washington DC, DC, US)	Advisor. End of Service: Dec 2021
DM Group (Las Vegas, NV, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020
US Gold Corp (Cheyenne, WY, US)	Consultant
US Trinity (FT Worth, TX, US)	Consultant End of Service: 2020
Keelen Group (Washington, DC, US)	Advisor End of Service 2020
Oasis Petroleum Company (Houston, TX, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

## **Zinke Received Thousands In Campaign Contributions From The Same Companies That His Interior Department Sold Drilling Leases To**

**Zinke's Top Donor By Employer For The 2024 Election Cycle Was ConocoPhillips, And His The Company Was His Third Largest Lifetime Donor By Employer**



**2024 Election Cycle: Zinke’s Top Donor By Employer Was ConocoPhillips, With Employees Donating \$27,425 And The Company’s PAC Donating \$5,000.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke’s top donor for the 2024 campaign cycle was ConocoPhillips, who donated \$32,425. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**Ryan Zinke**  
See Data About Their: [Federal Congressional Candidacy](#)

Summary Elections State Data Industries PACs Contributors Geography Demographics Expenditures Legislation Other Data

Now showing data for the **2024** election cycle for the **campaign committee only**

**Contributors 2023 - 2024**

Top 20 contributors to Campaign Committee [Download .csv file](#)

Top: 20

Rank	Contributor	Total	Individuals	PACs
1	ConocoPhillips	\$32,425	\$27,425	\$5,000

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Third Largest Lifetime Donor By Employer Was ConocoPhillips.** [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donors			
Contributor	Individuals	PACs	Total
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000



Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
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[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$29,000 In Contributions From Senior Employees Of ConocoPhillips.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

ConocoPhillips Employee Contributions To Zinke		
Contributor	Position	Contribution Amount
Lundquist, Andrew	Senior Vice President	\$9,500.00
Olds, Nicholas G	Evp, Global Operations	\$6,200.00
Lance, Ryan	Chairman	\$10,800.00
Leach, Timothy A. Mr.	Executive	\$2,500.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$29,000.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$7,500 In Campaign Contributions From ConocoPhillips’s PAC.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Notable PAC Contributors To Zinke	
Contributor	Total
CONOCOPHILLIPS SPIRIT PAC	\$7,500.00

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## **2021-2024: Zinke Received \$1,000 From Exxon Mobil’s PAC And \$5,000 From Chevron’s PAC**

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$1,000 From The Exxon Mobil PAC And \$5,000 From The Chevron Employees PAC.** According to the FEC, Zinke’s congressional campaigns received \$1,000 from Exxon Mobil PAC and \$5,000 from the Chevron Employees PAC from 2021 – 2024. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

2021-2024: Zinke Exxon/Chevron Contributions	
Contributor	Amount
EXXON MOBIL PAC	\$1,000.00
CHEVRON EMPLOYEES PAC	\$5,000.00

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## **2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$1,000 In Campaign Contributions From Marathon Oil’s PAC**

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$1,000 In Campaign Contributions From Marathon Oil’s PAC.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Notable PAC Contributors To Zinke	
Contributor	Total
MARATHON OIL CO EMPLOYEES PAC	\$1,000.00
CONOCOPHILLIPS SPIRIT PAC	\$7,500.00
CONOCO PHILLIPS	\$2,500.00

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## **Pay-To-Play: Zinke Was An Unprecedented Boon For The Oil And Gas Industry As Interior Secretary & The Industry Rewarded Him With Hundreds Of Thousands In Campaign Donations**

### **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Dramatically Expanded The Amount Of Public Land Leased For Onshore Drilling And Opened 90 Percent Of The Country's Offshore Areas To Offshore Drilling**

### **Press Coverage Noted That Zinke's Interior Department Moved To Rapidly Expand Onshore Drilling In Previously Off-Limits Areas By Expediting Permitting**

#### ***July 2017: Zinke Signed An Order Which Called For Faster Processing Of Oil And Gas Permitting To Clear A Backlog Of Federal Drilling Permits***

**July 2017: Zinke Accelerated Approvals For Onshore Drilling Permits.** The Denver Post reported, “With control over more than 500 million acres of public land and hundreds of millions of acres offshore, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is moving rapidly to promote American production of coal, oil and gas a critical piece of President Donald Trump’s vision for ‘making America great again.’ In the past few weeks alone, Zinke has lowered the price companies must pay the government for offshore drilling, acted to accelerate approval for onshore drilling permits, approved exploratory drilling in the Arctic’s Beaufort Sea, and scheduled lease sales on Western lands the Obama administration had deemed off limits. And Zinke’s moves have immediate impact. Whereas Trump’s ambitious plans to overhaul the tax code and renegotiate international trade pacts remain far off, and his campaign to roll back environmental regulations will take months to produce results for industry, Zinke is taking concrete action to deliver on one of Trump’s most important campaign promises.” [Denver Post, 7/21/17]

**July 2017: Zinke Signed An Order Which Called For Faster Processing Of Oil And Gas Permitting To Clear A Backlog Of Federal Drilling Permits.** The Denver Post reported, “President Donald Trump’s efforts to increase U.S. energy production got a boost Thursday from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who pledged to streamline permitting for oil and gas drilling and hold more frequent sales of drilling rights on federal lands. Zinke signed an order calling for faster and more efficient oil and gas permitting to clear a backlog of federal drilling permits in U.S. Bureau of Land Management offices out West. ‘There has to be a process that doesn’t over delay things so we can’t get anything done in this country,’ Zinke said. Federal law requires permits to be decided upon within 30 days, Zinke said, but the average wait for oil and gas companies has grown to 257 days. Backlogs of oil and gas permits awaiting approval at BLM offices in Casper, Wyoming and Vernal, Utah, have topped 500, according to the Interior Department.” [Denver Post, 7/7/17]

#### ***July 2017: Zinke Scheduled Lease Sales For Oil Drilling On Western Lands That Were Deemed Off Limits By The Obama Administration***

**July 2017: Zinke Scheduled Lease Sales For Oil Drilling On Western Lands That Were Deemed Off Limits By The Obama Administration.** The Denver Post reported, “With control over more than 500 million acres of public land and hundreds of millions of acres offshore, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is moving rapidly to promote American production of coal, oil and gas a critical piece of President Donald Trump’s vision for ‘making America great again.’ In the past few weeks alone, Zinke has lowered the price companies must pay the government for offshore drilling, acted to accelerate approval for onshore drilling permits, approved exploratory drilling in the Arctic’s Beaufort Sea, and scheduled lease sales on Western lands the Obama administration had deemed off limits. And Zinke’s moves have immediate impact. Whereas Trump’s ambitious plans to overhaul the tax code and renegotiate international trade pacts remain far off, and his campaign to roll back environmental regulations will



take months to produce results for industry, Zinke is taking concrete action to deliver on one of Trump's most important campaign promises." [Denver Post, 7/21/17]

### ***2017: Following A Meeting With An Oil And Gas Industry Association, Zinke's Interior Department Sent An "Instruction Memorandum" To Field Offices Across The Country Directing Them To Eliminate "Unnecessary Impediments And Burdens" To The Expansion Of Federal Land Leases***

**2017: The Department Of The Interior Sent An "Instruction Memorandum" To Field Offices Across The Country Directing Them To Eliminate "Unnecessary Impediments And Burdens" To The Expansion Of Federal Land Leases.** The New York Times reported, "Weeks after Mr. Trump's inauguration, senior administration aides, urged on by the industry, began to reverse the Obama-era policies, documents show. 'Yesterday afternoon we, BLM & Solicitor's Office, had a preliminary discussion on possible settlement conditions with the Western Energy Alliance,' said one February 2017 email from Kathleen Benedetto, a geologist and former executive at an oil and gas consulting firm, whom Mr. Zinke named as a senior adviser at the Bureau of Land Management. The outcome of that meeting became public this year, when the Interior Department sent a detailed 'instruction memorandum' to field offices nationwide, ordering them to eliminate 'unnecessary impediments and burdens' limiting the ability of the department to offer more land for lease. The steps included cutting down the amount of time that individual citizens or groups have to file protests challenging any oil and gas lease to 10 days, from a month. The agency also notified the Bureau of Land Management offices that they would now have no more than six months to decide on nominations by the oil and gas industry of federal land they wanted to lease. Previously, that process often took more than a year, during which the Interior Department had to decide if the land should be kept available as pristine wild lands, or designated for other uses, such as farming or hiking." [New York Times, 10/27/18]

- **The Policy Change Followed A Department-Wide Meeting With The Western Energy Alliance, A Trade Association Representing Oil And Gas Companies.** The New York Times reported, "Weeks after Mr. Trump's inauguration, senior administration aides, urged on by the industry, began to reverse the Obama-era policies, documents show. 'Yesterday afternoon we, BLM & Solicitor's Office, had a preliminary discussion on possible settlement conditions with the Western Energy Alliance,' said one February 2017 email from Kathleen Benedetto, a geologist and former executive at an oil and gas consulting firm, whom Mr. Zinke named as a senior adviser at the Bureau of Land Management. The outcome of that meeting became public this year, when the Interior Department sent a detailed 'instruction memorandum' to field offices nationwide, ordering them to eliminate 'unnecessary impediments and burdens' limiting the ability of the department to offer more land for lease. The steps included cutting down the amount of time that individual citizens or groups have to file protests challenging any oil and gas lease to 10 days, from a month. The agency also notified the Bureau of Land Management offices that they would now have no more than six months to decide on nominations by the oil and gas industry of federal land they wanted to lease. Previously, that process often took more than a year, during which the Interior Department had to decide if the land should be kept available as pristine wild lands, or designated for other uses, such as farming or hiking." [New York Times, 10/27/18]

### ***January-July 2018: Oil Production On Federal Lands Increased 25 Percent Compared To 2016, Driven By An Expansion Of Federal Lease Sales For Oil, Gas, And Coal By The Interior Department***

**January-July 2018: Oil Production On Federal Lands Increased 25 Percent Compared To 2016, Driven By An Expansion Of Federal Lease Sales For Oil, Gas, And Coal By The Interior Department.** The New York Times reported, "Nationally, oil production on federal lands is rising at an extraordinary pace, jumping 25 percent in the first seven months of this year compared with 2016, the last year of the Obama administration. That boom has driven up government revenue from lease sales and royalties collected from oil and gas production on federal lands, which is shared with the states. Wyoming received \$669 million from federal oil, gas and coal sales last year,





money it uses to help pay for its schools, roads and other needs. One federal lease sale in New Mexico last month brought in nearly \$1 billion worth of bids, more than the total lease sale revenue from all sales nationwide in 2017. ‘This historic lease sale shows what is possible when we leverage the vast natural resources we have in our country, using innovation, best science and best practices,’ Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in September, celebrating the result of that particular lease sale, adding that critics of the Trump administration’s efforts to increase energy production ‘are eating their words and once again President Trump’s policies are bearing fruit for the American people.’ But the Interior Department has offered so much land through auctions in the last two years that the majority have failed to attract any bidders. Even so, the overall amount of land actually leased — in deals signed with oil and gas companies or investors — was 1.2 million acres in 2017, according to the agency, more than double the amount from the previous year, and reached 1.35 million acres this year.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

- **September 2018: Zinke Said That Critics Of The Lease Sales Were “Eating Their Words And Once Again President Trump’s Policies Are Bearing Fruit For The American People.”** The New York Times reported, “Nationally, oil production on federal lands is rising at an extraordinary pace, jumping 25 percent in the first seven months of this year compared with 2016, the last year of the Obama administration. That boom has driven up government revenue from lease sales and royalties collected from oil and gas production on federal lands, which is shared with the states. Wyoming received \$669 million from federal oil, gas and coal sales last year, money it uses to help pay for its schools, roads and other needs. One federal lease sale in New Mexico last month brought in nearly \$1 billion worth of bids, more than the total lease sale revenue from all sales nationwide in 2017. ‘This historic lease sale shows what is possible when we leverage the vast natural resources we have in our country, using innovation, best science and best practices,’ Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in September, celebrating the result of that particular lease sale, adding that critics of the Trump administration’s efforts to increase energy production ‘are eating their words and once again President Trump’s policies are bearing fruit for the American people.’ But the Interior Department has offered so much land through auctions in the last two years that the majority have failed to attract any bidders. Even so, the overall amount of land actually leased — in deals signed with oil and gas companies or investors — was 1.2 million acres in 2017, according to the agency, more than double the amount from the previous year, and reached 1.35 million acres this year.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

## **2017-2018: Zinke Offered 11.9 Million Acres Of Public Land For Oil And Gas Lease Sales in 2017, A Six Fold Increase Over The Previous Year’s 1.9 Million, And Offered Nearly 5 Million Acres For Sale In 2018**

### ***2017: 11,859,396 Acres Of Land Were Offered During Bureau Of Land Management Lease Sales, With At Least 792,823 Acres Of Land Receiving Bids***

**2017: 11,859,396 Acres Of Land Were Offered During Bureau Of Land Management Lease Sales, With At Least 792,823 Acres Of Land Receiving Bids.** According to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 11,859,396 acres of land were offered at competitive oil and gas lease sale auctions and 792,823 of those acres received bids during calendar year 2017. [U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Acres Offered for Lease and Acres Sold, [2009 – 2017](#)]

**Acres Offered for Lease and Acres Sold, Calendar Years 2009-2017**

This table shows total number of acres offered at competitive oil and gas lease sale auctions since January 1, 2009. It also shows how many of those acres received bids.

Calendar Year	Acres Offered on Day of Sale	Acres Receiving Bids
2009	2,916,200	1,023,875
2010*	3,216,288	777,488
2011	4,389,439	1,096,633
2012	6,054,879	1,442,831
2013	5,740,466	1,081,966
2014	4,132,137	748,764
2015	2,260,883	523,811
2016	1,946,953	921,240
2017	11,859,396	792,823

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Acres Offered for Lease and Acres Sold, [2009 – 2017](#)]

***2018: 4,998,355 Acres Of Land Were Offered At Bureau Of Land Management Lease Sales, With At Least 1,488,300 Acres Of Land Receiving Bids'***

**2018: 4,998,355 Acres Of Land Were Offered At Bureau Of Land Management Lease Sales, With At Least 1,488,300 Acres Of Land Receiving Bids.** According to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, via the Internet Archives, 4,998,355 acres of land were offered at competitive oil and gas lease sale auctions and 1,488,300 of those acres received bids during calendar year 2018. [U.S. Bureau of Land Management via the Internet Archives, Acres Offered for Lease and Acres Sold, archived [5/2/19](#)]

Table 11 Acreage Offered at Competitive Sale Auctions Since January 1, 2009

**Acres Offered for Lease and Acres Sold, Calendar Years 2009-2018**

Calendar Year	Acres Offered on Day of Sale	Acres Receiving Bids
2009	2,916,200	1,109,583
2010*	3,216,288	777,486
2011	4,389,439	1,095,298
2012	6,054,879	1,442,830
2013	5,740,466	1,081,965
2014	4,132,137	748,764
2015	2,260,883	523,811
2016	1,946,953	921,240
2017	11,859,396	792,823
2018	4,998,355	1,488,300

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management via the Internet Archives, Acres Offered for Lease and Acres Sold, archived [5/2/19](#)]

***Had More Companies Bid On The Offerings Made By Zinke’s Interior Department, Zinke’s Dramatic Expansion On Onshore Leasing Offerings Could Have Increased The Number Of Acres Under Lease By Nearly 50 Percent, As Only 27 Million Acres Were Leased In Early 2018***

**In His First Year In Office, Zinke Increased The Number Of Acres Offered For Oil And Gas Leasing From 1.9 Million To 11.9 Million Acres – A Six-Fold Increase.** According to a press release from the Natural Resources Defense Council, “Number of coastal states in the United States facing offshore oil drilling lease sales: all 22 of them Percentage of waters of the outer continental shelf blocked from oil drilling under the Obama administration: 94 percent. Percentage of those waters opened to drilling by Zinke in 2017: 90 percent Total acres of public land offered for oil and gas leasing under the Obama administration in 2016: 1,946,953. Acres of public





Anderson Oil LTD	Hrm Resources Iii LLC	Rock Creek Ranch I LTD
Annastin Energy LLC	Hunter Energy Corporation	Rockies Resources Agent Corp
Anschutz Corp	Impact Agent Co	Rockies Resources Holding LLC
Anschutz Exploration Corp	Independent Energy Partners	Rockies Standard Oil Co LLC
Antelope Energy Company LLC	International Petroleum LLC	Ronald Miles
Antelope Energy Company LLC	Interstate Exploration LLC	Roy G. Barton, Jr.
Antler Creek Land & Minerals LLC	Interwest Petroleum Corp	Royal Energy LLC
Apache Corp	Intrepid Production Corp	Rte Land Inc
Apache Corporation	Jane Swanson	Ryan Smith
Ari Kogut	Jasper Energy Resources LLC	Sage Energy Inc
Atomic Oil & Gas LLC	Jma Energy Co LLC	Sandridge Expl & Prod LLC
August Oil LLC	Johnson Exploration LLC	Sapphire Energy Company
Avinash Ahuja	Jones Energy Resources Inc	Sapphire Exploration LLC
Ayres Energy LLC	K2t2 Resources LLC	Sea Eagle Ford, LLC
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Bayou Well Service LLC	Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC	Shiloh Exploration LLC
Behm Energy, Inc.	Kkrep, LLC	Silver Energy LLC
Bissell Oil Operating Co Inc	Knox Exploration LLC	Silverbow Resources Operating, LLC
Black Hills Expl & Prod Inc	Lagrange Petroleum LLC	Skyworld Oil Nd LTD
Black Oak Energy LLC	Land Resources Usa, LLC	Slash Exploration LP
Black Tooth Exploration LLC	Larry R. Moyer Exploration, LLC	Slash Exploration LP Po
Blackbeard Operating LLC	Lawler Timothy	Slate Exploration LLC
Blue Devil Exploration, LLC	Layne Resources LLC	Smith Exploration Inc
Bmr Montana LLC	Leon Michael Wilkerson	Sonora Exploration LLC
Bold Resources, LLC	Lesrich Lane	Southern Resources LLC
Bro Energy LLC	Liberty Petroleum Corporation	Southern Royalty Company LLC
Broadway Petroleum LLC	Linn Energy Holdings LLC	Southland Royalty Company LLC
Brown Maurice W	Little Exploration LLC	Southwest Energy LLC
Browning Oil Co Inc	Logos Resources Ii LLC	Southwestern Energy
Bta Oil Producers LLC	Lonewolf Exploration & Prod	Special Energy Corp
Calm Fort Worth Ventures LLC	Lonewolf Operating, LLC	Spur Energy LLC
Canam Production LLC	Longhorn Energy LLC	St. Devote LLC
Cargo Energy Services LLC	Lowland Resources Inc	Staghorn Petroleum LLC
Caribou Land & Livestock Mt LLC	M B Resources Inc	Stanley Matzke
Carlow Exchange Properties LLC	Magnum Producing LP	Star Energy Inc
Carpenter & Sons Inc	Major Oil International LLC	Stephen Smith
Caspian Energy Inc	Marathon Oil Permian LLC	Straud Exploration Company LLC
Castleford Land Company LLC	Marshall & Winston, Inc.	Strong Petroleum LLC
Caza Petroleum LLC	Maurice W Brown O&G LLC	Summit Energy LLC
Century O&G South LLC	Mbogo Energy LLC	Sunset Exploration LLC
Chalfant Properties Inc	Mc Murray Trust Company	Sunset Production Company LLC
Chase Oil Corp	Mcdaniel Exploration LLC	Tacitus LLC
Chase Oil Corporation	Mcdonald Land Services LLC	Tap Rock Resources LLC
Cherokee Royalty LLC	Mcmahon Energy Partners, LP	Tc Craighead & Co
Chesapeake Exploration LLC	Medina Energy LLC	Teocali Energy LLC
Chevron Usa Inc	Merit Mgmt Partners Iii LP Et Al	Texas Royalty Company LLC
Chisholm Energy Agent, Inc.	Michael O'neal	The Allar Co



Cimarex Energy Co	Midstates Petroleum Company, LLC	Thunder Basin Resources LLC
Cimarex Energy Co 1700	Midway Exploration LLC	Tidewater Resources LLC
Cobra Oil & Gas Corporation	Mike Davis	Tierra Oil Co LLC
Cog Operating LLC	Missouri River Royalty Corp	Timber Exploration LLC
Colgate Production LLC	Monkota Petroleum Corp.	Titan Exploration LLC
Comanche Exploration Co LLC	Montana Resources Inc	Tk Production Co
Conocophillips	MRC Permian Company	Triad Hunter, LLC
Conocophillips Alaska, Inc.	Murchison Oil & Gas	Trident Energy LLC
Conocophillips Co	Mustang Energy LLC	Trident Oil & Gas LLC
Conquest Land Co LLC	Mystic Energy Inc	Triex Resources Inc
Contex Energy Co LLC	Name	Trinity Exploration LLC
Continental Energy Partners LLC	Nashville Exploration LLC	Triumph Exploration LLC
Continental Resources, Inc.	Navigation Petroleum LLC	Trove Energy LLC
Crow Creek Resources LLC	Navigation Powder River LLC	Trove Energy, LLC
Cypress Energy Corporation	New Century Production Co LLC	True Oil LLC
Daniel Yanke	Newcastle Resources Inc	Trujillo Ann M
Daubenergy LLC	Newfield Explrn Mid-Cont Inc	Tucson Exploration LLC
Debra S. Bohac	Newtex Partners LLC	TULSA RESOURCES INC
Delego Oil Company LLC	North American Helium	Twin Bridges Resources LLC
Dennis W. Yockim	Northstar Energy Co LLC	UNION EXPLORATION LLC
Dgp Energy LLC	Northwest Exploration LLC	United Exploration LLC
Dodson Exploration Co LLC	Northwoods Land Inc	United Natural Gas LLC
Dunlap Petroleum LLC	Novo O & G Northern Delawarll	Upl Pinedale LLC
E & B Natural Res Mgmt Corp	Oakspring Energy Holdings LLC	Valencia Rhodes
Eagle Oil & Gas Co	O'brien Energy Res Corp	Verduon Oil Ef LLC
Eastern Resources Inc	Overton Energy Inc	Vermilion Energy Usa LLC
Eclipse Resources I, LP	Oxy Usa Inc	Viking Energy LLC
Edge Petroleum LLC	Pacer Energy Acquisitions LLC	Wapiti Rocky Mountain LLC
Emerald House LLC	Pajaro Energy LLC	Warren American Oil Company
Empire Exploration LLC	Par Five Exploration LLC	Wasatch Energy Mgmt LLC
Equity Trust Company	Parker & O'connor Energy Inc	Wayne Sawka
Esco Energy Inc	Patrick Oil Company LLC	Wells Exploration LLC
Farleigh Oil Properties	Peach Exploration LLC	Wells Petroleum Inc
Featherstone Dev Corp	Peachtree Resources Inc	Western American Resources LLC
Featherstone Development Corporation	Peak Powder River Acq Res LLC	Western Natural Gas
Federal Abstract Company	Peak Powder River Res LLC	Western Resources Inc
Finley Resources Inc	Percheron Pro Services LLC	Westport Exploration LLC
Fitzsimmons LLC	Percheron Professional Holdings LLC	White Eagle Exploration Inc
Flat Creek Resources, LLC	Percheron Professional LLC	Wilcox Oil & Gas Inc
Flat Rock Development	Percussion Petroleum, LLC	Winchester Energy LLC
Franklin Mountain Energy, LLC	Petra Resources LLC	Windy Hill Exploration LLC
G2 Land Services	Petro-Hunt, LLC	Winfield Exploration LLC
Gainesville Resources Inc	Pheoknix Oil And Gas LLC	Winston Exploration LLC
Garfield Energy LLC	Philip L White	Wolverine Energy LLC
Gary M Guerrieri	Phoenix Oil And Gas LLC	Woodland Exploration LLC
Geospectrum Inc	Piedmont Resources, LLC	Wrangler Energy LLC
Global Energy Resources LLC	Pine Haven Resources LLC	Wyoming Resources LLC







247	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	\$2,129,637.74	\$2,129,637.74	\$0.00
249	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	\$1,663,252.50	\$1,663,252.50	\$0.00
250	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	\$20,068,202.00	\$20,068,202.00	\$0.00
251	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	\$16,639,314.00	\$12,571,230.00	\$4,068,084.00
247	Byron Energy Inc	\$561,108.00	\$561,108.00	\$0.00
249	Byron Energy Inc.	\$142,222.00	\$142,222.00	\$0.00
250	Byron Energy Inc.	\$2,610,082.00	\$2,610,082.00	\$0.00
251	Byron Energy Inc.	\$406,593.00	\$406,593.00	\$0.00
250	Cantium, LLC	\$301,175.00	\$301,175.00	\$0.00
250	Castex Offshore, Inc.	\$260,247.49	\$260,247.49	\$0.00
251	Castex Offshore, Inc.	\$224,485.71	\$224,485.71	\$0.00
247	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	\$50,033,872.00	\$35,566,603.00	\$14,467,269.00
249	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	\$31,053,098.00	\$27,917,668.00	\$3,135,430.00
250	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	\$36,643,507.00	\$29,448,882.00	\$7,194,625.00
251	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	\$18,705,332.00	\$18,705,332.00	\$0.00
251	CL&F Offshore LLC	\$199,455.40	\$78,480.00	\$120,975.40
247	Cobalt International Energy, L.P.	\$4,076,557.67	\$2,816,492.00	\$1,260,065.67
249	Cobalt International Energy, L.P.	\$3,533,412.00	\$0.00	\$3,533,412.00
249	Cretaceous LLC	\$70,416.00	\$70,416.00	\$0.00
249	Deep Gulf Energy III, LLC	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00
250	Deep Gulf Energy III, LLC	\$1,577,000.00	\$1,577,000.00	\$0.00
251	Deep Gulf Energy III, LLC	\$6,674,145.72	\$5,533,710.22	\$1,140,435.50
250	Dorado Deep GP, LLC	\$71,627.81	\$71,627.81	\$0.00
251	Dorado Deep GP, LLC	\$18,065.80	\$18,065.80	\$0.00
249	Ecopetrol America Inc.	\$460,000.00	\$460,000.00	\$0.00
251	Ecopetrol America Inc.	\$3,908,000.00	\$3,908,000.00	\$0.00
250	EnVen Energy Ventures, LLC	\$5,263,438.00	\$4,662,153.00	\$601,285.00
251	EnVen Energy Ventures, LLC	\$2,160,000.00	\$2,160,000.00	\$0.00
251	Equinor Gulf of Mexico LLC	\$17,949,999.50	\$13,224,671.50	\$4,725,328.00



247	Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$21,910,475.00	\$21,910,475.00	\$0.00
249	Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$21,012,200.00	\$20,385,425.00	\$626,775.00
250	Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$2,167,760.00	\$0.00	\$2,167,760.00
251	Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$42,932,880.00	\$40,555,000.00	\$2,377,880.00
251	Fieldwood Energy LLC	\$1,584,362.50	\$1,584,362.50	\$0.00
249	Fieldwood Energy Offshore LLC	\$765,000.00	\$765,000.00	\$0.00
250	Fieldwood Energy Offshore LLC	\$150,150.50	\$150,150.50	\$0.00
250	Focus Exploration, LLC	\$530,293.69	\$530,293.69	\$0.00
250	GOME 1271 LLC	\$396,852.71	\$396,852.71	\$0.00
251	GOME 1271 LLC	\$313,959.48	\$313,959.48	\$0.00
249	GulfSlope Energy, Inc.	\$131,989.00	\$131,989.00	\$0.00
251	GulfSlope Energy, Inc.	\$322,022.00	\$322,022.00	\$0.00
247	Hess Corporation	\$44,969,487.00	\$43,873,740.00	\$1,095,747.00
250	Hess Corporation	\$7,025,112.00	\$4,524,223.00	\$2,500,889.00
251	Hess Corporation	\$38,507,672.50	\$36,178,320.50	\$2,329,352.00
244	Hilcorp Alaska, LLC	\$3,034,815.00	\$3,034,815.00	\$0.00
247	Houston Energy, L.P.	\$2,239,847.75	\$2,082,090.15	\$157,757.60
249	Houston Energy, L.P.	\$444,976.38	\$444,976.38	\$0.00
250	Houston Energy, L.P.	\$1,099,221.29	\$1,077,999.09	\$21,222.20
251	Houston Energy, L.P.	\$3,042,003.05	\$1,418,919.89	\$1,623,083.17
249	LLOG Bluewater Holdings, L.L.C.	\$2,649,279.00	\$2,649,279.00	\$0.00
250	LLOG Bluewater Holdings, L.L.C.	\$435,555.45	\$435,555.45	\$0.00
247	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	\$8,166,146.70	\$3,279,523.50	\$4,886,623.20
249	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	\$1,604,658.50	\$1,604,658.50	\$0.00
250	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	\$5,044,665.50	\$4,620,221.50	\$424,444.00
251	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	\$4,089,333.50	\$912,888.50	\$3,176,445.00
251	Murphy Exploration & Production Compa	\$359,685.20	\$359,685.20	\$0.00



249	Murphy Exploration & Production Company	\$512,807.50	\$512,807.50	\$0.00
250	Murphy Exploration & Production Company	\$731,500.00	\$369,000.00	\$362,500.00
249	Peregrine Oil & Gas II, LLC	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	\$0.00
251	Peregrine Oil & Gas II, LLC	\$254,900.00	\$254,900.00	\$0.00
247	Red Willow Offshore, LLC	\$1,804,969.45	\$1,489,454.25	\$315,515.20
249	Red Willow Offshore, LLC	\$575,355.44	\$575,355.44	\$0.00
250	Red Willow Offshore, LLC	\$512,721.36	\$311,110.46	\$201,610.90
251	Red Willow Offshore, LLC	\$1,680,655.29	\$1,155,432.79	\$525,222.50
250	Renaissance Offshore, LLC	\$128,500.00	\$128,500.00	\$0.00
249	Repsol E&P USA Inc.	\$460,000.00	\$460,000.00	\$0.00
247	Reserves Management, L.C.	\$158,000.00	\$158,000.00	\$0.00
247	Ridgewood Energy Corporation	\$4,773,961.80	\$4,773,961.80	\$0.00
249	Ridgewood Energy Corporation	\$1,422,188.69	\$1,422,188.69	\$0.00
250	Ridgewood Energy Corporation	\$201,610.90	\$0.00	\$201,610.90
251	Ridgewood Energy Corporation	\$1,059,871.91	\$1,059,871.91	\$0.00
250	SDB Offshore Energy, LLC	\$1,048,320.00	\$1,048,320.00	\$0.00
251	SDB Offshore Energy, LLC	\$299,520.00	\$299,520.00	\$0.00
247	Shell Offshore Inc.	\$61,220,537.00	\$55,856,380.00	\$5,364,157.00
249	Shell Offshore Inc.	\$32,462,955.00	\$25,096,163.00	\$7,366,792.00
250	Shell Offshore Inc.	\$22,931,808.00	\$22,931,808.00	\$0.00
251	Shell Offshore Inc.	\$7,207,952.00	\$6,305,964.00	\$901,988.00
247	Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC	\$51,282,640.00	\$44,500,688.00	\$6,781,952.00
249	Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC	\$4,999,904.00	\$4,999,904.00	\$0.00
250	Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC	\$4,030,280.00	\$4,030,280.00	\$0.00
249	Stone Energy Offshore, L.L.C.	\$512,807.50	\$512,807.50	\$0.00
250	Stone Energy Offshore, L.L.C.	\$1,214,000.00	\$851,500.00	\$362,500.00



250	Talos Energy Offshore LLC	\$822,920.50	\$822,920.50	\$0.00
251	Talos Energy Offshore LLC	\$5,272,978.00	\$5,272,978.00	\$0.00
249	TOPCO OFFSHORE, LLC	\$134,134.00	\$134,134.00	\$0.00
250	TOPCO OFFSHORE, LLC	\$135,599.31	\$135,599.31	\$0.00
247	TOTAL E&P USA, INC.	\$16,210,651.33	\$15,000,000.00	\$1,210,651.33
249	TOTAL E&P USA, INC.	\$18,000,000.00	\$16,799,283.00	\$1,200,717.00
250	TOTAL E&P USA, INC.	\$15,106,525.00	\$15,106,525.00	\$0.00
251	TOTAL E&P USA, INC.	\$7,551,142.00	\$5,800,786.00	\$1,750,356.00
250	Venari Offshore LLC	\$529,021.50	\$208,666.50	\$320,355.00
250	W & T Energy VI, LLC	\$141,800.00	\$141,800.00	\$0.00
249	W & T Offshore, Inc.	\$125,063.00	\$125,063.00	\$0.00
250	W & T Offshore, Inc.	\$797,700.00	\$797,700.00	\$0.00
251	W & T Offshore, Inc.	\$825,750.00	\$825,750.00	\$0.00
247	Walter Oil & Gas Corporation	\$6,268,088.00	\$6,268,088.00	\$0.00
250	Walter Oil & Gas Corporation	\$652,400.00	\$652,400.00	\$0.00
251	Walter Oil & Gas Corporation	\$5,397,050.00	\$5,397,050.00	\$0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$688,657,749.32</b>	

[Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, accessed [7/14/24](#); [7/14/24](#); [7/14/24](#); [7/14/24](#); [7/14/24](#)]

## ***Zinke Opened All 22 Coastal U.S. States To Offshore Drilling And Opened 90 Percent Of The Outer Continental Shelf To Drilling***

**In His First Year In Office, Zinke Opened All 22 Coastal U.S. States To Offshore Drilling And Opened 90 Percent Of The Outer Continental Shelf To Drilling.** According to a press release from the Natural Resources Defense Council, “Number of coastal states in the United States facing offshore oil drilling lease sales: all 22 of them Percentage of waters of the outer continental shelf blocked from oil drilling under the Obama administration: 94 percent. Percentage of those waters opened to drilling by Zinke in 2017: 90 percent Total acres of public land offered for oil and gas leasing under the Obama administration in 2016: 1,946,953. Acres of public land offered for leasing under Zinke in 2017: 11,859,396—about the combined size of Maryland and New Hampshire Increase in public land acres offered for oil and gas leasing between 2016 and 2017: 6 times Acres of public land currently under lease for oil and gas drilling: 27,207,018 Minimum bid per acre offered by oil and gas companies to secure a lease on public lands: \$2 (price of a Dunkin’ Donuts large coffee: \$2.09).” [Natural Resources Defense Council, Press Release, [2/26/18](#)]





## ***2017: Zinke Lowered The Price Companies Were Required To Pay The Government For Offshore Drilling And Later Announced The Largest Offshore Oil And Gas Lease Sale In American History, At 77 Million Acres***

**July 2017: Zinke Lowered The Price Companies Were Required To Pay The Government For Offshore Drilling.** The Denver Post reported, “With control over more than 500 million acres of public land and hundreds of millions of acres offshore, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is moving rapidly to promote American production of coal, oil and gas a critical piece of President Donald Trump’s vision for ‘making America great again.’ In the past few weeks alone, Zinke has lowered the price companies must pay the government for offshore drilling, acted to accelerate approval for onshore drilling permits, approved exploratory drilling in the Arctic’s Beaufort Sea, and scheduled lease sales on Western lands the Obama administration had deemed off limits. And Zinke’s moves have immediate impact. Whereas Trump’s ambitious plans to overhaul the tax code and renegotiate international trade pacts remain far off, and his campaign to roll back environmental regulations will take months to produce results for industry, Zinke is taking concrete action to deliver on one of Trump’s most important campaign promises.” [Denver Post, 7/21/17]

**November 2017: The Trump Administration Announced The Largest Gulf Lease Offering For Oil And Gas Exploration In American History, Which Was 77 Million Acres.** The Denver Post reported, “Drilling platforms dot the Gulf of Mexico, where the fossil fuel industry has extracted oil and gas for decades. But the Trump administration wanted to make history. In early November, it did so by announcing the largest gulf lease offering for oil and gas exploration in U.S. history: 77 million acres. The move was consistent with Trump’s push for ‘energy dominance.’ He and Zinke are also opening more land to coal excavation in the West. One of Zinke’s first acts as interior secretary was to remove a bright and colorful picture of a western landscape from the Bureau of Land Management’s website and replace it with a black wall of coal. Is drilling in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge next?” [Denver Post, 12/28/17]

## ***Zinke Ignited A Political Firestorm By Opening Effectively Every Coastal Area To Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling, Trying To Exempt Florida, And Then Being Forced To Retract The Exemption After Protests From Nearly Every Coastal-State Governor***

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## ***2018: Zinke’s Interior Department Opened More Than A Billion Acres Of Offshore Areas For Oil And Gas Drilling, Including 90 Percent Of The Outer Continental Shelf***

**January 2018: The Trump Administration Announced Plans To Allow New Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling In Nearly All Coastal Waters, Opening Up More Than A Billion Acres For Drilling In The Arctic, Off The Shore Of California, And Along The Eastern Seaboard.** The New York Times reported, “The Trump administration said Thursday it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, giving energy companies access to leases off California for the first time in decades and opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic and along the Eastern Seaboard. The proposal lifts a ban on such drilling imposed by President Barack Obama near the end of his term and would deal a serious blow to his environmental legacy. It would also signal that the Trump administration is not done unraveling environmental restrictions in an effort to promote energy production. While the plan puts the administration squarely on the side of the energy industry and against environmental groups, it also puts the White House at odds with a number of coastal states that oppose offshore drilling. Some of those states are led by Republicans, like Gov. Rick Scott of Florida, where the tourism industry was hit hard by the Deepwater Horizon rig disaster in 2010 that killed 11 people and spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

- **New York Times: “The Proposal Lifts A Ban On Such Drilling Imposed By President Barack Obama Near The End Of His Term And Would Deal A Serious Blow To His Environmental Legacy.”** The New York Times reported, “The Trump administration said Thursday it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, giving energy companies access to leases off California for the first time in decades and opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic and along the Eastern Seaboard. The proposal lifts a ban on such drilling imposed by President Barack Obama near the end of his term and would deal a serious blow to his environmental legacy. It would also signal that the Trump administration is not done unraveling environmental restrictions in an effort to promote energy production. While the plan puts the administration squarely on the side of the energy industry and against environmental groups, it also puts the White House at odds with a number of coastal states that oppose offshore drilling. Some of those states are led by Republicans, like Gov. Rick Scott of Florida, where the tourism industry was hit hard by the Deepwater Horizon rig disaster in 2010 that killed 11 people and spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

**January 2018: The Interior Department Proposed Opening 25 Of 26 Regions Of The Outer Continental Shelf To New Oil And Gas Drilling, Making 90 Percent Of The Area Available For Leasing.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke said the drilling plan was part of ‘a new path for energy dominance in America,’ but said he planned to speak with Governor Scott and other state leaders before the proposal was finalized. ‘It’s not going to be done overnight,’ he said. Oil industry leaders cheered the reversal, calling it long overdue. ‘I think the default should be that all of our offshore areas should be available,’ said Thomas J. Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance. ‘These are our lands. They’re taxpayer-owned and they should be made available.’ The Obama administration blocked drilling on about 94 percent of the outer continental shelf, the submerged offshore area between state coastal waters and the deep ocean. Mr. Zinke charged that those restrictions had cost the United States billions of dollars in lost revenue and said the new proposal would make about 90 percent of those waters available for leasing. The Interior Department would open 25 of 26 regions of the outer continental shelf, leaving only the North Aleutian Basin — which President George Bush protected in an executive order — exempted from drilling.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

- **January 2018: Zinke Said That The New Oil And Gas Drilling Plans Were A Part Of “A New Path For Energy Dominance In America.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke said the drilling plan was part of ‘a new path for energy dominance in America,’ but said he planned to speak with Governor Scott and other state leaders before the proposal was finalized. ‘It’s not going to be done overnight,’ he said. Oil industry leaders cheered the reversal, calling it long overdue. ‘I think the default should be that all of our offshore areas should be available,’ said Thomas J. Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance. ‘These are our lands. They’re taxpayer-owned and they should be made available.’ The Obama administration blocked drilling on about 94 percent of the outer continental shelf, the submerged offshore area between state coastal waters and the deep ocean. Mr. Zinke charged that those restrictions had cost the United States billions of dollars in lost revenue and said the new proposal would make about 90 percent of those waters available for leasing. The Interior Department would open 25 of 26 regions of the outer continental shelf, leaving only the North Aleutian Basin — which President George Bush protected in an executive order — exempted from drilling.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]
- **January 2018: Zinke Said That The New Oil And Gas Drilling Plan Would Commit 90 Percent Of Offshore Reserves To Leasing.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “The Trump administration, inviting a political backlash from coastal state leaders, on Thursday proposed to open for exploration the largest expanse of the nation’s offshore oil and natural gas reserves ever offered to global energy companies, including waters off the coast of California. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said the draft five-year leasing plan would commit 90% of the nation’s offshore reserves to leasing, including areas off all three regions of the California coast that have been off-limits to oil and gas exploration since the Reagan administration. The draft plan, now subject to review and debate, would allow the first new federal lease sales off California since 1984. It sparked immediate fury from Democratic leaders up and down the West Coast.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/5/18]



**January 2018: The Interior Department Proposed Allowing Offshore Drilling Along The Entire American Coastline.** The New York Times reported, “In January, the Interior Department proposed opening up almost the entire American coastline to offshore drilling.” [New York Times, 12/6/18]

### ***January 2018: Zinke Ruled Out Drilling Off The Coast Of Florida From The Trump Administration’s Decision To Allow Offshore Drilling In Nearly All Coastal Waters***

**2018: Zinke Announced In A Press Conference That Offshore Drilling In Florida Was “Off The Table.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Rooney said a permanent offshore drilling ban would clear up confusion for Floridians after former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced in a 2018 Tallahassee press conference that offshore drilling in Florida was ‘off the table.’ Zinke’s surprise announcement, which was coordinated with then-Gov. Scott four months before he announced a bid for U.S. Senate, set off criticism that political considerations were behind the Florida exemption, as President Trump announced plans to expand offshore drilling in other parts of the country.” [Miami Herald, 9/11/19]

- **January 2018 – Zinke: “I Support The Governor’s Position That Florida Is Unique And Its Coasts Are Heavily Reliant On Tourism As An Economic Driver. I Am Removing Florida From Consideration For Any New Oil And Gas Platforms.”** The New York Times reported, “The Trump administration said Tuesday it had ruled out drilling for oil and gas off the coast of Florida after strong opposition from the state’s Republican governor, Rick Scott. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke moved last week to allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic, Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico to potential leases. The decision prompted an outcry from Republican and Democratic governors alike on both coasts. ‘I support the governor’s position that Florida is unique and its coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an economic driver,’ Mr. Zinke said in a statement after meeting Governor Scott in Florida. ‘I am removing Florida from consideration for any new oil and gas platforms.’ Mr. Zinke’s reversal underscored the deep unpopularity of a plan that would undo one of the environmental legacies of the Obama administration. But the administration’s proposal is also a signal that President Trump is not done rolling back environmental restrictions to bolster domestic energy production.” [New York Times, 1/9/18]
- **Zinke’s Pledge Came A Few Days After The Trump Administration Announced That It Would Allow Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling In Coastal Waters, Including The Gulf Of Mexico.** According to the Tampa Bay Times Editorial Board, “But the Trump administration’s announcement in January 2018 that it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all U.S. coastal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico, reflects the inadequacy of a temporary ban. Only a permanent exclusion gives Florida the certainty it needs while establishing a reliable corridor for military training. The legislation also removes a cloud of uncertainty stemming from the assurances of then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, only days after the administration announced its drilling plan, that Florida would be off the table. Skeptics saw the move as a political attempt by the Trump administration to help then-Gov. Scott in his winning campaign to unseat Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson. Motivations aside, Zinke’s pledge was never codified into policy, and Florida’s status remains unsettled.” [Tampa Bay Times, Editorial, 9/17/19]
- **Zinke’s Carveout For Florida Was Criticized As A Political Attempt To Help Rick Scott Win His Senate Campaign Against Then-Incumbent Bill Nelson.** According to the Tampa Bay Times Editorial Board, “But the Trump administration’s announcement in January 2018 that it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all U.S. coastal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico, reflects the inadequacy of a temporary ban. Only a permanent exclusion gives Florida the certainty it needs while establishing a reliable corridor for military training. The legislation also removes a cloud of uncertainty stemming from the assurances of then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, only days after the administration announced its drilling plan, that Florida would be off the table. Skeptics saw the move as a political attempt by the Trump administration to help then-Gov. Scott in his winning campaign to unseat Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson. Motivations aside, Zinke’s

pledge was never codified into policy, and Florida's status remains unsettled." [Tampa Bay Times, Editorial, 9/17/19]

- **Zinke's Pledge Was Nonbinding, Leaving Confusion Over What The Administration's Policy Towards Florida Was.** According to the Tampa Bay Times Editorial Board, "But the Trump administration's announcement in January 2018 that it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all U.S. coastal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico, reflects the inadequacy of a temporary ban. Only a permanent exclusion gives Florida the certainty it needs while establishing a reliable corridor for military training. The legislation also removes a cloud of uncertainty stemming from the assurances of then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, only days after the administration announced its drilling plan, that Florida would be off the table. Skeptics saw the move as a political attempt by the Trump administration to help then-Gov. Scott in his winning campaign to unseat Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson. Motivations aside, Zinke's pledge was never codified into policy, and Florida's status remains unsettled." [Tampa Bay Times, Editorial, 9/17/19]
- **Zinke Later Backtracked His Pledge.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "That alone is a shift for this administration, which only a few years ago announced plans to vastly open offshore drilling near Florida, including in the Gulf of Mexico. But then-U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke held a hastily arranged news conference in Tallahassee to announce that drilling in Florida was off the table, in what was widely seen as a bid to help then-Republican Gov. Rick Scott unseat Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson. Zinke later backtracked from that pledge, and the future of offshore drilling near Florida has been unsettled since." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/9/20]

### ***January 2018: California Attorney General Xavier Becerra Criticized Zinke's Decision To Remove Florida From The New Offshore Drilling Plans Because California Was Also "Unique"***

**January 2018: California Attorney General Xavier Becerra Criticized Zinke's Decision To Remove Florida From The New Offshore Drilling Plans Because California Was Also "Unique."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "But Zinke's announcement instantly drew criticism from Democratic officials who also oppose drilling off their states' coasts, saying they oppose drilling for the same reasons Florida's governor does. 'California is also "unique" & our "coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an economic driver,"' California Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra said on Twitter. 'Our "local and state voice" is firmly opposed to any and all offshore drilling. If that's your standard, we, too, should be removed from your list. Immediately.' 'Secretary Zinke must also abandon his efforts to drill along California's beautiful coastline,' Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) tweeted. 'Protection of our ocean shouldn't depend on the D, R, or I after the governor's name.' In New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo also tweeted a protest. 'New York doesn't want drilling off our coast either,' he said. 'Where do we sign up for a waiver @SecretaryZinke?'" [Los Angeles Times, 1/10/18]

- **January 2018 – California AG Becerra: "California Is Also 'Unique' And Our 'Coasts Are Heavily Reliant On Tourism As An Economic Driver.' Our 'Local And State Voice' Is Firmly Opposed To Any And All Offshore Drilling. If That's Your Standard, We, Too, Should Be Removed From Your List."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "But Zinke's announcement instantly drew criticism from Democratic officials who also oppose drilling off their states' coasts, saying they oppose drilling for the same reasons Florida's governor does. 'California is also "unique" & our "coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an economic driver,"' California Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra said on Twitter. 'Our "local and state voice" is firmly opposed to any and all offshore drilling. If that's your standard, we, too, should be removed from your list. Immediately.' 'Secretary Zinke must also abandon his efforts to drill along California's beautiful coastline,' Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) tweeted. 'Protection of our ocean shouldn't depend on the D, R, or I after the governor's name.' In New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo also tweeted a protest. 'New York doesn't want drilling off our coast either,' he said. 'Where do we sign up for a waiver @SecretaryZinke?'" [Los Angeles Times, 1/10/18]



## ***January 2018: Zinke Remained Committed To Expanding Offshore Drilling Despite Removing Florida From The National Plans***

**January 2018: Zinke Remained Committed To Expanding Offshore Drilling Despite Removing Florida From The National Plans.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Despite the partial rollback of the plan, Zinke said the administration was still dedicated to aggressively seeking energy resources throughout the country. ‘I don’t want your kids ever to fight on foreign shores for a resource we have here,’ he said. ‘But there’s places where resources are sensitive, and there’s places where we’re not going to go forward with [drilling for oil], and one of them is off the coast of Florida.’ Scott was not the only Florida Republican criticizing the proposal last week, with U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan calling it ‘reckless, misguided and potentially catastrophic to Florida.’ The Florida Petroleum Council hailed the administration’s move as a way to benefit state consumers by potentially creating jobs and additional government revenue while strengthening national security.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/10/18]

- **January 2018 – Zinke: “I Don’t Want Your Kids Ever To Fight On Foreign Shores For A Resource We Have Here. But There’s Places Where Resources Are Sensitive, And There’s Places Where We We’re Not Going To Go Forward With [Drilling For Oil], And One Of Them Is Off The Coast Of Florida.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Despite the partial rollback of the plan, Zinke said the administration was still dedicated to aggressively seeking energy resources throughout the country. ‘I don’t want your kids ever to fight on foreign shores for a resource we have here,’ he said. ‘But there’s places where resources are sensitive, and there’s places where we’re not going to go forward with [drilling for oil], and one of them is off the coast of Florida.’ Scott was not the only Florida Republican criticizing the proposal last week, with U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan calling it ‘reckless, misguided and potentially catastrophic to Florida.’ The Florida Petroleum Council hailed the administration’s move as a way to benefit state consumers by potentially creating jobs and additional government revenue while strengthening national security.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/10/18]

## ***January 2018: Florida Was Not One Of The States That Had Requested An Exemption From The Oil Drilling Expansion Plans, While California, New York, New Jersey, And Several Other States Had Requested Exemptions***

**January 2018: Florida Was Not One Of The States That Had Requested An Exemption From The Oil Drilling Expansion Plans, While California, New York, New Jersey, And Several Other States Had Requested Exemptions.** The New York Times reported, “The governors of New York, New Jersey, California and several other states requested exclusion from the drilling plan last year, while the plan was being drafted, citing the tourism value of their coastlines. ‘The problem is that the request for exclusion came from most of the East Coast states and all of the West Coast states, and yet it was just granted to Florida,’ said Sierra Weaver, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. ‘The problem is treating Florida differently from every other state that requested exclusion.’ In fact, Florida was not among the states that had requested an exemption to the drilling plan. Throughout his political career, Governor Scott has veered between supporting and opposing offshore drilling. Legal experts said they were perplexed by Mr. Zinke’s move. ‘No one knows what the legal implications are, because this has never been done before,’ Ms. Weaver said. She said Mr. Zinke’s move may put the administration in conflict with the provisions of the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, a law that lays out the standards and procedures for determining which areas will be opened to offshore drilling. ‘There’s supposed to be a 60-day public comment period, an environmental-impact statement,’ Ms. Weaver said. ‘It’s not clear what they did here, and it’s not clear that they understand that there is a legal process that they need to follow.’” [New York Times, 1/10/18]

- **January 2018: Southern Environmental Law Center Attorney Sierra Weaver: “The Problem Is That The Request For Exclusion Came From Most Of The East Coast States And All Of The West Coast States, And Yet It Was Just Granted To Florida... The Problem Is Treating Florida Differently From Every Other State That Requested Exclusion.”** The New York Times reported, “The governors of New York, New Jersey, California and several other states requested exclusion from the drilling plan last year, while the plan was being drafted, citing the tourism value of their coastlines. ‘The problem is that the request for exclusion came from most of the East Coast states and all of the West Coast states, and yet it was just granted



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- **Weaver: “No One Knows What The Legal Implications Are, Because This Has Never Been Done Before.”** The New York Times reported, “The governors of New York, New Jersey, California and several other states requested exclusion from the drilling plan last year, while the plan was being drafted, citing the tourism value of their coastlines. ‘The problem is that the request for exclusion came from most of the East Coast states and all of the West Coast states, and yet it was just granted to Florida,’ said Sierra Weaver, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. ‘The problem is treating Florida differently from every other state that requested exclusion.’ In fact, Florida was not among the states that had requested an exemption to the drilling plan. Throughout his political career, Governor Scott has veered between supporting and opposing offshore drilling. Legal experts said they were perplexed by Mr. Zinke’s move. ‘No one knows what the legal implications are, because this has never been done before,’ Ms. Weaver said. She said Mr. Zinke’s move may put the administration in conflict with the provisions of the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, a law that lays out the standards and procedures for determining which areas will be opened to offshore drilling. ‘There’s supposed to be a 60-day public comment period, an environmental-impact statement,’ Ms. Weaver said. ‘It’s not clear what they did here, and it’s not clear that they understand that there is a legal process that they need to follow.’” [New York Times, 1/10/18]
- **Weaver: “There’s Supposed To Be A 60-Day Public Comment Period, An Environmental-Impact Statement. It’s Not Clear What They Did Here, And It’s Not Clear That They Understand That There Is A Legal Process That They Need To Follow.”** The New York Times reported, “The governors of New York, New Jersey, California and several other states requested exclusion from the drilling plan last year, while the plan was being drafted, citing the tourism value of their coastlines. ‘The problem is that the request for exclusion came from most of the East Coast states and all of the West Coast states, and yet it was just granted to Florida,’ said Sierra Weaver, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. ‘The problem is treating Florida differently from every other state that requested exclusion.’ In fact, Florida was not among the states that had requested an exemption to the drilling plan. Throughout his political career, Governor Scott has veered between supporting and opposing offshore drilling. Legal experts said they were perplexed by Mr. Zinke’s move. ‘No one knows what the legal implications are, because this has never been done before,’ Ms. Weaver said. She said Mr. Zinke’s move may put the administration in conflict with the provisions of the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, a law that lays out the standards and procedures for determining which areas will be opened to offshore drilling. ‘There’s supposed to be a 60-day public comment period, an environmental-impact statement,’ Ms. Weaver said. ‘It’s not clear what they did here, and it’s not clear that they understand that there is a legal process that they need to follow.’” [New York Times, 1/10/18]

**December 2018: Every Governor Except Maine’s Opposed Zinke’s Plan To Open Offshore Drilling On The Entire Outer Continental Shelf.** The Washington Post reported, “In service to Trump, Zinke pursued the most ambitious expansion of offshore leasing in history, proposing a plan to open nearly the entire U.S. outer continental shelf to the oil and gas industry, including the Pacific and Arctic oceans, along with the Atlantic, where drilling had not happened in about five decades. Every governor except Maine’s eventually opposed it. What happened in the week after Zinke announced the proposal in early January probably contributed to his downfall. Without informing the president, Zinke flew to Florida to meet with Gov. Rick Scott @, a Trump backer and a onetime supporter of drilling who was mulling a Senate run.” [Washington Post, [12/20/18](#)]

## **Zinke Eliminated Safety Regulations, Weakened Environmental Review, Pushed To Open Drilling In A Wildlife Refuge, And Eliminated Pollution Payments For Oil And Gas Projects As Interior Secretary**

### **Zinke's Interior Department Pushed To Fast Track The Environmental Review And Permitting Process For New Drilling Leases, With Zinke Personally Calling The Long Review Process "Un-American"**

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**June 2018: The Department Of The Interior Released A Memo Allowing The Bureau Of Land Management To Fast-Track The Environmental Review Process For Issuing New Federal Land Leases.** The New York Times reported, "That was just the start of a flurry of revisions to rules under the Trump administration that have reflected the industry agenda. In June 2018, the department issued a second memo that allowed Bureau of Land Management offices to skip the comprehensive environmental studies that have historically been conducted before issuing new leases. Field offices could instead use bureaucratic loopholes known as categorical exclusions and other measures that allowed officials to do away with environmental assessments, letting them 'expedite the processing' of permits to drill, the memo said." [New York Times, 10/27/18]

**March 2018: Zinke Described The Energy Permitting And Review Process As "Un American" And Said The Process Shouldn't Take Longer Than Two Years.** The Denver Post reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says his agency should be a partner with oil and gas companies that seek to drill on public land and that long regulatory reviews with an uncertain outcome are 'un American.' [...] Zinke said the permitting process for energy infrastructure shouldn't take longer than two years. 'If you ask an investor to continuously put money on a project that is uncertain because the permit process has too much uncertainty, ambiguity, (it) is quite frankly un American,' he said." [Denver Post, 3/7/18]

### **Zinke's Interior Department Rescinded The Nation's First Ever Safety Regulation On Fracking To Save The Industry \$300 Million And Bowed To Industry Demands To Allow Drilling In The Habitat Of The Endangered Sage Grouse**

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**July 2017: Zinke's Staff Filed A Legal Proposal To Rescind The Nation's First Safety Regulation On Hydraulic Fracking.** The New York Times reported, "But as the secretary hopscoches across millions of acres of Western parks, monuments and wilderness with his Stetson-sporting swagger, a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts put in effect over the eight years of the Obama administration. Many of those appointees spent the Obama years working for the oil and gas industry — and they come to the Interior Department with an insider's knowledge of how its levers work and a wish list of policies from their former employers. Their work has been swift. Mr. Zinke's staff on Tuesday filed a legal proposal to rescind the nation's first safety regulation on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. They are exploring a proposal to loosen safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put in place after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. They have rolled back an Obama-era order to block coal mining on public lands and delayed carrying out a regulation controlling emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from oil and gas wells." [New York Times, 7/25/17]

**January 2018: California Filed A Lawsuit Against Zinke's Repeal Of A Rule Regulating Hydraulic Fracking On Publicly Owned Lands.** The Denver Post reported, "On Wednesday, California filed another lawsuit against the Trump administration, this one concerning the repeal of a rule regulating hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, on publicly owned lands under Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. 'The risks of fracking to our health and our environment are real,' Xavier Becerra said at a news conference Wednesday, on the first anniversary of his becoming California's attorney general. 'President (Donald) Trump and Interior Secretary Zinke didn't let the law or facts get



in their way in their zeal to repeal,' he added. The repeal of the 2015 rule, which was issued by the Bureau of Land Management under President Barack Obama, was a long time coming. After first indicating in a March 2017 court filing that it planned to repeal the rule, the Trump administration finalized the rollback Dec. 29." [Denver Post, 1/25/18]

**Zinke Repealed Rules That Required Greater Safety And Transparency In Well Fracking Operations, Cutting Costs For Industry By Nearly \$300 Million At The Expense Of Public Health And Safety.** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, "Zinke repealed a rule that would have required greater safety in well fracking operations and transparency in reporting the chemicals used in those wells to help evaluate their public health impacts. This action reduces industry costs nearly \$300 million over the next decade at the expense of increasing public health and safety risks and aims again at expanding fossil fuel production on public lands." [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

**2017: After Multiple Industry Lobbyists Wrote To The Interior Department Requesting A Rollback Of Federal Regulations Protecting Sage Grouse From The Impacts Of Fracking, Zinke Proposed A Policy Change That Reflected The Industry's Demands.** The New York Times reported, "Trump-era rollbacks of Interior Department rules that govern methane releases, and a requirement that oil and gas companies disclose fracking chemicals they use on federal land, also followed intervention by industry. In July 2017, Kathleen M. Sgamma, the president of the Western Energy Alliance, wrote to the Interior Department, arguing that the Obama-era sage grouse rules were far too protective. The measures included 'overly expansive and burdensome' buffers, such as a requirement that drilling not take place within 3.1 miles of areas where the male birds gather for their annual courtship displays. 'These provisions are contrary to the president's executive order' to promote energy independence, Ms. Sgamma wrote. Ms. McDonald, then a top lobbyist at the Independent Petroleum Association of America, also intervened on behalf of oil companies like Chesapeake, ConocoPhillips and EOG Resources, pushing for specific changes in zones set up in Wyoming to protect sage grouse. 'To ignore the problem,&#34; Ms. McDonald wrote in a July 2017 email, could 'jeopardize several dozen projects in Wyoming.' A top ConocoPhillips executive had reached out the previous day with a similar plea, reinforcing the industry's demand. Ms. McDonald followed up the next month, asking Timothy Williams, a senior official at the Interior Department, if the bureau had 'been able to resolve this map discrepancy in Wyoming yet?' Two minutes later, he responded, 'We are working on it. I have let the secretary know as well.' The emails were obtained by the Western Values Project, a nonprofit public lands advocacy group that sued the agency to gain access to its correspondence. Last summer, Mr. Zinke proposed a new policy that reflected the change the oil companies had requested. A final action is expected soon." [New York Times, 10/27/18]

- **The Bureau Of Land Management Gave Final Approval To A 3,500-Well Drilling Project In Sage Grouse Territory, Even As The Species' Population Was Declining.** The New York Times reported, "More recently, the Bureau of Land Management gave final approval to a 140,859-acre project in western Wyoming — one that will feature as many as 3,500 new wells — in an area that also includes one of the world's most important winter habitats for sage grouse, said Tom Christiansen, who served as Wyoming Game and Fish Department's sage grouse coordinator until last month. Drilling there will mean as much as \$2.2 billion in new federal revenue over the life of the project, the Bureau of Land Management said in its approval document signed at the end of August. But counts of sage grouse populations in Wyoming over the last two years have already declined about 30 percent, he said." [New York Times, 10/27/18]

## **Zinke's Interior Department Explored Plans To Eliminate Safety Regulations That Were Put In Place After The 2010 Bp Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Only To Nearly Avoid A Catastrophe In The Gulf Of Mexico Less Than A Year Later**

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**July 2017: Zinke's Staff Was Exploring Proposals To Loosen Safety Rules Implemented After The 2010 BP Oil Spill.** The New York Times reported, "But as the secretary hopscoches across millions of acres of Western

parks, monuments and wilderness with his Stetson-sporting swagger, a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts put in effect over the eight years of the Obama administration. Many of those appointees spent the Obama years working for the oil and gas industry — and they come to the Interior Department with an insider’s knowledge of how its levers work and a wish list of policies from their former employers. Their work has been swift. Mr. Zinke’s staff on Tuesday filed a legal proposal to rescind the nation’s first safety regulation on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. They are exploring a proposal to loosen safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put in place after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. They have rolled back an Obama-era order to block coal mining on public lands and delayed carrying out a regulation controlling emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from oil and gas wells.” [New York Times, 7/25/17]

**March 2018: Zinke Sent Inspectors To The Gulf Of Mexico To Investigate The Safety Of Giant Cranes Used In Offshore Oil And Gas Operations.** The New York Times reported, “Faced with questions about its commitment to safety, the Interior Department sent teams to the Gulf of Mexico last week to inspect giant cranes used in offshore oil and gas operations that are a significant source of accidents. More than 50 inspectors, traveling on helicopters, conducted surprise inspections on about 40 offshore platforms and drilling rigs, said Jason Mathews, the head of offshore safety management for the Gulf of Mexico at the department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The results were still being compiled, he said, but the inspectors found serious problems, including some that were potentially life threatening. ‘There are still some major incidents that are occurring, and we need to figure out why,’ Mr. Mathews said Friday. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had discussed plans for the inspection push this month after the safety bureau issued an alert to offshore oil and gas operators in the Gulf. It warned about a series of ‘potentially catastrophic crane and lifting incidents’ that occurred late last year on platforms and drilling rigs.” [New York Times, 3/18/18]

- **The Investigation Followed An Alert To Offshore Oil And Gas Operators That There Was A Possibility Of “Catastrophic Crane And Lifting Incidents” On Platforms And Drilling Rigs.** The New York Times reported, “Faced with questions about its commitment to safety, the Interior Department sent teams to the Gulf of Mexico last week to inspect giant cranes used in offshore oil and gas operations that are a significant source of accidents. More than 50 inspectors, traveling on helicopters, conducted surprise inspections on about 40 offshore platforms and drilling rigs, said Jason Mathews, the head of offshore safety management for the Gulf of Mexico at the department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The results were still being compiled, he said, but the inspectors found serious problems, including some that were potentially life threatening. ‘There are still some major incidents that are occurring, and we need to figure out why,’ Mr. Mathews said Friday. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had discussed plans for the inspection push this month after the safety bureau issued an alert to offshore oil and gas operators in the Gulf. It warned about a series of ‘potentially catastrophic crane and lifting incidents’ that occurred late last year on platforms and drilling rigs.” [New York Times, 3/18/18]

## **Zinke’s Interior Department Eliminated Royalties That Energy Companies Were Required To Pay For Polluting Federal Land, Costing Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars In Lost Revenue**

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**2018: Zinke Reversed A Policy That Required Energy Companies To Pay Damages For Polluting Federal Lands, Calling The Previous Policy “Un-American.”** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, “Zinke’s most recent decision may be the most astounding. He has decided that energy companies that despoil federal lands won’t always have to pay a price for damages they cause. He even labeled the previous, long standing policy of requiring payments for harming the land ‘un American.’” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

- **Zinke Repealed Rules That Required Natural Gas Emitters To Pay Royalties On Their Emissions, Which The Interior Department Estimated Would Reduce Royalties Paid By Gas Corporations By Tens Of Millions Of Dollars Over The Next Decade, While Other Experts Estimated Lost Revenue Of Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars.** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana





Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, “Zinke repealed rules requiring companies to reduce natural gas waste and guarantee royalty payments of gas emissions. The Department of the Interior admits this decision will reduce royalties paid by gas corporations by tens of millions of dollars over the next decade. Other experts gauge the lost royalty revenue at hundreds of millions of dollars.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

- **Zinke Repealed Rules That Closed Loopholes Allowing Fossil Fuel Companies To Underpay Federal Royalties, Costing Between \$75 Million And Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars Annually.** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, “To make matters worse, Zinke’s actions often cut the public out of the decision making for the management of public lands. [...] He also repealed rules closing loopholes that allow oil, gas and coal corporations to underpay federal royalties. Again, the estimates of lost revenue range from \$75 million (the Interior’s own number) to hundreds of millions of dollars annually and billions over the next decade.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

## **Zinke Pushed To Open The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge In Alaska To Oil And Gas Drilling**

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### ***June 2017: Zinke Issued A Directive To Compel A Rewrite Of A 2013 Plan Limiting Oil And Natural Gas Development In Alaska’s National Petroleum Reserve***

**June 2017: Zinke Issued A Directive To Compel A Rewrite Of A 2013 Plan Limiting Oil And Natural Gas Development In Alaska’s National Petroleum Reserve.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a directive aimed at spurring oil and natural gas development in Alaska, including a move to assess just how much crude might be lurking under the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Zinke’s order, signed during a visit to Anchorage, also compels a rewrite of a 2013 plan that limited oil and natural gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. The move responds to complaints from oil companies and state officials that the Obama administration was too restrictive, blocking drilling in promising areas while hampering their ability to build pipelines across the 23 million acre reserve. ‘This is land that was set up with the sole intention of oil and gas production; however, years of politics over policy put roughly half of the NPR A off limits,’ Zinke said in a statement announcing the move. ‘Using this land for its original intent will create good paying jobs and revenue.’” [Denver Post, 6/2/17]

### ***September 2017: Zinke’s Interior Department Circulated A Memo Proposing Lifted Restrictions On Exploratory Seismic Studies In The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Which Had Previously Been Ruled Out For Risking Harm To Wildlife***

**September 2017: The Interior Department Circulated An Interior Memo Proposing Lifted Restrictions On Exploratory Seismic Studies In The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** The New York Times reported, “An internal Interior Department memo has proposed lifting restrictions on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a possible first step toward opening the pristine wilderness area to oil and gas drilling. The document proposes ending a restriction that had limited exploratory drilling to the period from Oct. 1, 1984, to May 31, 1986. It also directs the agency to provide an environmental assessment and a proposed rule allowing for new exploration plans. The document, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, was first reported by The Washington Post. The Arctic refuge, which covers more than 30,000 square miles, has been closed off to commercial drilling for decades because of concerns about the impact on polar bears, caribou and other animals in the region. Opening it up has been a top priority for Republicans. Doing so, even to determine how much oil is available, would be politically explosive and set the stage for bitter fights between the administration and environmental groups. Congress has the final say over whether to allow new drilling in the refuge, often referred to as A.N.W.R.” [New York Times, 9/17/17]



- **September 2017: The Original Restrictions Limited Exploratory Drilling To A Period Between October 1984 And May 1986.** The New York Times reported, “An internal Interior Department memo has proposed lifting restrictions on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a possible first step toward opening the pristine wilderness area to oil and gas drilling. The document proposes ending a restriction that had limited exploratory drilling to the period from Oct. 1, 1984, to May 31, 1986. It also directs the agency to provide an environmental assessment and a proposed rule allowing for new exploration plans. The document, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, was first reported by The Washington Post. The Arctic refuge, which covers more than 30,000 square miles, has been closed off to commercial drilling for decades because of concerns about the impact on polar bears, caribou and other animals in the region. Opening it up has been a top priority for Republicans. Doing so, even to determine how much oil is available, would be politically explosive and set the stage for bitter fights between the administration and environmental groups. Congress has the final say over whether to allow new drilling in the refuge, often referred to as A.N.W.R.” [New York Times, 9/17/17]
- **New York Times: “The Arctic Refuge, Which Covers More Than 30,000 Square Miles, Has Been Closed Off To Commercial Drilling For Decades Because Of Concerns About The Impact On Polar Bears, Caribou And Other Animals In The Region.”** The New York Times reported, “An internal Interior Department memo has proposed lifting restrictions on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a possible first step toward opening the pristine wilderness area to oil and gas drilling. The document proposes ending a restriction that had limited exploratory drilling to the period from Oct. 1, 1984, to May 31, 1986. It also directs the agency to provide an environmental assessment and a proposed rule allowing for new exploration plans. The document, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, was first reported by The Washington Post. The Arctic refuge, which covers more than 30,000 square miles, has been closed off to commercial drilling for decades because of concerns about the impact on polar bears, caribou and other animals in the region. Opening it up has been a top priority for Republicans. Doing so, even to determine how much oil is available, would be politically explosive and set the stage for bitter fights between the administration and environmental groups. Congress has the final say over whether to allow new drilling in the refuge, often referred to as A.N.W.R.” [New York Times, 9/17/17]

### ***By 2018, Zinke Had Opened Approved Oil Drilling Along The Coast Of The Wildlife Refuge, Appointing Drilling-Friendly Officials To Oversee The Project***

**December 2018: The Interior Department Approved Oil Drilling Along The Coast Of A Wildlife Refuge In Alaska, Challenging Obama-Era Policies That Protected The Area.** The New York Times reported, “But the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—a federally protected place of austere beauty that during a recent flyover was painted white by heavy snowfall—is on the cusp of major change. The biggest untapped onshore trove of oil in North America is believed to lie beneath the refuge’s coastal plain along the Beaufort Sea. For more than a generation, opposition to drilling has left the refuge largely unscathed, but now the Trump administration, working with Republicans in Congress and an influential and wealthy Alaska Native corporation, is clearing the way for oil exploration along the coast. [...] The fate of the refuge’s coastal plain is in the hands of Ryan Zinke, the Interior secretary, who has appointed top deputies with deep professional and political ties to Alaska to oversee its development. In 2014, two of the appointees were involved in an unsuccessful court challenge to Obama-era policies that had helped keep the area off limits. Congressional approval to open the area to oil exploration was inserted in tax overhaul legislation last December under the guise of generating revenue for the federal government, and by next year, the Interior Department expects to begin selling the first drilling leases.” [New York Times, 12/3/18]

- **Zinke Appointed Drilling-Friendly Officials To Oversee The Development Of The Refuge, Including The Executive Of A Corporation That Had A Large Financial Interest In Oil Drilling In The Region.** The New York Times reported, “The fate of the refuge’s coastal plain is in the hands of Ryan Zinke, the Interior secretary, who has appointed top deputies with deep professional and political ties to Alaska to oversee its development. [...] Mr. Zinke’s Alaska-friendly appointees, who have long pushed for oil exploration in the



coastal plain, say the fears are overstated. They point out that years ago, Congress left open the eventual possibility of allowing development there. Exploration is in the best interest of Alaskans, they say. ‘I feel like there is a lot of expectations, hopes and dreams from people who I know and love that are riding on this,’ said Joe Balash, one of the appointees, who has worked in Alaskan political circles for two decades and now oversees the Bureau of Land Management. An Alaska Native company, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, has been a major force behind the push and stands to enjoy a windfall if drilling proceeds. The corporation, which has been awarded more than \$7.5 billion in federal contracts in the past 10 years, expanded its lobbying under the Trump administration, records show, and Mr. Zinke appointed one of its executives to a top post.” [New York Times, 12/3/18]

## **Zinke Had A Very Close Relationship With Oil And Gas Lobbyists, The Industry Reportedly “Delighted” By His Approach**

### **Zinke Argued That The Interior Department Should Be “A Partner” To Oil And Gas Companies And Later Bragged That He Had Expanded Domestic Oil Drilling By Nearly 50 Percent**

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**March 2018: Zinke Said The Department Of The Interior “Should Be In The Business Of Being A Partner” To Oil And Gas Companies.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says his agency should be a partner with oil and gas companies that seek to drill on public land and that long regulatory reviews with an uncertain outcome are ‘un American.’ Speaking Tuesday to a major energy industry conference, Zinke described the Trump administration’s efforts to increase offshore drilling, reduce regulations, and streamline inspections of oil and gas operators. ‘Interior should not be in the business of being an adversary. We should be in the business of being a partner,’ Zinke said to a receptive audience that included leaders of energy companies and oil producing countries.” [Denver Post, 3/7/18]

**2022: Zinke Took Credit For Expanding Domestic Oil Drilling From 8.3 Million Barrels Per Day To 12.5 Million Per Day While Serving As Secretary Of The Interior.** The Sidney Herald reported, “As Secretary of the Interior with oversight of more than 500 million acres of federal land, Zinke played an important role in setting the tone for leasing oil and gas on federal lands and waters, which accounts for a significant portion of fossil fuel extraction nationally. He pointed to the expansion of U.S. drilling from 8.3 million barrels of oil per day to 12.5 million barrels of oil per day during his tenure as Interior Secretary as proof of his commitment to American energy independence. He also highlighted the department’s largest-to-date lease of offshore wind energy development while he was leading the agency.” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

### **During The First Year Of Zinke’s Time Atop Interior, Interior Department Officials Held Nearly 180 Meetings With Oil And Gas Industry Representatives**

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**February 2017 – November 2017: An Analysis Of The Interior Department’s Visitor Log By Friends Of The Earth Revealed That Interior Officials Held Nearly 180 Meetings With Oil And Gas Industry Representatives.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke has been accused of favoring oil and gas interests over nearly everything else. Between February and November of last year, top Interior officials had nearly 180 meetings with industry representatives, according to an analysis of the department’s visitor log by the nonprofit organization Friends of the Earth. ‘You always know these meetings are happening, but the sheer volume was shocking,’ said Nicole Ghio, fossil fuels program manager for the group, which leans to the political left. It undertook the analysis, she said, because opposition to the drilling plan was so immediate, strong and bipartisan on both coasts that Friends of the Earth wondered how the administration put it together.” [Washington Post, [2/28/18](#)]

- **Washington Post: “Zinke Has Been Accused Of Favoring Oil And Gas Interests Over Nearly Everything Else. Between February And November Of Last Year, Top Interior Officials Had Nearly 180 Meetings With Industry Representatives.”** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke has been accused of favoring oil and gas interests over nearly everything else. Between February and November of last year, top Interior officials had nearly 180 meetings with industry representatives, according to an analysis of the department’s visitor log by the nonprofit organization Friends of the Earth. ‘You always know these meetings are happening, but the sheer volume was shocking,’ said Nicole Ghio, fossil fuels program manager for the group, which leans to the political left. It undertook the analysis, she said, because opposition to the drilling plan was so immediate, strong and bipartisan on both coasts that Friends of the Earth wondered how the administration put it together.” [Washington Post, [2/28/18](#)]

## **The Oil And Gas Lobby Was Reported “Delighted” About Zinke’s Tenure**

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**July 2017: Republican Energy Lobbyist And Trump Transition Adviser Michael McKenna Said That The Oil And Gas Lobby Was Happy About Zinke’s Tenure As Interior Secretary Because “They’re Going Back To The Bush Administration.”** The New York Times reported, “To conservationists, the act is getting old. ‘Zinke has been a disappointment,’ said Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, which supported his nomination. ‘His first meetings were with the sportsmen’s community, and we were encouraged that he would be great — or at least someone we could work with. Since that time, it’s been nothing but rolling back conservation.’ The oil and gas lobby says it is delighted. ‘All these guys have been in Interior before and they know a hell of a lot,’ said Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist and adviser to the Trump transition. ‘They’re getting the band back together, and they’re going back to the Bush administration.’” [New York Times, 7/25/17]

- **New York Times: “The Oil And Gas Lobby Says It Is Delighted.”** The New York Times reported, “To conservationists, the act is getting old. ‘Zinke has been a disappointment,’ said Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, which supported his nomination. ‘His first meetings were with the sportsmen’s community, and we were encouraged that he would be great — or at least someone we could work with. Since that time, it’s been nothing but rolling back conservation.’ The oil and gas lobby says it is delighted. ‘All these guys have been in Interior before and they know a hell of a lot,’ said Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist and adviser to the Trump transition. ‘They’re getting the band back together, and they’re going back to the Bush administration.’” [New York Times, 7/25/17]
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**New York Times: “Many Of Those Appointees Spent The Obama Years Working For The Oil And Gas Industry — And They Come To The Interior Department With An Insider’s Knowledge Of How Its Levers Work And A Wish List Of Policies From Their Former Employers. Their Work Has Been Swift”**

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**New York Times: “Many Of Those Appointees Spent The Obama Years Working For The Oil And Gas Industry — And They Come To The Interior Department With An Insider’s Knowledge Of How Its Levers Work And A Wish List Of Policies From Their Former Employers. Their Work Has Been Swift.”** The New York Times reported, “But as the secretary hopscoches across millions of acres of Western parks, monuments and wilderness with his Stetson-sporting swagger, a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts put in effect over the eight years of the Obama administration. Many of those appointees spent the Obama years working for the oil and gas industry — and they come to the Interior Department with an insider’s knowledge of how its levers work and a wish list of policies from their former employers. Their work has been swift. Mr. Zinke’s staff on Tuesday filed a legal proposal to rescind the nation’s first safety regulation on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. They are exploring a proposal to loosen safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put in place after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. They have rolled back an Obama-era order to block coal mining on public lands and delayed carrying out a regulation controlling emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from oil and gas wells.” [New York Times, 7/25/17]

## **Both Before And After Serving As Interior Secretary, Zinke Raked In Contributions From Oil And Gas Companies**

### **Prior To Becoming Interior Secretary, Zinke Had Accepted Campaign Contributions From Many Oil And Gas Companies, Including Halliburton, Exxon Mobil, ConocoPhillips, Oasis Petroleum, And Koch Industries**

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***E&E News: “In 2015-16, Energy And Natural Resources Political Action Committees Contributed \$126,000 To Zinke’s Campaign... That Includes \$3,000 From The Halliburton Company PAC, \$5,000 From Both The ExxonMobil PAC And Conoco Phillips, \$2,500 From The Koch Industries Inc. PAC And \$1,000 From The Peabody Energy PAC. All Of Them Represent Companies That Do Business With The Interior Department”***

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### **Prior To Becoming Interior Secretary, Oasis Petroleum Was One Of Zinke’s Largest Benefactors**

**January 2017: Zinke’s Top Individual Campaign Donor Was Taylor Reid, The President And Chief Operating Officer Of Oasis Petroleum.** E&E News reported, “Watchdog groups say the contributions, totaling \$345,000 since 2013, raise questions about whether the fossil fuel industry could influence a Cabinet secretary who controls drilling, mining and conservation policies across more than 500 million acres of public land. Zinke’s top individual campaign donor is Taylor Reid, president and chief operating officer of a Texas-based oil and gas company that drills in the Bakken oil field. Reid, who has been with Oasis Petroleum since its founding in 2007,





donated \$11,600 to Zinke's election efforts between 2013 and 2016, an analysis of Federal Election Commission data shows." [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

- **Oasis Petroleum Was A Texas-Based Oil And Gas Company That Drilled In The Bakken Oil Field.** E&E News reported, "Watchdog groups say the contributions, totaling \$345,000 since 2013, raise questions about whether the fossil fuel industry could influence a Cabinet secretary who controls drilling, mining and conservation policies across more than 500 million acres of public land. Zinke's top individual campaign donor is Taylor Reid, president and chief operating officer of a Texas-based oil and gas company that drills in the Bakken oil field. Reid, who has been with Oasis Petroleum since its founding in 2007, donated \$11,600 to Zinke's election efforts between 2013 and 2016, an analysis of Federal Election Commission data shows." [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

**2013 – 2016: Zinke Received \$11,600 In Campaign Contributions From Oasis President Taylor Reid.** E&E News reported, "Watchdog groups say the contributions, totaling \$345,000 since 2013, raise questions about whether the fossil fuel industry could influence a Cabinet secretary who controls drilling, mining and conservation policies across more than 500 million acres of public land. Zinke's top individual campaign donor is Taylor Reid, president and chief operating officer of a Texas-based oil and gas company that drills in the Bakken oil field. Reid, who has been with Oasis Petroleum since its founding in 2007, donated \$11,600 to Zinke's election efforts between 2013 and 2016, an analysis of Federal Election Commission data shows." [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

**2013 – January 2017: Oasis President Taylor Reid And Nine Other Oasis Executives Collectively Donated \$41,750 To Zinke's Campaigns.** E&E News reported, "Reid is one of 10 executives at Oasis Petroleum who collectively donated \$41,750 to Zinke over the last four years, an E&E News analysis found. Thomas Nusz, president of the company and one of its directors, was another top donor, kicking in \$10,600 to Zinke's campaigns. Oasis has interests in about 50,000 acres of public land, a little under 10 percent of the company's full holdings, which cover about 540,000 acres in the North Dakota and Montana regions of the Williston Basin, a spokesman for the company said. The region includes the oil-rich Bakken and Three Forks formations. Reid and Nusz could not be reached for comment." [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

**January 2017: Oasis Petroleum's Holdings Covered About 50,000 Acres Of Public Land In North Dakota And Montana, Including The Bakken And Three Forks Formations.** E&E News reported, "Reid is one of 10 executives at Oasis Petroleum who collectively donated \$41,750 to Zinke over the last four years, an E&E News analysis found. Thomas Nusz, president of the company and one of its directors, was another top donor, kicking in \$10,600 to Zinke's campaigns. Oasis has interests in about 50,000 acres of public land, a little under 10 percent of the company's full holdings, which cover about 540,000 acres in the North Dakota and Montana regions of the Williston Basin, a spokesman for the company said. The region includes the oil-rich Bakken and Three Forks formations. Reid and Nusz could not be reached for comment." [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

### ***December 2016: A Center For Responsive Politics Report Found That The Oil And Gas Industry Was Zinke's Largest Industry Donor With \$345,136 In Campaign Contributions***

**December 2016: A Center For Responsive Politics Report Found That The Oil And Gas Industry Was Zinke's Largest Industry Donor With \$345,136 In Campaign Contributions.** The Washington Post reported, "In Montana, the oil and gas industry is Zinke's largest-single industry contributor, giving him \$345,136 for his campaigns, according to an analysis by the Center for Responsive Politics. Zinke has been a vocal proponent of coal extraction, representing a region, the Powder River Basin, where much of the federal government's coal is leased. Popovich, the mining industry spokesman, said that given Zinke's roots 'he obviously understands the importance of natural resources like coal — too important to be 'kept in the ground,' as [the Obama] administration proposes to do.'" [Washington Post, [12/14/16](#)]





**March 2017: Zinke Had Received Nearly \$350,000 In Campaign Contributions From Oil And Gas Companies.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke’s critics, however, point to policies they call ‘far from Rooseveltian.’ He has a 4 percent lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters, and oil and gas companies have donated nearly \$350,000 to his campaigns. He is a strong supporter of coal — ‘we are not going to power our nation on pixie dust and hope,’ he told a local crowd in 2014 — and has pushed to end Mr. Obama’s moratorium on new coal leases. More recently, he held listening sessions for a bill that would overhaul the Antiquities Act by requiring approval from local residents before a president designates a national monument. Roosevelt signed the 1906 law, and presidents have used it to push through unpopular preservation projects.” [New York Times, 3/1/17]

## **After Leaving The Interior Department, Zinke Received Tens Of Thousands In Contributions From Oil And Gas Companies**

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### ***2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$5,000 In Contributions From Employees Of U.S. Trinity***

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$5,000 In Contributions From Employees Of U.S. Trinity.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>US Trinity Employee Contributions To Zinke</b>		
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contribution Amount</b>
Haltom, James	Partner	\$5,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$5,000.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$10,100 In Contributions From Employees Of Oasis Petroleum***

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$10,100 In Contributions From Employees Of Oasis Petroleum.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Oasis Petroleum Employee Contributions To Zinke</b>		
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contribution Amount</b>
Reid, Taylor L	President	\$10,100.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$10,100.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***2024 Election Cycle: Zinke’s Top Donor By Employer Was ConocoPhillips, With Employees Donating \$27,425 And The Company’s PAC Donating \$5,000***

**2024 Election Cycle: Zinke’s Top Donor By Employer Was ConocoPhillips, With Employees Donating \$27,425 And The Company’s PAC Donating \$5,000.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke’s top donor for the 2024 campaign cycle was ConocoPhillips, who donated \$32,425. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Ryan Zinke

See Data About Their: [Federal Congressional Candidacy](#)

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Now showing data for the **2024** election cycle for the [campaign committee only](#)

### Contributors 2023 - 2024

**Top 20 contributors to Campaign Committee** [Download .csv file](#)

Top:

Rank	Contributor	Total	Individuals	PACs
1	ConocoPhillips	\$32,425	\$27,425	\$5,000

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## ***2023-2024: The Oil And Gas Industry Was Zinke’s Third Largest Contributor When Excluding Retired People And Conservative Groups***

**2023-2024: The Oil And Gas Industry Was Zinke’s Third Largest Contributor When Excluding Retired People And Conservative Groups, Contributing \$220,155, With \$56,930 Coming From PACs.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/24/24](#)]

### Top Industries 2023 - 2024

**Industry Favorite**

Ryan Zinke is a top recipient from the following industries in the 2023 - 2024 election cycle:

[Retired \(#6\)](#)

**Top 20 Industries Contributing to Campaign Committee** [Download .csv file](#)

Top:

Industry	Total	Individuals	PACs
Retired	\$2,680,217	\$2,680,217	\$0
Republican/Conservative	\$701,340	\$696,840	\$4,500
Real Estate	\$229,921	\$224,421	\$5,500
Securities & Investment	\$225,048	\$225,048	\$0
Oil & Gas	\$220,155	\$163,225	\$56,930

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/24/24](#)]

**2021-2022: Zinke Received \$218,746 From The Oil And Gas Industry.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/24/24](#)]



**Oil & Gas Recipients**

Summary Totals Background Lobbying Money to Congress Contributors Recipients News

Now showing data for the **2022** election cycle.

Select type of data to display: All House Candidates

**Money from Oil & Gas to US House candidates, 2021-2022** [Export to CSV](#)

zinke

Representative	State	Amount
Zinke, Ryan (R-MT)	Montana	\$218,746

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/24/24](#)]

***2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$58,548.86 In Campaign Contributions From Corporate PACs For Halliburton, Northwestern Energy, ConocoPhillips, And Other Energy Corporate PACs***

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$58,548.86 In Campaign Contributions From Corporate PACs For Halliburton, Northwestern Energy, ConocoPhillips, And Other Energy Corporate PACs.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Notable PAC Contributors To Zinke	
Contributor	Total
HALLIBURTON CO PAC	\$3,300.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY MT EMPLOYEES PAC	\$3,000.00
WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE PAC	\$7,500.00
NEXTERA ENERGY, INC. PAC	\$7,500.00
US ENERGY PAC (THE PAC OF AMERICAN EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COUNCIL, INC.)	\$6,000.00
ENERGY MARKETERS OF AMERICA	\$4,000.00
DEVON ENERGY CORP	\$2,500.00
ENERGY TRANSFER EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT COMPANY PAC (ENERGY TRANSFER PAC)	\$2,500.00
PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC. PAC FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT	\$1,000.00
DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE PAC (DEPA PAC)	\$1,000.00
MONTANA GAS & OIL PAC	\$1,500.00
COALPAC	\$7,748.86
MARATHON OIL CO EMPLOYEES PAC	\$1,000.00
CONOCOPHILLIPS SPIRIT PAC	\$7,500.00
CONOCO PHILLIPS	\$2,500.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$58,548.86</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Second Largest Lifetime Industry Donor Was The Oil And Gas Industry, And His Largest Lifetime Donors By Employer included Chord Energy, ConocoPhillips, And Halliburton**

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donors By Industry, Excluding Retired And Political Industries, Were Real Estate, Followed By Oil & Gas, Securities And Investment, Lawyers/Law Firms, Livestock, And Health Professionals**

2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donors By Industry, Excluding Retired And Political Industries, Were Real Estate, Followed By Oil & Gas, Securities And Investment, Lawyers/Law Firms, Livestock, And Health Professionals. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Industry Donors	
Industry	Total
Retired	\$4,821,986
Republican/Conservative	\$1,856,129
Real Estate	\$974,736
Leadership PACs	\$952,485
Oil & Gas	\$850,827
Securities & Investment	\$758,667
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$335,895
Candidate Committees	\$258,660
Livestock	\$237,853
Health Professionals	\$227,945
General Contractors	\$227,590
Automotive	\$215,294
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$203,384
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$183,421
Gun Rights	\$159,969
Insurance	\$142,692
Misc Finance	\$132,093
Lobbyists	\$131,202
Business Services	\$129,130
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$120,664

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donors By Employer Included Chord Energy, ConocoPhillips, And Halliburton**

2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donors By Employer Included Chord Energy, ConocoPhillips, And Halliburton. [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donors			
Contributor	Individuals	PACs	Total
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323

Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Critics Savaged Zinke As A “Pawn” For The Oil And Gas Industry Who Was “The Most Anti-Conservation Interior Secretary In Our Nation’s History”

### Center For Western Priorities Director Jennifer Rokala Called Zinke A “Pawn” For The Oil And Gas Industry Who Was “The Most Anti-Conservation Interior Secretary In Our Nation’s History”

**December 2018: Center For Western Priorities Executive Director Jennifer Rokala Said In A Statement After Zinke Resigned That Zinke Was “A Pawn For The Oil And Gas Industry.”** The Washington Post reported, “‘Ryan Zinke will go down as the most anti-conservation Interior secretary in our nation’s history,’ Jennifer Rokala, executive director of the Center for Western Priorities, said in a statement. ‘Surrounding himself with former lobbyists, it quickly became clear that Ryan Zinke was a pawn for the oil and gas industry. We can expect more of the same from Acting Secretary David Bernhardt, but without the laughable Teddy Roosevelt comparisons.’ Zinke had styled himself as a Teddy Roosevelt Republican, showcasing his love of hunting, fishing and riding in the Montana wilderness.” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]

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## **Former Park Ranger Kim Heacox Slammed Zinke For Moving To “Drill For Oil In Wildlife Refuges” And Said He Needed To “Get Away From Those Sticky Oilmen Who Can Hear A Dollar Bill Fall On The Rimrock”**

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**May 2018: Former Park Ranger Kim Heacox Slammed Zinke In An Op-Ed, Writing, “Get Away From Those Sticky Oilmen Who Can Hear A Dollar Bill Fall On The Rimrock — Men Who Would Watch The World Burn To Increase Their Profits.”** According to an op-ed by former park ranger Kim Heacox in the Washington Post reported, “Get away from those sticky oilmen who can hear a dollar bill fall on the rimrock — men who would watch the world burn to increase their profits. Good interior secretaries hold on to what we have. They add to America’s résumé of stunning public lands. They never dismantle existing national monuments or drill for oil in wildlife refuges, as Zinke intends. And they don’t appoint wildlife boards loaded with trophy hunters. Put on that NPS hat — properly. Walk with us and see the folly in what you’ve done.” [Washington Post, Op-Ed, [5/23/18](#)]

- **Heacox: “Good Interior Secretaries... Add To America’s Résumé Of Stunning Public Lands. They Never Dismantle Existing National Monuments Or Drill For Oil In Wildlife Refuges, As Zinke Intends.”** According to an op-ed by former park ranger Kim Heacox in the Washington Post reported, “Get away from those sticky oilmen who can hear a dollar bill fall on the rimrock — men who would watch the world burn to increase their profits. Good interior secretaries hold on to what we have. They add to America’s résumé of stunning public lands. They never dismantle existing national monuments or drill for oil in wildlife refuges, as Zinke intends. And they don’t appoint wildlife boards loaded with trophy hunters. Put on that NPS hat — properly. Walk with us and see the folly in what you’ve done.” [Washington Post, Op-Ed, [5/23/18](#)]
- **Heacox: “Put On That NPS Hat – Properly. Walk With Us And See The Folly In What You’ve Done.”** According to an op-ed by former park ranger Kim Heacox in the Washington Post reported, “Get away from those sticky oilmen who can hear a dollar bill fall on the rimrock — men who would watch the world burn to increase their profits. Good interior secretaries hold on to what we have. They add to America’s résumé of



stunning public lands. They never dismantle existing national monuments or drill for oil in wildlife refuges, as Zinke intends. And they don't appoint wildlife boards loaded with trophy hunters. Put on that NPS hat — properly. Walk with us and see the folly in what you've done." [Washington Post, Op-Ed, [5/23/18](#)]

## **The New York Times Editorial Board Blasted Zinke For Opening “Alaska’s Fragile Environment To Commercial Exploitation”**

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**October 2017: The New York Times Editorial Board Criticized Zinke For Declaring That Alaska Was “Open for Business” In May 2017.** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “Alaska is ‘open for business!’ With these words, delivered before an appreciative audience of oil producers in Anchorage in May, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reaffirmed the Trump administration’s determination to open Alaska’s fragile environment to commercial exploitation. Here are the particulars of that assault, at least so far: In April, President Trump signed an order that to allow oil drilling in United States waters in the Arctic Ocean that President Barack Obama had declared off limits. In May, Mr. Zinke made clear his plan to reverse the Obama administration’s decision to protect environmentally delicate areas of the National Petroleum Reserve. Also in May, the Environmental Protection Agency administrator, Scott Pruitt, always eager to join in the environmental mayhem, reversed an Obama policy that had blocked a proposed gold mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, one of the most productive wild salmon fisheries. Mr. Pruitt made the decision after meeting with the chief executive of the mining company.” [New York Times, Editorial, 10/18/17]

- **October 2017 – NYT Editorial Board: “Alaska Is ‘Open For Business!’ With These Words, Delivered Before An Appreciative Audience Of Oil Producers In Anchorage In May, Zinke Reaffirmed The Trump Administration’s Determination To Open Alaska’s Fragile Environment To Commercial Exploitation.”** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “Alaska is ‘open for business!’ With these words, delivered before an appreciative audience of oil producers in Anchorage in May, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reaffirmed the Trump administration’s determination to open Alaska’s fragile environment to commercial exploitation. Here are the particulars of that assault, at least so far: In April, President Trump signed an order that to allow oil drilling in United States waters in the Arctic Ocean that President Barack Obama had declared off limits. In May, Mr. Zinke made clear his plan to reverse the Obama administration’s decision to protect environmentally delicate areas of the National Petroleum Reserve. Also in May, the Environmental Protection Agency administrator, Scott Pruitt, always eager to join in the environmental mayhem, reversed an Obama policy that had blocked a proposed gold mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, one of the most productive wild salmon fisheries. Mr. Pruitt made the decision after meeting with the chief executive of the mining company.” [New York Times, Editorial, 10/18/17]

## **Oceana Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz Slammed Zinke For Being In Bed With Industry Lobbyists**

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**January 2018: OCEANA Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz Criticized Zinke For Prioritizing Lobbyists Over Citizens.** According to an op-ed by OCEANA Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz in the New York Times, “Last year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke promised to ‘listen to state and local stakeholders’ as his department’s reviewed offshore oil and gas. But this proposal plan tells America that so far, the only stakeholders this administration has listened to are industry lobbyists. Perhaps this will change. There will be a 60-day window for the public to comment on the Interior Department plan. In announcing the proposal, Mr. Zinke said, ‘Just like with mining, not all areas are appropriate for offshore drilling, and we will take that into consideration in the coming weeks.’ I hope he does. Oil interests are probably hoping that this new plan will discourage those who fought long and hard to protect their coast. But if I know anything about the people I’ve met over the last couple of years, they’re not the type to be discouraged. And by expanding the threat of drilling to nearly all United States waters, this administration faces a tsunami of opposition from businesses, local leaders and activists on all our coasts.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 1/5/18]

- **Savitz: “Last Year, Zinke Promised To ‘Listen To State And Local Stakeholders’ As His Department Reviewed Offshore Oil And Gas.”** According to an op-ed by OCEANA Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz in the New York Times, “Last year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke promised to ‘listen to state and local stakeholders’ as his department’s reviewed offshore oil and gas. But this proposal plan tells America that so far, the only stakeholders this administration has listened to are industry lobbyists. Perhaps this will change. There will be a 60-day window for the public to comment on the Interior Department plan. In announcing the proposal, Mr. Zinke said, ‘Just like with mining, not all areas are appropriate for offshore drilling, and we will take that into consideration in the coming weeks.’ I hope he does. Oil interests are probably hoping that this new plan will discourage those who fought long and hard to protect their coast. But if I know anything about the people I’ve met over the last couple of years, they’re not the type to be discouraged. And by expanding the threat of drilling to nearly all United States waters, this administration faces a tsunami of opposition from businesses, local leaders and activists on all our coasts.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 1/5/18]
- **Savitz: “But This Proposal Plan Tells America That So Far, The Only Stakeholders This Administration Has Listened To Are Industry Lobbyists.”** According to an op-ed by OCEANA Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz in the New York Times, “Last year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke promised to ‘listen to state and local stakeholders’ as his department’s reviewed offshore oil and gas. But this proposal plan tells America that so far, the only stakeholders this administration has listened to are industry lobbyists. Perhaps this will change. There will be a 60-day window for the public to comment on the Interior Department plan. In announcing the proposal, Mr. Zinke said, ‘Just like with mining, not all areas are appropriate for offshore drilling, and we will take that into consideration in the coming weeks.’ I hope he does. Oil interests are probably hoping that this new plan will discourage those who fought long and hard to protect their coast. But if I know anything about the people I’ve met over the last couple of years, they’re not the type to be discouraged. And by expanding the threat of drilling to nearly all United States waters, this administration faces a tsunami of opposition from businesses, local leaders and activists on all our coasts.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 1/5/18]

## **Oil Change International Senior Research Analyst Lorne Stockman Said There Was “No Economic Justification For Going To The Outer Continental Shelf, And There Probably Never Will Be”**

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**January 2018: Oil Change International Senior Research Analyst Lorne Stockman Said There Was “No Economic Justification For Going To The Outer Continental Shelf, And There Probably Never Will Be.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “‘There is no economic justification for going to the outer continental shelf, and there probably never will be,’ said Lorne Stockman, a senior research analyst with Oil Change International, a clean energy research and advocacy group in Washington. The administration’s agenda seems clear: With a series of executive orders issued early last year by the president, and regulatory changes ordered by Zinke, Trump has set out to reverse Obama-era restrictions on fossil fuel development. Offshore production has been a particular area of focus, not only because Obama had strictly limited access to the Atlantic and the Arctic, but also because government energy analysts have projected that tens of billions of barrels of untapped oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas lay beneath the oceans.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/6/18]

## Zinke Had A Consistent Legislative Record Of Backing Fossil Fuel Interests In Congress

### Zinke Consistently Voted In Favor Of Oil And Gas Interests On The House Floor

#### Zinke Voted 39 Times To Expand Oil And Gas Leasing

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Require The Energy Department To Develop The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill In Consultation With The EPA And The Council On Environmental Quality.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Tlaib, D-Mich., amendment no. 11 that would require the Energy Department to develop the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill in consultation with the EPA and the Council on Environmental Quality. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 205-220, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 204 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 5 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #37](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing Located In The South Atlantic Planning Area, Straits Of Florida, And Certain Areas In The Eastern Gulf Of Mexico.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Castor, D-Fla., amendment no. 3 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing located in the South Atlantic Planning Area, Straits of Florida, and certain areas in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 214-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 211 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #39](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing Located In The South Atlantic Planning Area, Straits Of Florida, And Certain Areas In The Eastern Gulf Of Mexico.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Pallone, D-N.J., amendment no. 104 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located in the North Atlantic planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 214-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 211 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #40](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Bill Would Not Affect Any Statutory Or Regulatory Restrictions In Effect At The Time Of Enactment That Prohibit Oil And Gas Leasing Within The South Atlantic Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Mace, R-S.C., amendment no. 133 that would specify that the bill would not affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect at the time of enactment that prohibit oil and gas leasing within the South Atlantic planning area.” The motion was agreed to by the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 389-42, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 207 Democrats and 182 Republicans voted for the motion, while 6 Democrats and 36 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #41](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Submits A Certification To Congress Stating That The Price Of Gasoline And Diesel Fuel Will Not Increase During The Development Of The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Soto, D-Fla., amendment no. 44 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department submits a certification to Congress stating that the price of gasoline and diesel fuel will not increase in any of the five U.S. petroleum administration districts during the development of the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill. The motion





failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 212 Democrats and 1 Republican voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #43](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Increase, From 10 To 15 Percent, The Maximum Percentage Increase Of Federal Land That Could Be Leased For Oil And Gas Production Under The Leasing Plan Required By The Bill.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Boebert, R-Colo., amendment no. 33 that would increase, from 10 to 15 percent, the maximum percentage increase of federal land that may be leased for oil and gas production under the leasing plan required by the bill.” The motion was agreed to by the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 220-212, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 5 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted for the motion, while 208 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #44](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located Off The Coast Of Virginia.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Spanberger, D-Va., amendment no. 29 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located off the coast of Virginia. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 210 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #45](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located In The Northern California Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Huffman, D-Calif., amendment no. 15 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located in the Northern California planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 212-218, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 210 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #46](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located In The Central California Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Panetta, D-Calif., amendment no. 26 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located in the Central California planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 211 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #48](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located In The Southern California Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Levin, D-Calif., amendment no. 18 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located in the Southern California planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 211 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #49](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing Located In The Washington/Oregon Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “DelBene, D-Wash., amendment no. 7 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing located in the Washington/Oregon planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 211 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #50](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]





**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Providing An Increase In Leased Federal Lands That Would Not Provide A “Fair Return” To Taxpayers.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Levin, D-Calif., amendment no. 21 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from providing an increase in leased federal lands that would not provide a “fair return” to taxpayers. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 210-222, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 210 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #51](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Require The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill To Include A Tribal Consultation Plan With Tribal Governments And The Interior, Agriculture, Defense And Energy Departments.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment no. 55 that would require the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill to include a tribal consultation plan with tribal governments and the Interior, Agriculture, Defense and Energy departments. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 212 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #52](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Federal Land Where Such Leasing Would Result In Or Exacerbate Disproportionate Burdens On Communities Of Color, Low-Income Communities, And Tribal And Indigenous Communities.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment no. 56 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any federal land where such leasing would result in or exacerbate disproportionate burdens on communities of color, low-income communities, and tribal and indigenous communities. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 212 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #53](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Exclude Federal Lands That Were Viable For Renewable Energy Production From The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment no. 57 that would exclude federal lands that are viable for renewable energy production from the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 197-235, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 196 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 17 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #54](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill Would Only Allow A Lease Or Permit To Be Issued If It Certified To The Energy Department That The Permit Would Not Excessively Increase The Price Of Petroleum Products.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “DeGette, D-Colo., amendment no. 89 that would specify that the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill would only allow a lease or permit to be issued if it certifies to the Energy Department that such lease or permit would not excessively increase the sale price of petroleum products during a severe energy supply interruption or a period of decreased supply of petroleum products. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 212-220, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 212 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #55](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Certified That The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill Was Necessary To Replenish The Strategic Petroleum Reserve To Its Size On Feb. 23, 2022.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Torres, D-Calif., amendment no. 50 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department certifies that the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill



is necessary to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its size on Feb. 23, 2022. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 204-228, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 204 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 9 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #56](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Providing Any Entity With The Opportunity To Engage In Oil Or Gas Production Activities Unless Such Activities Would Not Negatively Impact Air Quality.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Cohen, D-Tenn., amendment no. 129 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from providing any entity with the opportunity to engage in oil or gas production activities unless such activities will not negatively impact air quality. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 199-232, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 198 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 14 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #59](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Certified To Congress That An Increase In The Percentage Of Federal Lands Leased For Oil And Gas Production Would Not Result In An Increase In Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Garcia, D-Calif., amendment no. 53 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department certifies to Congress that an increase in the percentage of federal lands leased for oil and gas production will not result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 199-230, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 198 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 13 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #60](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Certified That An Increase Of Federal Lands Leased For Oil And Gas Production Would Not Perpetuate Environmental Injustice.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Lee, D-Calif., amendment no. 84 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department certifies that an increase of federal lands leased for oil and gas production would not perpetuate environmental injustice. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 207-223, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 206 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 5 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #61](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Bill Could Not Be Construed To Deny That Communities Of Color And That Low-Wealth Communities “Face The Greatest Harms Due To Climate Change And Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Payne, D-N.J., amendment no. 76 that would specify that the bill may not be construed to deny that communities of color and low-wealth communities “face the greatest harms due to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.” The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 211-217, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 210 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #62](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located Within The Big Cypress National Preserve In Florida.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., amendment no. 75 that would prohibit the oil and leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located within the Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 212-215, with 0 voting present and 13 not voting. 209 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 213 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #63](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]



**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing Located In The Great Lakes.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Schneider, D-Ill., amendment no. 131 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing located in the Great Lakes. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 209-215, with 0 voting present and 16 not voting. 206 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #64](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Determined That The Bill’s Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Would Not Negatively Affect Consumers Whose Homes Were Heated Using Heating Oil Or Other Petroleum-Based Fuels.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Magaziner, D-R.I., amendment no. 58 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department determines that the bill’s oil and gas leasing plan will not negatively affect consumers whose homes are heated using heating oil or other petroleum-based fuels. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 205-220, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 205 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #66](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including The Lease Of Any Land To A Company That Had Purchased An Equity Security Within The Last Decade Of A Company That Was Listed On A National Securities Exchange.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., amendment no. 74 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including the lease of any land to a company that has purchased an equity security within the last decade of a company that is listed on a national securities exchange. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 171-256, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 171 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 40 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #67](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including The Lease Of Federal Land That Would Increase Net Carbon Emissions.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., amendment no. 72 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including the lease of federal land that would increase net carbon emissions. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 193-228, with 0 voting present and 18 not voting. 192 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 18 Democrats and 210 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #68](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including The Leasing Of Federal Land That Would Be Inconsistent With The Goals Of The Paris Climate Accords.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., amendment no. 73 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including the leasing of federal land that would be inconsistent with the goals of the Paris Climate Accords. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 199-229, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 198 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 11 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #69](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing In The Mid-Atlantic Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Ross, D-N.C., amendment no. 70 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing in the Mid-Atlantic Planning Area. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 212-218, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 210 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #72](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]



**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Remove The Requirement That The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill Increase The Percentage Of Federal Lands Leased For Gas Production.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Casten, D-Ill., amendment no. 66 that would remove the requirement that the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill increase the percentage of federal lands leased for gas production. It would also prohibit fossil fuel industry participation in oil production activities under the plan unless an industry entity submits a plan to the Energy Department for reducing its global warming-related pollution by 50 percent of 2022 levels by 2030, without offsets; eliminating such pollution by 2050, without offsets; and limiting its methane emissions from oil production. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 199-231, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 199 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 12 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #73](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Exclude Submerged Lands Of The Outer Continental Shelf From The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Manning, D-N.C., amendment no. 27 that would exclude submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf from the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 206-220, with 0 voting present and 13 not voting. 205 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #76](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department, In Consultation With The Interior Department, Published A Report On The Number, Location And Owner Of All Unused Permits To Drill For Oil And Gas On Federal Land.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Vasquez, D-N.M., amendment no. 63 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department, in consultation with the Interior Department, publishes a report on the number, location and owner of all unused permits to drill for oil and gas on federal land. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 204-224, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 203 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 6 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #80](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Strike The Text Of The Bill And Substitute It With A Requirement That The Energy Department Should Acquire Petroleum Products For The Strategic Petroleum Reserve That Were Produced From Domestic Sources.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Vasquez, D-N.M., amendment no. 64 that would strike the text of the bill and substitute it with a requirement that the Energy Department, to the greatest extent possible, should acquire petroleum products for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that are produced from domestic sources. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 187-240, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 187 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 23 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #81](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Federal Land With A Boundary Within 3,200 Feet Of A Residence, School Or Hospital.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Barragan, D-Calif., amendment no. 24 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any federal land with a boundary within 3,200 feet of a residence, school or hospital. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 209-219, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #85](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Submitted A Certification To Congress Stating That Implementing The Bill Would Not Increase The Average Price Of Energy For Consumers.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Plaskett, D-V.I., amendment no. 43 that would postpone the effective date of the





bill's requirements until the Energy Department submits a certification to Congress stating that implementing the bill will not increase the average price of energy for consumers. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 209-221, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #86](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract In The Washington/Oregon Planning Area If Such Leasing Would Adversely Impact Coastal Fisheries.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Perez, D-Wash., amendment no. 79 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract in the Washington/Oregon planning area if such leasing would adversely impact coastal fisheries. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 210-219, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 209 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #87](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Authorizing The Participation, Including In Any Lease Auction, Of Any Corporation Or Entity That The Energy Department Determined To Have Contributed To Oil And Gas Price-Gouging In 2022.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Bowman, D-N.Y., amendment no. 92 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from authorizing the participation, including in any lease auction, of any corporation or entity that the Energy Department determines to have contributed to oil and gas price-gouging in 2022. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 201-229, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 201 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 9 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #88](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing On Any Protected Public Lands, Including National Park System Units, National Wildlife Refuge System Units, National Monuments, National Recreation Areas And Areas Of Critical Environmental Concern.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment no. 145 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing on any protected public lands, including National Park System units, National Wildlife Refuge System units, national monuments, national recreation areas and areas of critical environmental concern. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 210-218, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 209 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #89](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 1, A Bill To Require A Number Of Actions To Boost The Domestic Production Of Fossil Fuels And Critical Minerals And Reverse Or Repeal Certain Recent Policies Related To Energy And Climate Change.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and critical minerals, accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, and reverse or repeal certain recent policies related to energy and climate change. Among provisions to boost oil and gas leasing and production, the bill would require the Interior Department to resume quarterly oil and gas lease sales on federal lands; complete certain proposed sales on the Outer Continental Shelf; and implement at least two lease sales per year in each of the Gulf of Mexico and the Alaska regions of the Shelf. It would roll back increased fees and royalties for onshore and offshore oil and gas development and production established by the 2022 budget reconciliation package (PL 117-69). It would adjust revenue sharing requirements for onshore and offshore production to generally decrease federal shares and increase state shares, particularly for coastal states. It would also require annual geothermal lease sales; terminate a moratorium on new coal leasing; and provide for final approval of previously authorized coal leases. It would prohibit the president from declaring a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing and from taking any action that would delay new leases, sales and drill permits for oil and gas, coal or mineral exploration. It would remove restrictions on the import and export of liquified natural gas and prohibit the Chinese Communist Party or a person acting on its behalf from acquiring any interest with respect to lands leased for oil or gas. Among provisions





to streamline the permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act, the bill would set deadlines for the completion of NEPA environmental reviews and adjust thresholds for levels of review; limit the scope of reviews to “reasonably foreseeable” effects and codify 2020 regulations removing requirements to consider climate change impacts in the review process; and direct agencies to use previously completed reviews to satisfy NEPA requirements for substantially similar proposed actions. For oil and gas projects, it would limit the scope of environmental reviews to areas within or immediately adjacent to affected plots and prohibit the consideration of downstream, indirect effects of oil and gas consumption. To expedite certain energy production and infrastructure projects, it would establish procedures and a 120-day expedited deadline for federal agencies to review applications for cross-border oil and natural gas pipelines; and expand the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s role as the lead agency for natural gas pipeline permitting. To address critical mineral supply, the bill would require the Energy Department to conduct ongoing assessments of and develop strategies to strengthen domestic supply chains for critical energy resources, including through increased mining and processing and permit the EPA to temporarily waive certain pollution regulation requirements for processing and refining projects at critical energy resource facilities to address supply chain concerns. It would make coal and critical mineral mining projects eligible for certain expedited infrastructure permitting processes; provide for appointment of a lead agency to coordinate the permitting process for mineral exploration; and limit the withdrawal of federal lands and waters from mineral leasing. The bill would also repeal certain climate-related programs established by the 2022 budget reconciliation package, including the \$27 billion “Greenhouse Gas Reduction” fund to support low- and zero-carbon projects, a program imposing fees on methane emissions from oil and gas drilling sites on federal lands, and energy rebate programs to incentivize energy-efficient homes and buildings. The motion passed the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 225-204, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 4 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted for the motion, while 203 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #182](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Lower Energy Costs Act To The House Natural Resources Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Porter, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Natural Resources Committee. The motion failed the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 207-222, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 207 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 222 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #181](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

## **Zinke Voted Twice To Expand The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s Authority**

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**2016: Zinke Voted For S.2012, A Bill To Increase The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s Licensing And Permitting Authority For Natural Gas Pipelines And Hydropower Projects.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would increase the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) authority with regard to licensing and permitting of natural gas pipelines and hydropower projects, and would set statutory deadlines for agencies. It also would set a deadline for the Energy Department to approve or deny applications to export natural gas to within 30 days of the bill’s enactment or the close of the application’s public comment period, whichever is later. The bill would require FERC to facilitate voluntary information sharing between federal, state, and local authorities and operators and users of the U.S. bulk power system. It would deem mining operations of “strategic and critical minerals” as “infrastructure projects” as described in a 2012 presidential order regarding permitting of infrastructure projects. The measure also would require that additional water be pumped south from Northern California when water levels in the state are generally low rather than retaining water in the north for habitat restoration and other environmental purposes. The motion passed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 241-178, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 8 Democrats and 233 Republicans voted for the motion, while 172 Democrats and 6 Republicans voted against the motion. [S. 2012, [Vote #250](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Remove The Energy Department’s Role In Approving Gas Imports And Exports And Instead Give That Authority To The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.** According to the



House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would remove the Energy Department’s role in approving gas imports and exports and instead give that authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It also would modify current law to provide FERC the exclusive authority to approve or deny an application for the siting, construction, expansion or operation of any facility to export or import natural gas, not just a liquefied natural gas terminal. It also would require FERC, when determining whether to grant such an application, to deem such exportation or importation to be consistent with the public interest. The motion passed the House on February 15, 2024 by a vote of 224-200, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 9 Democrats and 214 Republicans voted for the motion, while 199 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 7176, [Vote #52](#), 2/15/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [2/15/24](#)]

## **Zinke Voted Four Times For Funding Fossil Energy Research**

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**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Cut \$50 Million In Renewable Energy Funding And Increase Fossil Fuel Research Funding By \$45 Million.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Griffith, R-Va., amendment that would reduce funding for Energy Department energy efficiency and renewable energy activities by \$50 million and increase funding for fossil energy research and development by \$45 million. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 182-236, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 0 Democrats and 182 Republicans voted for the motion, while 177 Democrats and 59 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #243](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Cut \$13 Million In Fossil Fuel Research Funding And Increase Funding For Renewable Energy By \$10 Million.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would reduce funding for Energy Department fossil energy research and development by \$13 million and increase funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities by roughly \$10 million. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 167-251, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 155 Democrats and 12 Republicans voted for the motion, while 23 Democrats and 228 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #245](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Reduce Funding For Fossil Energy Research By \$285 Million.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would reduce funding for Energy Department fossil energy research and development by \$285 million and transfer the amount to the spending reduction account. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 144-275, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 97 Democrats and 47 Republicans voted for the motion, while 81 Democrats and 194 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #246](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4394 To Increase Funding By \$600 Million For The Energy Department’s Fossil Energy And Carbon Management Programs And Cut \$1.1 Billion In Funding For Energy Efficiency And Renewable Energy Programs.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Griffith, R-Va., amendment no. 15 that would increase funding by \$600 million for the Energy Department’s fossil energy and carbon management programs and reduce funding by \$1.1 billion for the department’s energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The motion failed the House on October 26, 2023 by a vote of 161-257, with 0 voting present and 20 not voting. 0 Democrats and 161 Republicans voted for the motion, while 208 Democrats and 49 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4394, [Vote #532](#), 10/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [10/26/23](#)]

## **Zinke Voted To Expand Plutonium Pit Capacity**

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**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Bar Use Of Funds From The Bill To Expand Plutonium Pit Production Capacity.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Garamendi, D-Calif., amendment that would bar use of funds made available by the bill to expand plutonium pit production capacity at the PF-4 facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of



126-293, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 126 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 55 Democrats and 238 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #254](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

## **Zinke Voted Six Times To Expand Offshore Drilling**

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**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove A Prohibition On Updating Regulations For Drilling Margins For Oil And Gas Operations On The Outer Continental Shelf.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Castor, D-Fla., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on developing, enforcing or updating regulations pertaining to drilling margins or static downhole mud weight as related to oil, gas and sulphur operations in the outer continental shelf. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 186-237, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 176 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted for the motion, while 8 Democrats and 229 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #423](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove A Prohibition On Finalizing Interior Department Rules For Air Quality Control, Reporting And Compliance For Specific Offshore Areas Of The Gulf Of Mexico And The Arctic Ocean.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Huffman, D-Calif., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on finalizing or implementing proposed Interior Department rules regarding air quality control, reporting and compliance for specific offshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic Ocean. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 181-244, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 177 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted for the motion, while 7 Democrats and 237 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #424](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds In The Bill From Being Used To Research, Investigate, Or Study Offshore Drilling In The Eastern Gulf Of Mexico.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Graham, D-Fla., for Jolly, R-Fla., amendment that would prohibit funds made available by the bill to be used to research, investigate, or study offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 185-243, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 163 Democrats and 22 Republicans voted for the motion, while 22 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #447](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds From Being Used To Authorize, Permit Or Conduct Geological Or Geophysical Activities In Support Of Oil, Gas, Or Methane Hydrate Exploration.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Beyer, D-Va., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to authorize, permit or conduct geological or geophysical activities in support of oil, gas, or methane hydrate exploration and development in certain areas of the Atlantic Ocean. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 192-236, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 177 Democrats and 15 Republicans voted for the motion, while 8 Democrats and 228 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #465](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds To Remove Three Alaskan Sites From Potential Oil And Gas Leasing.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Young, R-Alaska, amendment that would prohibit funds to remove three Alaskan sites from a schedule of potential lease sales within the Bureau of Ocean Management’s 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest



Service and other agencies.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 242-185, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 7 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted for the motion, while 177 Democrats and 8 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #461](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Bar Funds From Being Used To Process Any Application That Would Authorize Use Of Fracking In The Pacific Outer Continental Shelf.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Capps, D-Calif., amendment that would bar funds from being used to process any application that would authorize use of hydraulic fracturing or acid well stimulation treatment in the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 14, 2016 by a vote of 172-254, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 168 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted for the motion, while 15 Democrats and 239 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #469](#), 7/14/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/14/16](#)]

## **Zinke Voted Six Times For Lower Royalties And Taxes On Oil And Gas Companies**

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**2016: Zinke Voted For H.Con.Res. 112, A Resolution To Express A Sense Of Congress In Opposition To A Proposed \$10-Per-Barrel Oil Tax.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Adoption of the concurrent resolution that would express a sense of Congress in opposition to the president’s proposed \$10-per-barrel tax on oil. It also would express a sense of Congress that lawmakers, in considering future policy, should review potential harms of new taxes on industries that have seen job, revenue and production cuts. The motion passed the House on June 10, 2016 by a vote of 253-144, with 2 voting present and 35 not voting. 23 Democrats and 230 Republicans voted for the motion, while 143 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.Con.Res. 112, [Vote #296](#), 6/10/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/10/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 1 To Express That Congress Disapproved Of President Joe Biden’s Proposed Repeal Of Tax Provisions That Were “Vital To The Oil And Natural Gas Industry” In His Fiscal 2024 Budget Request.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Hern, R-Okla., amendment no. 5 that would express that Congress disapproves of President Joe Biden’s proposed repeal of tax provisions that are “vital to the oil and natural gas industry” in his fiscal 2024 budget request, including findings that the policy would result in a “tax hike” on U.S. oil and natural gas producers.” The motion was agreed to by the House on March 29, 2023 by a vote of 228-206, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 7 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted for the motion, while 203 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #168](#), 3/29/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/29/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 1 To Strike A Section Of The Bill That Would Roll Back Fees And Royalties On Onshore And Offshore Oil And Gas Development Imposed By The 2022 Budget Reconciliation Package.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Levin, D-Calif., amendment no. 26 that would strike a section of the bill that would roll back fees and royalties on onshore and offshore oil and gas development imposed by the 2022 budget reconciliation package (PL 117-169). The motion failed the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 205-228, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 205 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 224 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #176](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Allow The Interior Department To Proceed With Updating Royalty Rates And Valuations For Federal Gas, Oil, And Coal.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Lowenthal, D-Calif., amendment that would allow the Interior Department to proceed with updating royalty rates and valuation for federal coal, oil, and gas. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 183-246, with 0 voting present and 4 not voting. 177 Democrats and





6 Republicans voted for the motion, while 8 Democrats and 238 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #435](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4821 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement, Administer Or Enforce A Section Of The Inflation Reduction Act Related To Increasing Onshore Oil And Gas Royalty Rates, Minimum Bid Requirements And Rental Fees.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Ogles, R-Tenn., amendment no. 120 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to implement, administer or enforce a section of the Inflation Reduction Act (PL 117-169) related to increasing onshore oil and gas royalty rates, minimum bid requirements and rental fees.” The motion was agreed to by the House on November 3, 2023 by a vote of 214-204, with 0 voting present and 20 not voting. 0 Democrats and 214 Republicans voted for the motion, while 202 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #593](#), 11/3/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/3/23](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove A Prohibition On Finalizing BLM Rules To Establish When Flared Natural Gas Would Qualify As Waste.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Huffman, D-Calif., for Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on finalizing or implementing proposed rules by the Bureau of Land Management that would establish criteria for when flared natural gas would qualify as waste and thus be subject to royalties. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 184-240, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 177 Democrats and 7 Republicans voted for the motion, while 6 Democrats and 234 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #422](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

## **Zinke Voted Five Times For Restricting The Ability Of The President To Use The Strategic Petroleum Reserve**

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**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Strike An Exemption In The Bill Allowing The Energy Department To Make Drawdowns From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Prior To The Development Of An Oil And Gas Leasing Plan In The Case Of A Severe Energy Supply Interruption.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Greene, R-Ga., amendment no. 2 that would strike an exemption in the bill allowing the Energy Department to make drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve prior to the development of an oil and gas leasing plan in the case of a severe energy supply interruption. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 14-418, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 0 Democrats and 14 Republicans voted for the motion, while 213 Democrats and 205 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #42](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Bill Did Not Impact The Authority Of The President Or The Energy Department To Initiate Drawdowns From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve To Lower Gas Prices.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Magaziner, D-R.I., amendment no. 59 that would specify that the bill does not impact the authority of the president or the Energy Department to initiate drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the purpose of lowering gas prices. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 204-222, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 204 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #65](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Allow The Energy Department To Make Drawdowns From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Prior To The Development Of An Oil And Gas Leasing Plan If A Delay In Executing A Drawdown Would Increase Gas Prices.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Scholten, D-Mich., amendment no. 60 that would allow the Energy Department to make drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve prior to the development of an oil and gas leasing plan if a delay in executing a drawdown would increase gas prices. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 207-221, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 207 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats





and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #77](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Allow The Energy Department To Make Drawdowns From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Prior To The Development Of An Oil And Gas Leasing Plan If A Delay In Executing A Drawdown Would Worsen Inflation.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Nickel, D-N.C., amendment no. 77 that would allow the Energy Department to make drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve prior to the development of an oil and gas leasing plan if a delay in executing a drawdown would worsen inflation. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 207-222, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 207 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #92](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 21, A Bill To Limit The Drawdown Of Petroleum In The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Until The Department Of Energy Submitted To Congress A Plan To Increase The Percentage Of Federal Lands Leased For Oil And Gas Production.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would prohibit the Department of Energy, after the bill’s enactment, from executing a first drawdown of petroleum products from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve for sale, exchange or loan until the DOE first develops a plan — in consultation with the Agriculture, Interior and Defense departments — to increase the percentage of federal lands leased for oil and gas production by an amount equal to the percentage of petroleum in the Reserve that would be drawn down, up to a maximum of 15 percent. The bill would provide an exception to the planning requirement if the president determines a drawdown is required due to a severe energy supply interruption, defined as an emergency situation reducing the supply of petroleum products and resulting in price increases that would have a major adverse impact on the national economy. Prior to passage, the House adopted 12 amendments to the bill. As amended, the bill would also apply the oil and gas leasing plan requirement retroactively to drawdowns initiated on Jan. 21, 2021, and afterward; require DOE to ensure that such plans would not result in the sale of drawn-down petroleum products to Iran, China, North Korea or Russia; and require DOE to submit such plans to Congress, among other provisions. The motion passed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 221-205, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 1 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted for the motion, while 205 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #93](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

## Zinke Cosponsored Numerous Bills To Expand Oil And Gas Extraction

### Zinke Cosponsored Two Bills To Expand Exports Of Natural Gas And Oil

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**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 287, A Bill Expediting The Approval Process For Importing And Exporting Natural Gas To Members Of The World Trade Organization.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 287, a bill “To enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 287](#), introduced [1/13/15](#)]

**June 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 702, A Bill Prohibiting Restrictions On U.S. Oil Exports.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 702, a bill “To adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 702](#), introduced [2/4/15](#)]

### Zinke Cosponsored Three Bills To Expand Leasing For Oil, Natural Gas, And Minerals On Public Land

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**February 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 866, A Bill Delegating To The States Federal Authority To Lease, Permit, And Regulate Oil And Natural Gas.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 866, a



bill “To achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 866](#), introduced [2/11/15](#)]

**February 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 923, A Bill Requiring The Executive Branch To Receive Congressional Approval Before Delaying Oil, Gas, Or Mineral Leases Or Permits On Federal Lands.**

According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 923, a bill “To prohibit the President from issuing moratoria on leasing and permitting energy and minerals on certain Federal land.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 923](#), introduced [2/9/23](#)]

**March 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1, A Bill Expanding And Expediting The Production Of Oil, Gas, And Minerals On Federal Lands.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1, a bill “To lower energy costs by increasing American energy production, exports, infrastructure, and critical minerals processing, by promoting transparency, accountability, permitting, and production of American resources, and by improving water quality certification and energy projects, and for other purposes.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1](#), introduced [3/14/23](#)]

## **Zinke Cosponsored Four Pro-Oil And Gas Messaging Bills**

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**April 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.Res. 339, A Bill Expressing The Sense That The U.S. Should Increase Domestic Oil And Gas Production And Adopt An “All-Of-The-Above” Approach To Energy.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.Res. 339, a bill “Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy is the most viable approach to energy policy.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.Res. 339](#), introduced [4/28/23](#)]

**September 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 5482, A Bill Directing Federal Agencies To Conduct Reviews Of State And Federal Energy Policies To Evaluate Their Impacts On Energy Costs.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 5482, a bill “To prevent energy poverty and ensure that at-risk communities have access to affordable energy.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 5482](#), introduced [9/14/23](#)]

**October 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 6089, A Bill Prohibiting State And Local Governments From Restricting Energy Services Based On The Source Of The Energy.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 6089, a bill “To prohibit States or local governments from prohibiting the connection, reconnection, modification, installation, or expansion of an energy service based on the type or source of energy to be delivered, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 6089](#), introduced [10/26/23](#)]

**January 2024: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.Res. 987, A Bill Criticizing The Biden Administration’s Energy Policies And Encouraging Domestic Production Of Oil And Gas.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.Res. 987, a bill “Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.Res. 987](#), introduced [1/31/24](#)]

## **Zinke Cosponsored Three Bills To Expand And Expedite Pipeline Construction**

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**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 3, A Bill Authorizing The Construction Of The Keystone Pipeline.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 3, a bill “To approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 3](#), introduced [1/6/15](#)]

**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 161, A Bill Expediting The Federal Permitting Process For Natural Gas Pipelines.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 161, a bill “To provide for the timely consideration of all licenses, permits, and approvals required under Federal law with respect to the siting,



construction, expansion, or operation of any natural gas pipeline projects.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 161](#), introduced [1/6/15](#)]

**March 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1616, A Bill Authorizing The Interior Department To Approve Natural Gas Pipelines Within National Parks.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1616, a bill “To authorize the approval of natural gas pipelines and establish deadlines and expedite permits for certain natural gas gathering lines on Federal land and Indian land.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1616](#), introduced [3/25/15](#)]

## **Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Allow “Intangible” Costs To Be Taken Into Account On The Balance Sheets Of Drilling Companies**

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**July 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 5073, A Bill Amending The Federal Tax Code To “Allow Intangible Drilling And Development Costs To Be Taken Into Account When Computing Adjusted Financial Statement Income.”** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 5073, a bill “To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 5073](#), introduced [7/28/23](#)]

## **Zinke Voted In Committee To Expand Leasing For Extractive Industries**

### **June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Energy-Water Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions To Increase Funding For The Development Of Nuclear Power**

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**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Energy-Water Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions To Increase Funding For The Development Of Nuclear Power.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Energy-Water appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$5.6 billion in previously appropriated funds, including \$4.5 billion for rebates for new electric appliances and home electrification projects, \$1 billion to support state and local governments in updating building codes and \$150 million for the Energy Department’s loan guarantee program. [...] The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would receive \$3 billion, or \$466 million below the fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] The bill would redirect \$3.6 billion in unobligated funds previously appropriated by the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law for advanced nuclear reactor demonstration programs, including \$2.4 billion for advanced nuclear fuel and \$1.2 billion for small modular reactor research and development.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, [6/22/23](#)]

### **Zinke Voted Three Times In Committee To Expand Oil And Gas Leasing**

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**July 2023: Zinke Voted Against Striking A Policy Rider From The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill That Would Require The Interior Secretary To Issue A Five-Year Plan For Expanding Offshore Oil And Gas Leasing.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Pingree’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill 47 sections, including sections that would: [...] Prevent the use of any funds made available to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon into any federal rulemaking. [...] Prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver to California that would allow the state to finalize its own rulemaking requiring all new cars be zero-emission models by 2035. Require the Interior secretary issue a five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing within 60 days of enactment, and that this plan include two region-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sales per year. Prevent the EPA from promulgating or implementing any program that regulates greenhouse gas emissions associated with livestock’s biological processes. Rescind unobligated fiscal 2022 funding for EPA



activities for greenhouse gas emission reduction and environmental and climate justice block grants.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Add Language Encouraging The Interior Department To Maximize The Amount Of Land Available For Energy Leasing Sales In Gulf Of Mexico And Alaska.** According to CQ, Zinke voted in favor of Rep. Simpson’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “add report language to encourage the Interior Department to maximize the acreage offered for lease sales in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area and the Alaska region for 2023 through 2028.” The amendment was adopted, with 32 Republicans voting in favor and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill, Which Required The Interior Department To Resume Quarterly Oil And Gas Leasing Sales.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$9.4 billion in prior appropriations, including \$7.8 billion allocated to fund renewable energy projects and \$1.4 billion to support environmental and climate justice programs that were included in the 2022 climate and tax reconciliation law. [...] It would provide \$6.2 billion to the EPA, a \$4 billion decrease from the fiscal 2023 enacted level. Within that total, the bill would provide \$560.7 million for science and technology, a \$242 million decrease; \$2.4 billion for environmental programs and management, an \$857 million reduction from fiscal 2023; and \$356 million for the hazardous substance Superfund, a \$927 million decrease equal to the president's budget. [...] It would prohibit the EPA from finalizing a proposed rule concerning steam electric power plants published in March 2023, and prohibit the use of funds provided by the measure to require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems. It would also prohibit the use of such funds to implement any regulation requiring the reporting of emissions associated with livestock's biological processes. It would prohibit the use of any funds made available by the bill to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon as part of any cost-benefit analysis required by law. [...] It would require the Interior Department to conduct all lease sales that were outlined in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing program by Sept. 30, 2024. It would also require the department to resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales. [...] As amended, it also would prohibit the use of any funds to finalize certain regulations, including: The EPA rule proposed April 24, 2023, titled, ‘National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review.’ The EPA rule proposed May 23, 2023, that would finalize new source performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified and reconstruction fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. The EPA rule proposed April 13, 2023, on national emission standards for ethylene oxide. The EPA rule proposed May 5, 2023, on multi-pollutant emission standards for model years 2027 and later for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles. The EPA rule proposed April 27, 2023, on greenhouse gas emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full house, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

## **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Conducted A “Soviet Style Purge” Of Senior Climate Staff And Removed References To Climate Change In Official Reports**

### **Zinke Was Investigated After The Interior Department Reassigned Senior Executives In Alleged Political Retribution For Their Work On Climate Change**

### **Zinke Complained That 30 Percent Of Interior Department Staff Were Disloyal, Earning Criticism From Former And Current Members Of Government**

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#### ***Zinke Claimed That When He Became Interior Secretary, He Had “30 Percent Of The Crew That’s Not Loyal To The Flag”***

**September 2017: Zinke Said That When He Took Over The Interior Department In March, He Had “30 Percent Of The Crew That’s Not Loyal To The Flag” And Compared The Department To A Pirate Ship.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faced a storm of criticism Tuesday after he said nearly one third of employees at his department are not loyal to him and President Donald Trump. Zinke said that when he took over the 70,000 employee department in March, ‘I got 30 percent of the crew that’s not loyal to the flag’ and compared Interior to a pirate ship. Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should ‘apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.’ Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke ‘should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don’t earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.’ In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures ‘a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over’ to finish the mission. Interior has ‘good people,’ Zinke said, ‘but the direction has to be clear, and you’ve got to hold people accountable.’” [Denver Post, 9/27/17]

- **September 2017: Zinke Compared The Interior Department To A Pirate Ship That Captured “A Prized Ship At Sea And Only The Captain And The First Mate Row Over.”** The Denver Post reported, “Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should ‘apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.’ Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke ‘should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don’t earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.’ In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures ‘a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over’ to finish the mission. Interior has ‘good people,’ Zinke said, ‘but the direction has to be clear, and you’ve got to hold people accountable.’ Joel Clement, a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint after he and 50 other senior employees at Interior were reassigned, said civil servants are loyal to the U.S. flag.” [Denver Post, 9/27/17]

#### ***Rep. Raúl Grijalva And Former Top Interior Executives Under Both Republican And Democratic Presidents Criticized Zinke’s Characterization Of His Employees, Noting That “Loyalty Is Earned”***

**September 2017: Rep. Raul Grijalva Criticized Zinke For Calling His Staff Disloyal And Noted That As A Former Navy SEAL, Zinke “Should Be Well Aware That Loyalty Is Earned.”** The Denver Post reported, “Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should ‘apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.’ Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke ‘should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don’t earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.’ In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures ‘a prized ship at sea and



only the captain and the first mate row over' to finish the mission. Interior has 'good people,' Zinke said, 'but the direction has to be clear, and you've got to hold people accountable.' Joel Clement, a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint after he and 50 other senior employees at Interior were reassigned, said civil servants are loyal to the U.S. flag." [Denver Post, 9/27/17]

- **October 2017: Former Top Interior Executives Under Presidents Nixon, Ford, H.W. Bush, Clinton, Bush, And Obama Issued A Letter Criticizing Zinke For His Negative Comments About Interior Employees.** The Washington Post reported, "In a separate letter, former top Interior executives under Presidents Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama criticized Zinke for his comments about loyalty at Interior. 'As former Interior political appointees who served in both Republican and Democratic administrations, we strongly disagree,' the writers said. 'The department's career employees swear to defend the Constitution; they do not swear personal allegiance to individual secretaries or to anyone else.'" [Washington Post, [10/4/17](#)]

## **2017 – 2018: The Inspector General Investigated 35 Proposed Personnel Reassignments For 35 Senior Agency Executives Who Worked On Climate Change**

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**2017-2018: The Inspector General Investigated The Proposed Personnel Reassignments Of 35 Senior Executives In The Interior Department, 16 Of Whom Viewed Their Reassignments As Retaliation For Their Work On Climate Change, Energy, Or Conservation.** The Denver Post reported, "Wenk's retirement comes after an investigation into 35 personnel reassignments of senior executives proposed in the Interior Department under Zinke. Sixteen senior employees viewed their moves as punishment for their work on climate change, energy or conservation, but the Interior Department inspector general did not determine that anything illegal occurred." [Denver Post, 8/12/18]

- **The Inspector General Did Not Determine That Zinke Acted Unlawfully.** The Denver Post reported, "Wenk's retirement comes after an investigation into 35 personnel reassignments of senior executives proposed in the Interior Department under Zinke. Sixteen senior employees viewed their moves as punishment for their work on climate change, energy or conservation, but the Interior Department inspector general did not determine that anything illegal occurred." [Denver Post, 8/12/18]

## **Investigators Were Unable To Determine Whether 16 Staffers Were Reassigned For Retribution, Citing A Lack Of "Clear Criteria"**

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**2018: Federal Investigators Were Unable To Determine If 16 Interior Department Staffers Were Reassigned During Zinke's Tenure As Political Retribution Or Punishment For Their Work On Climate Change, Concluding That The Changes Were Made Without Clear Criteria.** The Billings Gazette reported, "State Rep. Mike Noel, a critic of the monument's designation, owned land near and within the boundary. Investigations found Noel was not provided preferential treatment and that Zinke and other officials did not know about his financial interest in the area, CBS News reported. In April 2018, investigators said they were unable to determine if 16 agency staffers were reassigned as political retribution or punishment for their work on climate change, the Associated Press reported. The employees alleged the moves by the new administration were meant to curb dissenting voices. Interior's inspector general concluded they were made without clear criteria, in part because the Executive Resource Board, which decides reassignments, had not developed criteria. One climate scientist, Joel Clement, filed a complaint of retribution and quit in protest following his reassignment. He penned an op-ed that accused Trump administration of sidelining science that might oppose extractive industries." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## Interior Department Whistleblower Joel Clement Called Zinke's Reassignments A "Soviet-Style Purge"

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### ***2017: Joel Clement Filed A Whistleblower Lawsuit After He Was Reassigned From Rising Water Levels In Alaska To Overseeing Oil & Gas Lease Audits***

**September 2017: Joel Clement, A Climate Scientist And Former Interior Department Employee Who Filed A Whistleblower Complaint After Being Reassigned From Interior Criticized Zinke's "Pirate Ship" Remarks.** The Denver Post reported, "Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should 'apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.' Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke 'should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don't earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.' In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures 'a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over' to finish the mission. Interior has 'good people,' Zinke said, 'but the direction has to be clear, and you've got to hold people accountable.' Joel Clement, a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint after he and 50 other senior employees at Interior were reassigned, said civil servants are loyal to the U.S. flag." [Denver Post, 9/27/17]

- **Clement Said That Interior Department Employees "Also Know A Demagogue When They See One," Referring To Zinke.** The Denver Post reported, "Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should 'apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.' Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke 'should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don't earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.' In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures 'a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over' to finish the mission. Interior has 'good people,' Zinke said, 'but the direction has to be clear, and you've got to hold people accountable.' Joel Clement, a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint after he and 50 other senior employees at Interior were reassigned, said civil servants are loyal to the U.S. flag." [Denver Post, 9/27/17]
- **2017: Clement Filed A Whistleblower Lawsuit After He Was Reassigned To A Post Overseeing Audits Of Oil And Gas Leases.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "'Feds are loyal to America, not junior cabinet secretaries and politicians,' he wrote. Some senior civil servants have charged that Zinke's moves were intended to drive experienced managers from federal employment. If that was the motive, Zinke succeeded in some cases. But the reassignments also landed the department in a high-profile whistle-blower lawsuit, filed by Joel Clement, the department's director of policy analysis who had been leading some of its highest-profile climate change work. Clement was plucked from his work helping Alaskan villages imperiled by rising seas and placed in a post overseeing the auditing of oil and gas leases." [Los Angeles Times, 9/27/17]
- **Clement Said That He Had Heard From Folks Familiar With Federal Government That Transitions Could Be Tough, "But What [The Trump Administration] Is Doing Is Remarkable."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke may have shed some light on his thinking last week when he told a petroleum industry group that he believes nearly a third of his workforce is disloyal to the Trump agenda. 'I got 30% of the crew that's not loyal to the flag,' he said, in a remark first reported by the Associated Press. Most new administrations move quickly to reorient the federal workforce toward their agenda, but they usually rely on the deep expertise of top-level managers such as Clement to move the stubborn levers of bureaucracy. The Trump administration approach has been different. 'I've talked to a lot of folks who have been around the federal government for decades and they say transitions can be tough, but what this group is doing is remarkable,' said Clement, who filed a whistler-blower complaint over the reassignment. 'They have moved me into an area I know nothing about. It might as well be Chinese.'" [Los Angeles Times, 10/5/17]
- **Clement: "They Have Moved Me Into An Area I Know Nothing About. It Might As Well Be Chinese."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke may have shed some light on his thinking last

week when he told a petroleum industry group that he believes nearly a third of his workforce is disloyal to the Trump agenda. ‘I got 30% of the crew that’s not loyal to the flag,’ he said, in a remark first reported by the Associated Press. Most new administrations move quickly to reorient the federal workforce toward their agenda, but they usually rely on the deep expertise of top-level managers such as Clement to move the stubborn levers of bureaucracy. The Trump administration approach has been different. ‘I’ve talked to a lot of folks who have been around the federal government for decades and they say transitions can be tough, but what this group is doing is remarkable,’ said Clement, who filed a whistleblower complaint over the reassignment. ‘They have moved me into an area I know nothing about. It might as well be Chinese.’” [Los Angeles Times, 10/5/17]

## ***Clement Described Zinke’s Reassignments As A “Soviet-Style Purge” That Afflicted “Dozens Of Executives In One Fell Swoop”***

**Joel Clement, A Scientist With The Interior Department, Alleged That As “Soon As Legally Possible” After Zinke’s Confirmation, Zinke Implemented A “Soviet-Style Purge” Of “Dozens Of Executives In One Fell Swoop” That Had Never Been Done Before, Which Included Reassigning Clement To A Different Office.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Joel Clement’s exit from his career in the U.S. Department of the Interior was not quiet. Clement made headlines with an op-ed in the Washington Post declaring himself a whistleblower and raising concerns about issues at the federal agency, which was overseen at the time by then-secretary and now congressional candidate Ryan Zinke. Clement spoke about the complaint he lodged with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel and what he thinks Zinke’s possible victory in November could mean for Montana with former congressional candidate Cora Neumann in Bozeman on Tuesday. Clement worked at the federal agency for seven years. His complaint focused on the legality of a spate of reassignments, including his own, that happened in the agency under Zinke’s direction. [...] Clement said that as ‘soon as legally possible’ after Zinke’s confirmation by the Senate, the former secretary of the Interior implemented what Clement called a ‘Soviet-style purge.’ ‘Every administration comes in and moves a few executives around, it’s normal and not unusual to do,’ Clement said. ‘It had never been done to dozens of executives in one fell swoop.’ He was reassigned from his position as the director of the Office of Policy Analysis to a senior advisor in the agency’s Office of Natural Resources. Clement wrote in his op-ed that he believed the Department of the Interior used the reassignments ‘as part of its effort to eliminate employees.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/20/22]

- **Clement Claimed That Zinke’s Mass Reassignment Was Part Of The Effort To Eliminate Federal Employees.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Joel Clement’s exit from his career in the U.S. Department of the Interior was not quiet. Clement made headlines with an op-ed in the Washington Post declaring himself a whistleblower and raising concerns about issues at the federal agency, which was overseen at the time by then-secretary and now congressional candidate Ryan Zinke. Clement spoke about the complaint he lodged with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel and what he thinks Zinke’s possible victory in November could mean for Montana with former congressional candidate Cora Neumann in Bozeman on Tuesday. Clement worked at the federal agency for seven years. His complaint focused on the legality of a spate of reassignments, including his own, that happened in the agency under Zinke’s direction. [...] Clement said that as ‘soon as legally possible’ after Zinke’s confirmation by the Senate, the former secretary of the Interior implemented what Clement called a ‘Soviet-style purge.’ ‘Every administration comes in and moves a few executives around, it’s normal and not unusual to do,’ Clement said. ‘It had never been done to dozens of executives in one fell swoop.’ He was reassigned from his position as the director of the Office of Policy Analysis to a senior advisor in the agency’s Office of Natural Resources. Clement wrote in his op-ed that he believed the Department of the Interior used the reassignments ‘as part of its effort to eliminate employees.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/20/22]
- **Clement: “How On Earth Could, How Could Someone At That Level Be So Crassly Unethical?”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Clement said that morale began to worsen in the department as Zinke’s ethics were questioned during his tenure. He said that everyone in the department goes through ethics training, but that political appointees like Zinke go through even more. ‘Because the idea is not just to avoid a conflict of interest, but to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest,’ Clement said. He gave the example of Zinke’s connection to a real estate deal involving a senior executive of Halliburton, and how, as secretary, Zinke



oversaw contracts with the company. ‘It makes you question ‘How on Earth could, how could someone at that level be so crassly unethical?’” Clement said.” [Billings Gazette, 10/20/22]

## **Zinke Allegedly Removed Climate Change References From Official Reports And The Interior Department Website**

### **February – April 2017: The Interior Department Faced Criticism After Removing Mentions Of Climate Change Effects From The Website**

#### ***The Interior Department’s Website Lost Mentions Of Climate Change And Substituted Content With Links To Other Agencies***

**February 2017: The Interior Department Website Featured Mentions Of Rising Sea Levels, Pervasive Wildfires, And Endangered Wildlife.** Vice reported, “What was once a robust overview of the Interior’s climate change priorities is now a pedestrian paragraph about the types of land the agency protects. Gone are the mentions of rising sea levels, worsening wildfires, and threatened wildlife. In fact, the entire page, which is just 101-words-long, only uses the term ‘climate change’ once. The revised page now links to the climate change pages of other environmental agencies. One of the links, which should have directed to the Bureau of Land Management, is dead.” [Vice, [4/27/17](#)]

- **April 2017: The Interior Department’s Main Climate Change Page Changed To Only Mention The Term “Climate Change” Once And Only Included Links To Climate Change Pages Of Other Agencies.** Vice reported, “What was once a robust overview of the Interior’s climate change priorities is now a pedestrian paragraph about the types of land the agency protects. Gone are the mentions of rising sea levels, worsening wildfires, and threatened wildlife. In fact, the entire page, which is just 101-words-long, only uses the term ‘climate change’ once. The revised page now links to the climate change pages of other environmental agencies. One of the links, which should have directed to the Bureau of Land Management, is dead.” [Vice, [4/27/17](#)]

#### ***Rep. Don Beyer Urged Zinke To Be “Honest In His Assessment Of The Impacts Of Climate Change”***

**April 2017: House Science, Space, And Technology Committee Vice Ranking Member Rep. Don Beyer Criticized Zinke For The Interior Department Website Changes And Noted Zinke “Must Take Climate Change Seriously.”** Vice reported, “In response to the Interior’s website changes, Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), who is Vice Ranking Member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee, said that Zinke, along with the agency he oversees, ‘must take climate change seriously.’ ‘Through its control of resource extraction,’ Beyer added, the Interior ‘also shapes the US impact on climate. All of these effects are related, and I urge Secretary Zinke, who was reasonable when he served with me on the Natural Resources Committee, to be honest in his assessment of the impacts of climate change, and as open and diligent in his response as he can be.’” [Vice, [4/27/17](#)]

- **Beyer: “I Urge Secretary Zinke, Who Was Once Reasonable When He Served With Me On The Natural Resources Committee, To Be Honest In His Assessment Of The Impacts Of Climate Change, And As Open And Diligent In His Response As He Can Be.”** Vice reported, “In response to the Interior’s website changes, Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), who is Vice Ranking Member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee, said that Zinke, along with the agency he oversees, ‘must take climate change seriously.’ ‘Through its control of resource extraction,’ Beyer added, the Interior ‘also shapes the US impact on climate. All of these effects are related, and I urge Secretary Zinke, who was reasonable when he served with me on the Natural Resources Committee, to be honest in his assessment of the impacts of climate change, and as open and diligent in his response as he can be.’” [Vice, [4/27/17](#)]



## **Democrats Called For An Investigation After The National Park Service Published A Report That Removed References To Human-Caused Climate Change**

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**2018: Democrats Called For An Investigation Into Zinke After A National Park Service Report Removed Any References To Human-Caused Climate Change, With Zinke Denying That He Had Any Role In Changing The Report.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In April of 2018, congressional Democrats called for an investigation after references to human-caused climate change were removed from a National Park Service report. Zinke repeatedly denied he had any role in changing a report on the risks of rising seas and flooding at 118 coastal parks. Interior policy sets out a process for handling scientific information to ensure that findings are credible and ‘free of political influence,’ ABC News reported. Democrats in their complaint questioned whether that policy was being followed, or if politics influenced the changes to the report. The report was later published in full.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]



## Zinke Supported Policies To Expand Mineral Mining While Taking Tens Of Thousands In Campaign Cash From The Industry

### Zinke Received Over \$64,000 From The Mining Industry

Zinke Received Over \$64,000 From The Mining Industry. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/18/24](#)]

1990 – 2024: Money From Mining To U.S. Representatives	
Recipient	Amount
Ryan Zinke	\$64,435.00

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/18/24](#)]

### As Interior Secretary, Zinke Renewed Leases For Mineral Mining For Foreign-Owned Mining Companies And Eased Restricting On Mineral Mining, Decreasing Protections For Preserved Land

#### **December 2017: Zinke’s Interior Department Released A Legal Decision Which Renewed Leases For Copper And Nickel Mining On The Border Of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Which Had Been Ruled Out By The Obama Administration**

**December 2017: Zinke’s Interior Department Released A Legal Decision Which Renewed Leases For Copper And Nickel Mining On The Border Of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Which Had Been Ruled Out By The Obama Administration.** The Washington Post reported, “The Trump administration moved Friday to renew leases for a copper and nickel mining operation on the border of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, reversing a decision made in the final weeks of Barack Obama’s tenure in office. The action, made public in an Interior Department legal decision, marks a win for the Chilean mining firm belonging to the family of billionaire Andrónico Luksic, who rents a home to Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, in Washington.” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]

#### ***December 2017: The Mining Company Which Held The Lease Was Owned By Andrónico Luksic, Who Rented A Home To Ivanka Trump And Jared Kushner In Washington, D.C***

**December 2017: The Mining Company Which Held The Lease Was Owned By Andrónico Luksic, Who Rented A Home To Ivanka Trump And Jared Kushner In Washington, D.C.** The Washington Post reported, “The Trump administration moved Friday to renew leases for a copper and nickel mining operation on the border of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, reversing a decision made in the final weeks of Barack Obama’s tenure in office. The action, made public in an Interior Department legal decision, marks a win for the Chilean mining firm belonging to the family of billionaire Andrónico Luksic, who rents a home to Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, in Washington.” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]

#### ***December 2017: Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) Said That Zinke Had Assured Her Earlier That Week That He Was Committed To Letting Science Guide The Federal Mining Decision, But “Twenty-Four Hours Later, [Zinke] Broke His Word And Issued Mining Leases Footsteps From The BWCA To A Foreign-Owned Mining Company”***

**December 2017: Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) Said That Zinke Had Assured Her Earlier That Week That He Was Committed To Letting Science Guide The Federal Mining Decision.** The Washington Post reported, “As recently as Thursday, Zinke had told Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) that he was committed to letting environmental science guide federal decisions on whether to allow mining in places such as a site near Boundary Waters. Late Friday, McCollum accused Zinke of deliberately misleading her in their latest call. ‘He reiterated to me directly just how precious the waters of the BWCA are and the need for ongoing environmental study,’ McCollum said in a statement. ‘Twenty-four hours later, he broke his word and issued mining leases footsteps from the BWCA to a foreign-owned mining company. Clearly, the numerous assurances I received from Secretary Zinke about protecting the BWCA were worthless and deceitful.’” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]

- **December 2017 – Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN): “[Zinke] Reiterated To Me Directly Just How Precious The Waters Of The BWCA Are And The Need For Ongoing Environmental Study.”** The Washington Post reported, “As recently as Thursday, Zinke had told Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) that he was committed to letting environmental science guide federal decisions on whether to allow mining in places such as a site near Boundary Waters. Late Friday, McCollum accused Zinke of deliberately misleading her in their latest call. ‘He reiterated to me directly just how precious the waters of the BWCA are and the need for ongoing environmental study,’ McCollum said in a statement. ‘Twenty-four hours later, he broke his word and issued mining leases footsteps from the BWCA to a foreign-owned mining company. Clearly, the numerous assurances I received from Secretary Zinke about protecting the BWCA were worthless and deceitful.’” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]
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## **July 2018: Zinke Overruled A Forest Service Decision That Banned Industrial Sulfide Ore Copper Mining Near The Boundary Waters Wilderness In Minnesota**

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**July 2018: Zinke Overruled A Forest Service Decision That Banned Industrial Sulfide Ore Copper Mining Near The Boundary Waters Wilderness In Minnesota.** According to an op-ed by Yvon Chouinard and Land Tawney in the Denver Post, “First, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is overruling the Forest Service and paving the way for industrial sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota. This is the most visited wilderness area in the nation, and local communities rely on the nearly 4,500 jobs in the area generated by the outdoors recreation industry. Across Minnesota, 140,000 people are employed in outdoor recreation, but they



apparently don't carry as much weight with Zinke as the deep pocketed mining companies." [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 7/24/18]

## **March 2018: Zinke Announced That The Bureau Of Land Management Would Ease Mining Restrictions On 1.3 Million Acres Of Land Bordering Death Valley And Joshua Tree National Parks**

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**March 2018: Zinke Announced That The Bureau Of Land Management Would Ease Mining Restrictions On 1.3 Million Acres Of Land Bordering Death Valley And Joshua Tree National Parks.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "This month, Zinke announced that the BLM would ease mining restrictions on 1.3 million acres of desert where it had been more tightly regulated, including public lands bordering Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks. Now, conservationists worry that industrial mining interests may push for road construction in areas of untrammelled wilderness." [Los Angeles Times, 3/16/18]

## **Zinke: "I'm A Pro Mining Guy. I Love Hardrock Mining... But There Are Places To Mine And Places Not To Mine"**

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**Zinke: "I'm A Pro Mining Guy. I Love Hardrock Mining... But There Are Places To Mine And Places Not To Mine."** The Denver Post reported, "U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke approved a 20 year ban on new mining claims in the towering mountains north of Yellowstone National Park on Monday, after two proposed gold mines raised concerns that an area that draws tourists from the around the globe could be spoiled. [...] 'I'm a pro mining guy. I love hardrock mining,' Zinke said. 'But there are places to mine and places not to mine.' Zinke's order extends a temporary ban imposed in 2016 under former President Barack Obama on new claims for gold, silver and other minerals on 47 square miles of public lands in the Paradise Valley and Gardiner Basin." [Denver Post, 10/9/18]

- **October 2018: Zinke Approved A 20-Year Ban On New Mining Claims For Gold, Silver, And Other Minerals On Federal Lands In The Paradise Valley And Gardiner Basin, Two Mountain Ranges North Of Yellowstone National Park.** The Denver Post reported, "U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke approved a 20 year ban on new mining claims in the towering mountains north of Yellowstone National Park on Monday, after two proposed gold mines raised concerns that an area that draws tourists from the around the globe could be spoiled. [...] 'I'm a pro mining guy. I love hardrock mining,' Zinke said. 'But there are places to mine and places not to mine.' Zinke's order extends a temporary ban imposed in 2016 under former President Barack Obama on new claims for gold, silver and other minerals on 47 square miles of public lands in the Paradise Valley and Gardiner Basin." [Denver Post, 10/9/18]

## **In Congress, Zinke Has Repeatedly Sponsored And Voted For Legislation To Ease Mineral Mining Restrictions And Expand Leasing Of Public Land**

## **2023: Zinke Introduced An Amendment To Block The Department Of Interior From Imposing A 20-Year Mining Ban In Northeast Minnesota Where There Was A Large Nickel Deposit, Arguing That "This Mine Has Critical Minerals That Are Necessary In Combat In Defense Of This Country"**

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**2023: Zinke Introduced An Amendment To Block The Department Of Interior From Imposing A 20-Year Mining Ban In Northeast Minnesota Where There Was A Large Nickel Deposit.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke also advanced an amendment blocking The Interior from imposing a 20-year mining ban in northeast



Minnesota where there is a large nickel deposit. The Trump administration has supported the mine, but Biden administration considered the environmental risks too high. ‘Now the history of this mine goes back a long way. Most recently, our Secretary of Interior, when asked when she did do the moratorium, ‘what mineral was in the mine?’ I think that’s a fair question, don’t you? Did anyone on this committee find it surprising that not one mineral could be named?’ Zinke said. ‘That maybe perhaps nickel is important to batteries, to the opposition’s desire to make everything EV. How are you going to do that without batteries? This mine is the largest nickel deposit on the face of the planet that we know of. This mine has critical minerals that are necessary in combat in defense of this country.’” [Billings Gazette, 7/20/23]

- **Zinke: “Now The History Of This Mine Goes Back A Long Way. Most Recently, Our Secretary Of Interior, When Asked When She Did Do The Moratorium, ‘What Mineral Was In The Mine?’... Did Anyone On This Committee Find It Surprising That Not One Mineral Could Be Named? [...] This Mine Is The Largest Nickel Deposit On The Face Of The Planet That We Know Of. This Mine Has Critical Minerals That Are Necessary In Combat In Defense Of This Country.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke also advanced an amendment blocking The Interior from imposing a 20-year mining ban in northeast Minnesota where there is a large nickel deposit. The Trump administration has supported the mine, but Biden administration considered the environmental risks too high. ‘Now the history of this mine goes back a long way. Most recently, our Secretary of Interior, when asked when she did do the moratorium, “what mineral was in the mine?” I think that’s a fair question, don’t you? Did anyone on this committee find it surprising that not one mineral could be named?’ Zinke said. ‘That maybe perhaps nickel is important to batteries, to the opposition’s desire to make everything EV. How are you going to do that without batteries? This mine is the largest nickel deposit on the face of the planet that we know of. This mine has critical minerals that are necessary in combat in defense of this country.’” [Billings Gazette, 7/20/23]

## **2023: Zinke Cosponsored Two Bills To Expand Leasing For Mineral Mining On Public Land**

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### **February 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 923, A Bill Requiring The Executive Branch To Receive Congressional Approval Before Delaying Oil, Gas, Or Mineral Leases Or Permits On Federal Lands.**

According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 923, a bill “To prohibit the President from issuing moratoria on leasing and permitting energy and minerals on certain Federal land.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 923](#), introduced [2/9/23](#)]

**March 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1, A Bill Expanding And Expediting The Production Of Oil, Gas, And Minerals On Federal Lands.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1, a bill “To lower energy costs by increasing American energy production, exports, infrastructure, and critical minerals processing, by promoting transparency, accountability, permitting, and production of American resources, and by improving water quality certification and energy projects, and for other purposes.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1](#), introduced [3/14/23](#)]

## **2015 – 2023: Zinke Cosponsored Two Bills To Expedite Permitting For Mining On Federal Land**

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**April 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1937, A Bill Expediting The Federal Permitting Process For Domestic Mining.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1937, a bill “To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1937](#), introduced [4/22/15](#)]

**January 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 209, A Bill Expediting The Federal Permitting Process For Mining On Federal Lands.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 209, a bill “To improve the



permitting process for mining on Federal land, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 209](#), introduced [1/9/23](#)]

## **2023: Zinke Cosponsored A Bill To Nullify The Withdrawal Of Certain Federal Lands From Mining Claims**

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**July 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 4374, A Bill Nullifying The Withdrawal Of Certain Federal Lands From Mining Claims.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 4374, a bill “To nullify Public Land Order No. 7923, withdrawing certain land in San Juan County, New Mexico, from mineral entry.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 4374](#), introduced [6/27/23](#)]

## **2023: Zinke Voted Twice In Committee In Favor Of Mineral Leasing On Public Lands**

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**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language That Reinstated Hardrock Mineral Leases In The Superior National Forest.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. McCollum’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike language that would require the Interior secretary, within 30 days of the bill’s enactment, to reinstate hardrock mineral leases in the Superior National Forest that were issued in 2019 and later rescinded.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Removing Restrictions On Mineral And Geothermal Leasing In Northern Minnesota.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. McCollum’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill language to prohibit the use of any funds made available by the bill to enforce Public Land Order 7917, which withdrew 225,000 acres of land in the National Forest System in northern Minnesota for consideration for mineral and geothermal leasing for 20 years.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]



# Background & Reference



# Public Records

## Campaign Finance

### Contributions

#### Total Contributions

2021-2024: Zinke’s House Campaign Committee Raised \$8,661,804.00. According to the Federal Election Commission, from 2021-2024, Zinke’s House campaign committee raised \$8,661,804.00. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

#### Top Individual Contributors

2021-2024: The Top 25 Individual Donors To Zinke’s House Campaign Committee Contributed A Combined \$334,339.00. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Zinke For Congress Top 25 Individual Contributors	
Contributor	Aggregate Amount
MURPHY, JOHN	\$26,639.50
TABISH, RICHARD	\$19,000.00
ANGLE, JEAN	\$17,442.42
BARNARD, MARY	\$15,300.00
BARNARD, TIMOTHY	\$15,300.00
PAXSON, MARLA	\$14,900.00
MENHOLT, DENNIS	\$14,600.00
WOLFF, MEG	\$13,452.77
MCKEE, BETTY	\$13,200.00
WYNN, STEPHEN	\$12,400.00
WYNN, ANDREA	\$12,400.00
SHEEHY, TIMOTHY	\$12,400.00
MARTIN, SUE	\$12,400.00
BUCKLEY, MARJORIE	\$12,400.00
BUCKLEY, WALTER	\$12,400.00
MAKARECHIAN, PAUL	\$12,000.00
DIMICCO, DANIEL	\$12,000.00
WILLIAMS, ANGELA	\$11,822.18
MORGAN, DAVID	\$11,600.00
DURRETT, STEVEN D. MR.	\$11,600.00
DEASON, DARWIN	\$11,600.00
GOBLE, GEOFF	\$10,100.00
CAMPBELL, CODY	\$10,000.00
UNDERRINER, WILLIAM P	\$9,882.03
SIEBEL, STACEY	\$9,500.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$334,339.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



## Top Group Contributors

**2021-2024: The Top 25 Non-Individual Donors To Zinke’s House Campaign Committee Contributed A Combined \$934,807.00.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Zinke For Congress Top 25 Non-Individual Contributors</b>	
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Aggregate Amount</b>
PROTECT THE HOUSE 2024	\$230,106.17
TAKE BACK THE HOUSE 2022	\$129,250.66
PROTECT THE HOUSE	\$101,062.28
ZINKE FOR MT-01	\$80,644.37
ZINKE VICTORY FUND	\$43,583.61
EMMER MAJORITY BUILDERS	\$31,828.77
GROW THE MAJORITY	\$28,701.69
AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PAC	\$25,400.00
SEAL PAC	\$22,042.20
MAJORITY COMMITTEE PAC	\$20,000.00
EYE OF THE TIGER PAC	\$20,000.00
AMERICAN REVIVAL PAC	\$17,500.00
SMART MEDIA	\$17,497.47
DIRECT SUPPORT SERVICES	\$15,690.09
REALTORS PAC	\$15,000.00
PINNACLE WEST PAC	\$15,000.00
ENGINEERS POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE	\$15,000.00
BUILD PAC	\$15,000.00
EUREKA PAC	\$15,000.00
CONSERVATIVE OPPORTUNITY LEADERSHIP & ENTERPRISE PAC	\$13,500.00
RANGER PAC	\$13,000.00
UPPER HAND FUND PAC	\$13,000.00
CMR PAC	\$12,500.00
COUNCIL OF INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS	\$12,500.00
TEXAS RED PAC	\$12,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$934,807.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2013 – 2024: Top Donators To Ryan Zinke Included Chord Energy, ConocoPhillips, The National Association Of Home Builders, Barnard Construction, Halliburton, And 71 Ranch Lp.** [Open Secrets, accessed [7/29/24](#)]

<b>Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donators</b>			
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>Pacs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560



Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

[Open Secrets, accessed [7/29/24](#)]

**2024 Election Cycle: Zinke’s Top Donor Was ConocoPhillips, Who Donated \$32,425.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke’s top donor for the 2024 campaign cycle was ConocoPhillips, who donated \$32,425. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke 2024 Campaign Cycle Top Contributors	
Organization	Contribution Total
ConocoPhillips	\$32,425.00
American Israel Public Affairs Cmte	\$15,650.00
Energy Transfer Partners	\$14,210.00
Melaleuca Inc	\$13,205.00
Deason Capital Services	\$13,200.00
First Virtual Group	\$13,200.00
Jane Street Capital	\$13,200.00
Liberty Media Corp	\$13,200.00
Marcus Foundation	\$13,200.00
Mckee Foods	\$13,200.00
Starkey Hearing Technologies	\$13,200.00
Xenesis	\$13,200.00
Capital Group	\$12,600.00
Peck Enterprises	\$11,200.00
Home Depot	\$10,457.00
Brodie Generational Capital Partners	\$10,300.00



Maxor National Pharmacy Services	\$10,071.00
American Osteopathic Information Assn	\$10,000.00
American Petroleum Institute	\$10,000.00
American Revival PAC	\$10,000.00
Big Sky Opportunity PAC	\$10,000.00
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$10,000.00
John Bolton PAC	\$10,000.00
Majority Cmte PAC	\$10,000.00
Martin Resource Management	\$10,000.00
On Wisconsin PAC	\$10,000.00
Operating Engineers Union	\$10,000.00
Philips Electronics North America	\$10,000.00
Pinnacle West Capital	\$10,000.00
Simple Life Medical	\$10,000.00

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### **Percentage PAC Contributions**

**2021-2024: Of Zinke’s House Campaign Committee Contributions, \$6,208,630.63 Came From Individual Donors, Representing 71.68 Percent Of Zinke’s Total Fundraising, While \$2,453,173.78 Came From PACs And Other Non-Individual Donors, Representing 28.32 Percent Of Zinke’s Total Fundraising.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Zinke For Congress Contributions By Contributor Type</b>	
<b>Contributor Type</b>	<b>Aggregate Amount</b>
INDIVIDUAL	\$6,208,630.63
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$1,668,010.05
OTHER COMMITTEE	\$430,625.09
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE	\$241,627.03
ORGANIZATION	\$104,661.61
POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEE	\$8,250.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,661,804.41</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

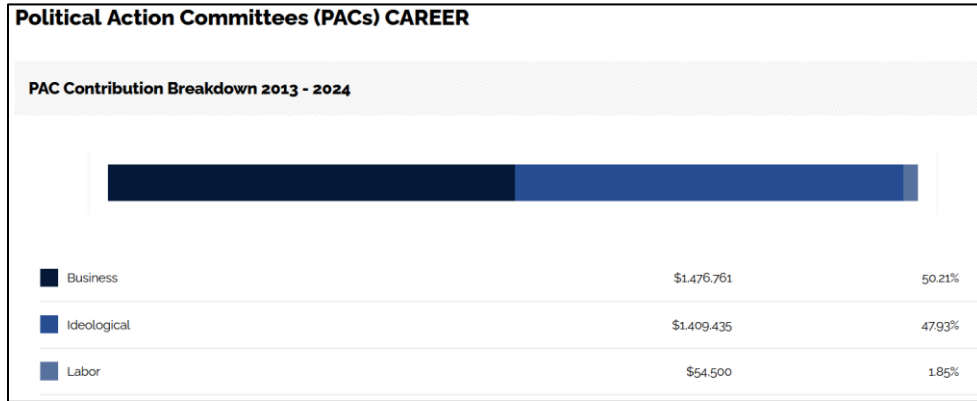
**2013 – 2024: Zinke Accepted \$2,940,646 From PACs.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke has accepted \$2,940,696 from PACs. \$1,476,761 came from business PACs, \$1,409,435 came from ideological PACs, and \$54,500 came from labor PACs. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

- **2013 – 2024: Zinke Accepted \$1,476,761 From Business PACs.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke has accepted \$2,940,696 from PACs. \$1,476,761 came from business PACs, \$1,409,435 came from ideological PACs, and \$54,500 came from labor PACs. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]
- **2013 – 2024: Zinke Accepted \$1,409,435 From Ideological PACs.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke has accepted \$2,940,696 from PACs. \$1,476,761 came from business PACs, \$1,409,435 came from ideological PACs, and \$54,500 came from labor PACs. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]





- **2013 – 2024: Zinke Accepted \$54,500 From Labor PACs.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke has accepted \$2,940,696 from PACs. \$1,476,761 came from business PACs, \$1,409,435 came from ideological PACs, and \$54,500 came from labor PACs. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***Percentage In-State Contributions***

**2021-2024: 15.68 Percent Of Zinke’s House Campaign Committee Contributions Came From In-State, While 84.32 Percent Came From Out-Of-State.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Zinke For Congress Contributions By State</b>	
<b>State</b>	<b>Aggregate Amount</b>
MT	\$1,357,892.90
TX	\$1,096,700.40
CA	\$832,804.85
MD	\$650,069.09
FL	\$640,183.50
VA	\$463,058.74
DC	\$417,105.71
GA	\$346,795.94
AZ	\$175,956.69
NY	\$170,864.93
NV	\$148,075.30
WA	\$133,686.65
IL	\$122,147.02
OH	\$115,166.04
PA	\$113,812.52
OK	\$109,064.66
MA	\$104,256.11
LA	\$103,570.72
TN	\$103,186.91
UT	\$99,921.13
CO	\$96,909.45
NC	\$94,582.29



MO	\$91,331.37
WI	\$90,894.86
AL	\$86,364.87
OR	\$80,761.18
MI	\$76,006.47
ID	\$71,942.32
ND	\$71,760.33
MN	\$63,670.49
AR	\$55,203.11
SC	\$47,914.65
WY	\$47,775.27
IN	\$43,151.18
NJ	\$42,612.11
MS	\$42,213.03
KS	\$40,102.82
CT	\$33,819.57
IA	\$30,376.46
KY	\$29,044.11
NM	\$26,011.56
DE	\$15,597.70
ME	\$13,168.03
AK	\$11,576.41
HI	\$9,901.54
NH	\$9,213.24
SD	\$8,740.13
WV	\$8,654.96
NE	\$7,674.39
VT	\$4,168.50
(blank)	\$3,400.00
RI	\$2,942.20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,661,804.41</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***Percentage Small Donor Contributions***

**2021-2024: Of The Itemized Contributions To Zinke’s House Campaign Committee, \$1,255,995.38 Came From Donations That Were \$200 Or Less, Representing 14.50 Percent Of Zinke’s Total Fundraising.**

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Zinke For Congress Small Dollar Contributions</b>	
<b>Contribution Amount</b>	<b>Aggregate Amount</b>
\$200 Or Less	\$1,255,995.38
More Than \$200	\$7,405,809.03
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,661,804.41</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



**2021-2024: Of The Itemized Contributions To Zinke’s House Campaign Committee, 77,550 Were Donations Of \$200 Or Less, Representing 93.43 Percent Of Zinke’s 83005 Total Contributions.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Zinke For Congress Small Dollar Contribution Count</b>	
<b>Contribution Amount</b>	<b>Contribution Count</b>
\$200 Or Less	77550
More Than \$200	5455
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>83005</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***Top Industries***

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donors By Industry, Excluding Retired And Political Industries, Were Real Estate, Followed By Oil & Gas, Securities And Investment, Lawyers/Law Firms, Livestock, And Health Professionals.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Industry Donors</b>	
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Total</b>
Retired	\$4,821,986
Republican/Conservative	\$1,856,129
Real Estate	\$974,736
Leadership PACs	\$952,485
Oil & Gas	\$850,827
Securities & Investment	\$758,667
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$335,895
Candidate Committees	\$258,660
Livestock	\$237,853
Health Professionals	\$227,945
General Contractors	\$227,590
Automotive	\$215,294
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$203,384
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$183,421
Gun Rights	\$159,969
Insurance	\$142,692
Misc Finance	\$132,093
Lobbyists	\$131,202
Business Services	\$129,130
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$120,664

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***Top Sectors***

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donors By Sector, Excluding “Other” And “Ideological”, Were Finance, Insurance And Real Estate, Followed By Energy And Natural Resources, Miscellaneous Business, Agribusiness, And Construction.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Sector Donors			
Sector	Total	Individuals	PACs
Other	\$5,097,357	\$5,095,357	\$2,000
Ideological/Single-Issue	\$3,376,441	\$1,967,006	\$1,409,435
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$2,206,877	\$2,008,041	\$198,836
Energy & Natural Resources	\$1,098,548	\$764,221	\$334,327
Misc Business	\$857,567	\$680,169	\$177,398
Agribusiness	\$611,422	\$434,722	\$176,700
Construction	\$499,270	\$368,270	\$131,000
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$467,097	\$424,297	\$42,800
Transportation	\$446,326	\$293,226	\$153,100
Health	\$404,293	\$314,693	\$89,600
Communications/Electronics	\$287,080	\$213,580	\$73,500
Defense	\$131,400	\$31,900	\$99,500
Labor	\$57,413	\$2,913	\$54,500

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***Top Contributors By Employer***

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donors By Employer Included Fidelity National Financial, Chord Energy, ConocoPhillips, Langlas & Associates, Berkshire Hathaway, And Halliburton.** [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donors			
Contributor	Individuals	PACs	Total
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950

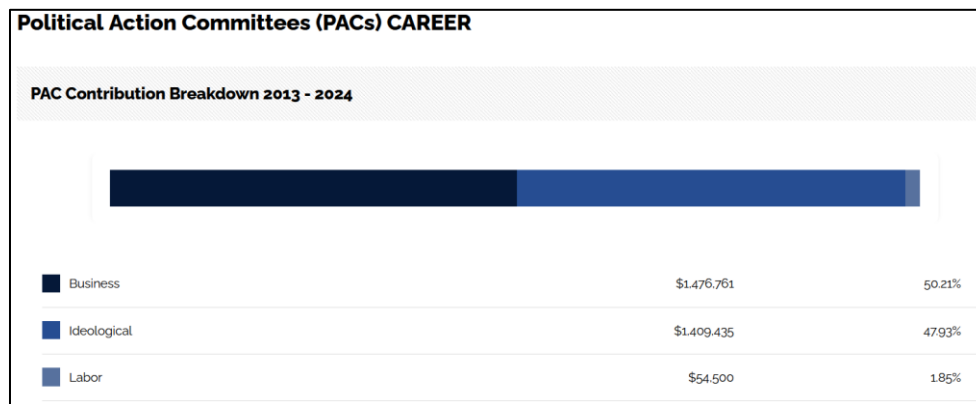
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## PAC Type Breakdown

**2013 – 2024: Zinke Accepted \$2,940,646 From PACs.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke has accepted \$2,940,696 from PACs. \$1,476,761 came from business PACs, \$1,409,435 came from ideological PACs, and \$54,500 came from labor PACs. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

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- **2013 – 2024: Zinke Accepted \$1,409,435 From Ideological PACs.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke has accepted \$2,940,696 from PACs. \$1,476,761 came from business PACs, \$1,409,435 came from ideological PACs, and \$54,500 came from labor PACs. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]
- **2013 – 2024: Zinke Accepted \$54,500 From Labor PACs.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke has accepted \$2,940,696 from PACs. \$1,476,761 came from business PACs, \$1,409,435 came from ideological PACs, and \$54,500 came from labor PACs. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Flagged Contributors

### Energy Industry

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donor By Industry, Excluding Retired And Political Industries, Was Real Estate, Followed By Oil & Gas.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Industry Donors	
Industry	Total
Retired	\$4,821,986





Republican/Conservative	\$1,856,129
Real Estate	\$974,736
Leadership PACs	\$952,485
Oil & Gas	\$850,827
Securities & Investment	\$758,667
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$335,895
Candidate Committees	\$258,660
Livestock	\$237,853
Health Professionals	\$227,945
General Contractors	\$227,590
Automotive	\$215,294
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$203,384
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$183,421
Gun Rights	\$159,969
Insurance	\$142,692
Misc Finance	\$132,093
Lobbyists	\$131,202
Business Services	\$129,130
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$120,664

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$58,548.86 In Campaign Contributions From Corporate PACs For Halliburton, Northwestern Energy, ConocoPhillips, And Other Energy Corporate PACs.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Notable PAC Contributors To Zinke</b>	
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Total</b>
HALLIBURTON CO PAC	\$3,300.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY MT EMPLOYEES PAC	\$3,000.00
WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE PAC	\$7,500.00
NEXTERA ENERGY, INC. PAC	\$7,500.00
US ENERGY PAC (THE PAC OF AMERICAN EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COUNCIL, INC.)	\$6,000.00
ENERGY MARKETERS OF AMERICA	\$4,000.00
DEVON ENERGY CORP	\$2,500.00
ENERGY TRANSFER EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT COMPANY PAC (ENERGY TRANSFER PAC)	\$2,500.00
PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC. PAC FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT	\$1,000.00
DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE PAC (DEPA PAC)	\$1,000.00
MONTANA GAS & OIL PAC	\$1,500.00
COALPAC	\$7,748.86
MARATHON OIL CO EMPLOYEES PAC	\$1,000.00
CONOCOPHILLIPS SPIRIT PAC	\$7,500.00



CONOCO PHILLIPS	\$2,500.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$58,548.86</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***Real Estate & Construction Industry***

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Donor By Industry, Excluding Retired And Political Industries, Was Real Estate, Followed By Oil & Gas.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Industry Donors</b>	
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Total</b>
Retired	\$4,821,986
Republican/Conservative	\$1,856,129
Real Estate	\$974,736
Leadership PACs	\$952,485
Oil & Gas	\$850,827
Securities & Investment	\$758,667
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$335,895
Candidate Committees	\$258,660
Livestock	\$237,853
Health Professionals	\$227,945
General Contractors	\$227,590
Automotive	\$215,294
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$203,384
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$183,421
Gun Rights	\$159,969
Insurance	\$142,692
Misc Finance	\$132,093
Lobbyists	\$131,202
Business Services	\$129,130
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$120,664

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

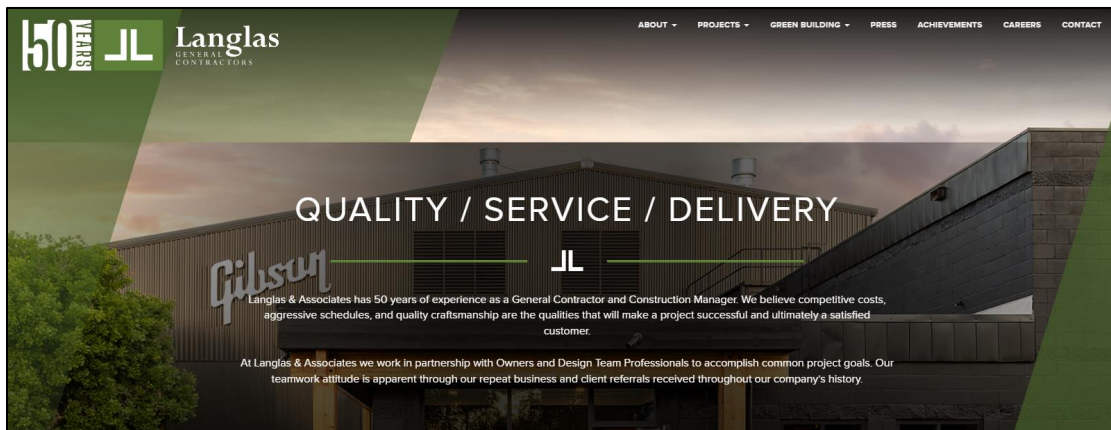
**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Top Lifetime Donors By Employer Included Langlas & Associates, The National Association Of Home Builders, Barnard Construction, And The National Association Of Realtors.** [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donors</b>			
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>PACs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000

National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

- **Langlas & Associates Was A General Contractor And Construction Manager.** [Langlas.com, accessed [7/14/24](#)]



[Langlas.com, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

## China

- **2021-2024: Zinke Accepted \$7,500 From Syngenta's Corporate 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 Company Which Owned 1,500 Acres Of U.S. Farmland And Was Owned By Chemchina, A State-Owned Chinese Company.** The American Journal News reported, “Financial disclosures show multiple Republican congresspeople who criticized China have also taken campaign cash from a state-owned Chinese company. Syngenta AG is a Switzerland based provider of agricultural technologies and chemicals. In 2017, the company was acquired by the China National Chemical Corporation, also known as ChemChina. [...] Syngenta owns approximately 1500 acres of U.S farmland.” [American Journal News, [3/4/24](#)]
- Zinke: “Make No Mistake: China Is Not Our Competitor... China Is An Adversary.”** The American Journal News reported, “Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA) used her first speech before the House Committee on Armed Services in 2023 to highlight the national security threat posed by China. She later accused President Joe Biden of being weak on China. ‘The Commander in Chief’s blatant disregard for our biggest geopolitical competitor is extremely concerning,’ Kiggans said. ‘Underestimating China is very misguided.’ Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) shared a similar sentiment. ‘Make no mistake: China is not our competitor,’ Zinke said. ‘China is an adversary.’” [American Journal News, [3/4/24](#)]

**ConocoPhillips**

**2024 Election Cycle: Zinke’s Top Donor By Employer Was ConocoPhillips, With Employees Donating \$27,425 And The Company’s PAC Donating \$5,000.** According to OpenSecrets, Ryan Zinke’s top donor for the 2024 campaign cycle was ConocoPhillips, who donated \$32,425. [OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

The screenshot shows the OpenSecrets profile for Ryan Zinke, specifically the 'Contributors' tab for the 2024 election cycle. It lists the top 20 contributors to the campaign committee. ConocoPhillips is the top contributor, with a total donation of \$32,425, broken down into \$27,425 from individuals and \$5,000 from PACs.

Rank	Contributor	Total	Individuals	PACs
1	ConocoPhillips	\$32,425	\$27,425	\$5,000

[OpenSecrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Third Largest Lifetime Donor By Employer Was ConocoPhillips.** [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donors			
Contributor	Individuals	PACs	Total
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000



National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$29,000 In Contributions From Employees Of ConocoPhillips.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

ConocoPhillips Employee Contributions To Zinke		
Contributor	Position	Contribution Amount
Lundquist, Andrew	Senior Vice President	\$9,500.00
Olds, Nicholas G	Evp, Global Operations	\$6,200.00
Lance, Ryan	Chairman	\$10,800.00
Leach, Timothy A. Mr.	Executive	\$2,500.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$29,000.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***Fidelity National Financial***

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s Largest Lifetime Donor By Employer Was Fidelity National Financial.** [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donators			
Contributor	Individuals	PACs	Total
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000





Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Halliburton

**2013 – 2024: Zinke’s 14<sup>th</sup> Largest Lifetime Donor By Employer Was Halliburton.** [Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Ryan Zinke Lifetime Top Donators</b>			
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>PACs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fidelity National Financial	\$166,900	\$19,423	\$186,323
Chord Energy	\$68,600	\$4,000	\$72,600
ConocoPhillips	\$47,560	\$15,000	\$62,560
Langlas & Assoc	\$41,950	\$0	\$41,950
Eye of the Tiger PAC	\$0	\$34,000	\$34,000
Berkshire Hathaway	\$6,664	\$26,000	\$32,664
Majority Cmte PAC	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Assn of Home Builders	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Pump Inc	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Barnard Construction	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Fidelity National Information Services	\$27,854	\$0	\$27,854
Deason Capital Services	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Halliburton Co	\$10,468	\$16,300	\$26,768
71 Ranch LP	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Murphy Plywood	\$26,331	\$0	\$26,331
Kootenai Resource Group	\$25,950	\$0	\$25,950
Honeywell International	\$1,726	\$23,998	\$25,724
Southern Eagle Distributing	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
American Crystal Sugar	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000



Supporting Electing American Leaders	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
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[Open Secrets, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## ***U.S. Trinity***

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$5,000 In Contributions From Employees Of US Trinity.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>US Trinity Employee Contributions To Zinke</b>		
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contribution Amount</b>
Haltom, James	Partner	\$5,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$5,000.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## ***Oasis Petroleum***

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$10,100 In Contributions From Employees Of Oasis Petroleum.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Oasis Petroleum Employee Contributions To Zinke</b>		
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contribution Amount</b>
Reid, Taylor L	President	\$10,100.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$10,100.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## ***Keelen Group***

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$250 In Contributions From Employees Of The Keelen Group.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Keelen Group Employee Contributions To Zinke</b>		
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contribution Amount</b>
Keelen, Matt	Owner	\$250.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$250.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## ***JVL Enterprises***

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$2,000 In Contributions From Employees Of JVL Enterprises.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>JVL Enterprises Employee Contributions To Zinke</b>		
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contribution Amount</b>
Van Lare, James	Owner	\$2,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$2,000.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



## Expenditures

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### ***Total Expenditures***

**2021-2024: Zinke’s House Campaign Committee Spent \$10,212,516.00.** According to the Federal Election Commission, from 2021-2024, Zinke’s House campaign committee spent \$10,212,516.00. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

### ***Top Expenditures By Recipient***

**2021-2024: The Top 25 Recipients Of Expenditures By Zinke’s House Campaign Committee Received A Combined \$8,840,775.00, With Top Recipients Including Targeted Victory, Smart Media, Allegiance Direct, Strategic Perception Inc, And Swift, Heather.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>Zinke For Congress Top 25 Expenditure Recipients</b>	
<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Aggregate Amount</b>
TARGETED VICTORY	\$4,109,281.63
SMART MEDIA	\$1,430,607.70
ALLEGIANCE DIRECT	\$391,575.18
STRATEGIC PERCEPTION INC	\$326,969.18
SWIFT, HEATHER	\$318,002.98
MOORE INFORMATION	\$260,500.00
WINRED TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$247,577.47
GRAND VALLEY CONSULTING LLC	\$190,348.02
SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$161,855.79
CHASE VISA	\$146,717.75
ARENA COMMUNICATIONS	\$145,024.51
ZINKE, RYAN K	\$132,429.59
ENVISION	\$117,951.79
ULTRA GRAPHICS	\$113,879.00
WINRED	\$103,941.73
CONSOLIDATED MAILING SERVICES	\$83,484.80
ADP	\$78,859.46
PROFESSIONAL DATA SERVICES	\$78,214.61
DIRECT SUPPORT SERVICES	\$77,366.47
THE MCINTOSH COMPANY	\$57,902.00
CAPECE, VINCENT	\$57,124.69
MONTANA REPUBLICAN PARTY	\$54,264.00
PAYNE, JAMES	\$54,010.06
HOTELS.COM	\$52,886.93
NRCC	\$50,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,840,775.00</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



## Top Expenditures By Category

2021-2024: The Top Expenditure Categories For Zinke’s House Campaign Committee Included Digital Fundraising, Digital Advertising, Tv & Radio Advertising, Mailer Printing And Postage, And Mailer Design And Printing. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Zinke For Congress Expenditures By Category	
Category	Aggregate Amount
DIGITAL FUNDRAISING	\$2,292,777.57
DIGITAL ADVERTISING	\$1,761,735.62
TV & RADIO ADVERTISING	\$1,430,607.70
MAILER PRINTING AND POSTAGE	\$470,525.00
MAILER DESIGN AND PRINTING	\$258,788.63
CC TRANSACTION FEES	\$251,103.81
SEE BELOW	\$192,599.02
SALARY	\$180,191.93
POLLING	\$153,800.00
MEDIA CONSULTING	\$153,410.38
FUNDRAISING CONSULTING	\$150,650.29
REIMBURSEMENT: SEE BELOW	\$148,777.31
PAYROLL	\$128,844.56
DIRECT MAIL PRINTING	\$121,577.04
MONTANA VOTER SURVEY	\$115,200.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$115,120.75
CREDIT CARD FEES	\$104,399.80
STRATEGY CONSULTING	\$102,500.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTING	\$92,471.60
ADVERTISING	\$83,832.60
EVENT CATERING	\$83,300.49
CONTRIBUTION	\$82,680.00
COMPLIANCE CONSULTING	\$81,576.92
LODGING	\$80,256.26
CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT SERVICES	\$75,000.00
MEDIA BUY	\$73,087.20
REIMBURSE: SEE BELOW	\$67,449.76
CAMPAIGN MGMT SERVICES	\$66,211.73
REFUND: REFUND	\$61,841.73
TRAVEL EXPENSE	\$57,258.90
AIRFARE	\$56,099.91
TEXT MESSAGES	\$54,768.44
BOOKKEEPING AND COMPLIANCE REPORTING	\$49,399.84
PRINTING	\$44,631.89
REFUND: REFUND OF EXCESSIVE CONTRIBUTION	\$44,574.22



STAFF HOUSING	\$43,644.50
RENT	\$42,497.43
CONSULTING RETAINER	\$39,697.73
FUNDRAISING EVENT COMMISSION	\$35,549.75
MEETING EXPENSE	\$31,399.82
RENT AND DEPOSIT	\$29,550.00
WEB MAINTENANCE & EMAIL DEPLOYMENT	\$27,986.35
WEB DEVELOPMENT	\$24,530.00
CAMPAIGN VEHICLE	\$23,582.00
SEE MEMOS BELOW:	\$23,390.29
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CONSULTING	\$22,500.00
DIRECT MAIL FUNDRAISING	\$22,464.49
DIRECT MAIL PROCESSING	\$22,445.58
FUNDRAISING EVENT CONSULTING	\$22,352.25
LIST RENTAL	\$21,741.60
MILEAGE, TAXIS, MEETING EXPENSES, TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$19,946.99
REFUND: REFUND EXCESS CONTRIBUTION	\$19,750.00
EVENT SPONSORSHIP	\$18,000.00
DATABASE SOFTWARE	\$17,550.00
EVENT EXPENSE	\$15,003.34
REFUND: REFUND OF CONTRIBUTION	\$14,444.06
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$12,766.71
MEALS	\$12,208.85
FIELD CONSULTING	\$12,000.00
MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	\$10,616.88
STAFF LODGING	\$10,400.00
2021 CONVENTION SENATE SPONSORSHIP	\$10,000.00
CAMPAIGN STRATEGY SERVICES	\$10,000.00
RENT & ADVERTISING	\$9,831.50
PROGRAMMING SUPPORT	\$9,750.00
VOTER PHONE SURVEY	\$9,729.20
DIRECT MAIL DESIGN FEES	\$9,453.62
SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING	\$9,000.00
FUEL	\$8,727.35
DIRECT MAIL CAGING	\$8,191.13
IN-KIND:EVENT CATERING	\$7,760.84
AUTO RENTAL	\$7,682.57
DIRECT MAIL CREATIVES	\$6,799.46
REIMBURSEMENTS SEE BELOW:	\$6,494.34
SHIPPING	\$6,396.28
EVENT SUPPLIES	\$6,249.62





EVENT FACILITY	\$5,566.06
PAYROLL EXPENSES	\$5,561.45
BANK FEES	\$5,335.76
CAMPAIGN SIGN INSTALLATION	\$5,100.00
SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTING	\$5,000.00
ZINKE FOR CONGRESS FUNDRAISER 01/17/22 CATERING	\$5,000.00
REFUND OF CONTRIBUTION	\$5,000.00
POSTAGE	\$4,923.65
MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION	\$4,686.00
STORAGE	\$4,678.67
LEGAL FEES	\$4,158.75
MILEAGE	\$4,120.16
MILEAGE AND CAMPAIGN SUPPLIES	\$4,088.79
EVENT TICKET	\$4,000.00
AIR FARE	\$3,929.04
LR DINNER SPONSORSHIP	\$3,500.00
REIMBURSEMENT SEE BELOW:	\$3,200.40
HOTEL LODGING	\$3,190.62
DONATION	\$3,000.00
CAB FARE	\$2,857.61
PER DIEM 32 DAYS	\$2,811.00
(blank)	\$2,779.75
TRAVEL LODGING	\$2,728.77
SOFTWARE	\$2,613.30
DIRECT MARKETING	\$2,358.25
AUTO INSURANCE	\$2,311.00
TEE SHIRTS	\$2,266.64
TRAVEL MILEAGE 2/8-3/24 3963 MILES	\$2,230.28
DISGORGEMENT OF UNCASHED REFUND CHECKS	\$2,200.00
REFUND	\$2,200.00
CAMPAIGN VEHICLE REPAIR	\$2,133.46
IN-KIND:TRAVEL EXPENSE	\$2,100.38
CAR RENTAL	\$2,073.33
TRANSACTION FEES	\$2,051.22
MILEAGE 320 MILES	\$2,016.60
EVENT PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION	\$2,000.00
PHONE BILL	\$1,985.38
CAMPAIGN T-SHIRTS	\$1,980.12
REFUND: REFUND EXCESSIVE CONTRIBUTION	\$1,950.00
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$1,875.00



CONSTITUENT EVENT	\$1,850.00
EDUCATIONAL MEETING	\$1,797.00
REFUND EXCESS CONTRIBUTION	\$1,792.50
OFFICE FURNITURE	\$1,757.10
TRAVEL MILEAGE	\$1,748.21
COMPUTER SOFTWARE	\$1,655.93
WORKER'S COMP INSURANCE	\$1,603.38
ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING	\$1,598.51
CAMPAIGN SIGN REMOVAL TOOLS	\$1,581.35
PER DIEM 3 DAYS	\$1,581.00
UTILITIES	\$1,553.73
PARKING FEES	\$1,552.84
THANK YOU POSTCARD	\$1,527.97
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE	\$1,503.76
STAFF MOVING EXPENSE	\$1,500.00
DIRECT MAIL ESCROW SERVICES	\$1,473.51
TELEPHONE	\$1,469.60
REIMBURSEMENT FOR MILEAGE	\$1,449.42
SEE MEMOS	\$1,441.60
EVENT EXPENSES	\$1,421.35
EVENT TRANSPORTATION	\$1,407.60
CONSULTATION FEE	\$1,400.00
CAR RENTAL / MILEAGE	\$1,391.69
MAIL CAGING	\$1,370.60
EMPLOYEES TAXES	\$1,322.03
DIRECT MAIL DATA WORK	\$1,207.91
EVENT MEAL	\$1,143.35
COMPUTER	\$1,135.59
RALLY SIGNS DESIGN AND PRINTING	\$1,099.50
TAXI FARE / MILEAGE	\$1,076.73
EVENT SEATING CHARGES	\$1,000.00
SPONSORSHIP CHECK	\$1,000.00
MILEAGE 880 MILES	\$985.60
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$922.80
BOX RENTAL	\$864.57
DOMAIN REGISTRATION	\$851.16
MEETING CATERING	\$830.11
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION	\$814.20
DATA MODELING	\$777.19
FIELD SUPPLIES	\$729.18
BOX RENEWAL	\$657.95
EMAIL SERVICE	\$648.00
CLUB MEMBERSHIP	\$645.71



CATERING	\$629.90
OFFICE EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES	\$619.95
CAMPAIGN PRINTING	\$605.00
EVENT FACILITY RENTAL	\$600.00
CAMPAIGN SIGN MATERIALS	\$545.11
IN-KIND:EVENT FOOD & BEVERAGE	\$542.26
TAXI FARE	\$537.92
PRINTING BUSINESS CARDS	\$534.96
PHOTOS & PROOFING	\$523.92
DONOR LIST AND TEXT	\$500.00
ACCOUNTING	\$500.00
PARADE REGISTRATION	\$500.00
EVENT SPONSOR	\$500.00
RENT DEPOSIT	\$500.00
CONSTITUENT GIFTS	\$488.40
TRAVEL TICKET	\$488.00
CAMPAIGN STORAGE MATERIALS	\$476.96
PHONE FOR CAMPAIGN	\$468.79
SIGN MATERIALS	\$434.34
EVENT MEALS	\$421.24
HEADSHOT PHOTOGRAPHS	\$387.50
TRAVEL & MILEAGE EXPENSES	\$382.25
OFFICE CLEANING	\$360.50
PAYROLL FEES	\$347.61
TRAIN FARE	\$334.00
INTERNET	\$321.30
EVENT FOOD	\$301.89
PHONE EXPENSE	\$301.10
LINCOLN REAGAN DAY DINNER	\$300.00
VOLUNTEER PARADE	\$294.99
MILEAGE 260 MILES	\$291.20
GLACIER PACHYDERM EVENT TICKETS	\$280.00
MAILING	\$277.19
REFUND OF EXCESSIVE CONTRIBUTION	\$275.00
PAYROLL EXPENSE	\$270.14
MILEAGE 480 MILES	\$268.80
TRAVEL INSURANCE	\$258.61
LINCOLN REAGAN DINNER TICKETS	\$250.00
EVENT FACILITY FEE	\$250.00
DELEGATE FEE	\$249.00
PARADE CANDY	\$246.19
CAGING AND ESCROW	\$221.10
REGISTRATION	\$220.00



EVENT REIMBURSEMENTS-NO ITEMIZATION NECESSARY	\$217.53
PROCESSING FEE	\$215.00
EVENT MEETING	\$208.00
MILEAGE 360 MILES	\$201.60
EMPLOYEE TAXES	\$200.73
SIGN SUPPLIES	\$181.96
MILEAGE 300 MILES	\$168.00
LINCOLN REAGAN DAY DINNER TICKETS	\$160.00
PARADE FLAGS	\$155.40
LIGHTING SUPPLIES FOR SIGNS	\$142.90
TV SERVICE	\$130.00
TRANSPORTATION	\$125.71
COMMUNICATION	\$120.00
MILEAGE 205 MILES	\$114.00
PER DIEM 2 DAYS	\$110.00
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	\$95.00
SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION	\$80.91
OFFICE CHAIR	\$68.98
BANK CHARGES	\$66.31
ADVERTISEMENT	\$61.98
TRAVEL FEES	\$57.60
PARADE WAGON	\$52.91
CAMPAIGN PHONE	\$40.00
SEE BELOW-NO ITEMIZATION NECESSARY	\$39.65
MAILER SHIPPING	\$25.00
NSF CHECK FEE	\$12.00
BEVERAGES	\$7.50
REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS CHARGE	-\$447.50
CREDITS	-\$3,037.22
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$10,212,516.17</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Financial Disclosures

### Appointee (OGE 278e) – 2016

#### Positions

**2016: Zinke Disclosed Multiple Positions Held Outside United States Government.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

#### Ryan Zinke Non-Governmental Positions Held

Organization Name	City, State	Organization Type	Position Held	From	To
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Continental Divide International, LLC	Whitefish, Montana	Corporation	CEO	2/2008	Present
Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation	Whitefish, Montana	Non-Profit	President	3/2006	Present
STWA (Save The World Air)	Santa Barbara, California	Corporation	Board Member and Consult	2/2013	12/2014
On Point Montana	Helena, Montana	Corporation	President	1/2012	12/2014
Double Tap, LLC	Whitefish, Montana	Corporation	Managing Member	6/2011	Present

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

### ***Income & Retirement Accounts***

**2016: Zinke Disclosed Earning None Or Less Than \$201 From His Autobiography “American Commander: Serving A Country Worth Fighting For And Training The Brave Soldier Who Lead The Way.”** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

<b>Zinke Employment Assets &amp; Income And Retirement Accounts</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Eif</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Income Type</b>	<b>Income Amount</b>
“American Commander: Serving a Country Worth Fighting For and Training the Brave Soldiers Who Lead the Way.” Thomas Nelson. (value not readily ascertainable).	N/A			None (or less than \$201)

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

### ***Agreements***

**2016: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Agreements.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

<h3>3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements</h3> <p>None</p>
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[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

### ***Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source***

**2016: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From STWA.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

<b>Zinke 2016 Financial Disclosure Compensation</b>	
<b>Source (Name And Address)</b>	<b>Brief Description Of Duties</b>
STWA (Santa Barbara, California)	Consultant

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]





## Assets

**2016: Zinke Reported 11 Assets Worth Between \$1,812,010 And \$2,830,000+, With Income Between \$35,003 And \$116,608.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

Ryan Zinke Reported Assets And Income				
Description	EIF	Value	Income Type	Income Amount
Continental Divide International LLC – Residential real estate, Whitefish, MT	No	\$500,001 - \$1,000,00	Rent or Royalties	\$15,001 - \$50,000
Art Collection	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
Auto Collection	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
Double Tap LLC – Residential real estate, Whitefish, MT	No	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Rent or Royalties	\$5,001 - \$15,000
U.S. bank account #1 (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
U.S. bank account #2 (cash)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
U.S. brokerage money market account (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
USAA Growth & Income Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
USAA Science and Technology Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
USAA Tax Exempt and Intermediate Term Fund	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
Family Trust – Residential Real Estate in Santa Barbara, CA; Undeveloped Land, Santa Barbara, CA	No	Over \$1,000,000	Rent or royalties	\$15,001 - \$50,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$1,812,010 – \$2,830,000+</b>		<b>\$35,003 – \$116,608</b>

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

## Transactions

**2016: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Transactions Because He Was Not Required To Report Transactions.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

<p><b>7. Transactions</b></p> <p>(N/A) - Not required for this type of report</p>
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[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

## Liabilities

**2016: Zinke Reported Liabilities Worth Between \$215,003 And \$550,000 From Two Mortgages And A Personal Loan.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]



<b>Zinke 2017 Financial Disclosure Liabilities</b>						
<b>Creditor</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Min Amount</b>	<b>Max Amount</b>	<b>Date Incurred</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Term</b>
Wells Fargo	Mortgage (investment/rental property)	\$100,001	\$250,000	2004	3.5	30 year
Wells Fargo	Mortgage on Personal Residence	\$100,001	\$250,000	2004	3.5	30 year
USAA	Personal Loan	\$15,001	\$50,000	2013	3.5	7 year

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

### ***Gifts & Travel***

**2016: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Gifts Or Travel Because It Was Not Required For That Report.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

**9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements**

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(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/16](#)]

## **Termination (OGE 278e) – 2018**

### ***Positions***

**2018: Zinke Reported No Positions Outside The U.S. Government.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

**1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government**

None

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]



## Income & Retirement Accounts

**2018: Zinke Disclosed Earning None Or Less Than \$201 From His Autobiography “American Commander: Serving A Country Worth Fighting For And Training The Brave Soldier Who Lead The Way.”** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

Zinke Employment Assets & Income And Retirement Accounts				
Description	Eif	Value	Income Type	Income Amount
“American Commander: Serving a Country Worth Fighting For and Training the Brave Soldiers Who Lead the Way.” Thomas Nelson. (value not readily ascertainable).	N/A			None (or less than \$201)

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

## Agreements

**2018: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Agreements.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

**3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements**

None

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

## Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source

**2018: Zinke Did Not Report Any Sources Of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 Because It Was Not Required For The Report.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

**4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year**

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

## Assets

**2018: Zinke Reported 12 Assets Worth Between \$1,812,010 And \$2,831,000+ With Income Between \$72,005 And \$171,407.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

Ryan Zinke Reported Assets And Income				
Description	EIF	Value	Income Type	Income Amount
Continental Divide International LLC – Residential real estate, Whitefish, MT	No	\$500,001 - \$1,000,00	Rent or Royalties	\$15,001 - \$50,000

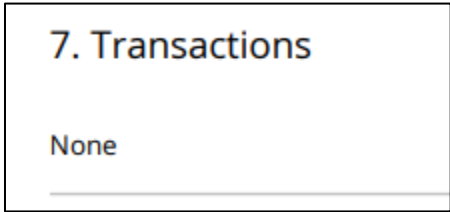


Art Collection	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
Auto Collection	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
Double Tap LLC – Residential real estate, Whitefish, MT	No	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Rent or Royalties	\$5,001 - \$15,000
U.S. bank account #1 (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
U.S. bank account #2 (cash)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
U.S. brokerage money market account (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
USAA Growth & Income Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
USAA Science and Technology Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
USAA Tax Exempt and Intermediate Term Fund	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
Family Trust – Residential Real Estate in Santa Barbara, CA; Undeveloped Land, Santa Barbara, CA	No	Over \$1,000,000	Rent or royalties	\$50,001 - \$100,00
PROOF Research (firearm product company)	No	None (or less than \$1,000)		None (or less than \$201)
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$1,812,010 – \$2,831,000+</b>		<b>\$72,005 – \$171,407</b>

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

**Transactions**

**2018: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Transactions.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]



[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

**Liabilities**

**Researcher’s Note:** *The third liability listed was Zinke cosigning his adult child’s mortgage.*

**2018: Zinke Reported Liabilities Worth Between \$300,003 And \$750,000 From Three Mortgages.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

Zinke 2017 Financial Disclosure Liabilities						
Creditor	Type	Min Amount	Max Amount	Date Incurred	Rate	Term



Wells Fargo	Mortgage (investment/rental property)	\$100,001	\$250,000	2004	3.5	30 year
Wells Fargo	Mortgage on Personal Residence	\$100,001	\$250,000	2004	3.5	30 year
Amerihome	Mortgage on Personal Residence	\$100,001	\$250,000	2018	4.9	30 year

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

## Gifts & Travel

**2018: Zinke Reported Travel Paid For By Graham Goodfield To Santa Ynez, California.** [U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

Lolita Zinke Employment Assets & Income And Retirement Accounts			
Source Name	City, State	Brief Description	Value
Graham Goodfield	Santa Ynez, California	Rancheros Visitadores 2018 Trek – horseback riding, meals, and camping accommodations (May 4-7, 2015)	\$900

[U.S. Office of Government Ethics via Archive.org, Ryan Zinke OGE Form 278e, filed [12/18/18](#)]

## Candidate – 2021

### Assets

**2021: Zinke Reported 19 Assets Worth Between \$8,033,018 And \$34,397,000, With Current Year Income Between \$75,010 And \$181,200 And Prior Year Income Between \$16,010 And \$48,700.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Assets						
Asset	Owner	Min Value	Max Value	Income Type(s)	Income Current Year	Income Preceding Year
21" Pontoon Boat Whitefish MT [OT]  DESCRIPTION: 21" Pontoon Boat. Value noted	Joint	\$15,001	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
Auto Collection [CO]	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	None	N/A	N/A
CDI Bank Account Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Coca-Cola Company (KO) [ST]	Spouse	\$1	\$1,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200





Dalrado Corp [PS]  DESCRIPTION: Advisory Board Member	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
Double Tap LLC Property Whitefish [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish , MT, US	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
Family Art and Furniture Collection [CO]	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	None	N/A	N/A
Hand Property [RP]  LOCATION: SANTA BARBARA, CA, US	Spouse	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000	None	N/A	N/A
Harlow House Whitefish MT 59937 [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
LC Hand Holdings [RP]  LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA, US  COMMENTS: The LC Hand Holdings property was previous in Trust and the asset was transferred to Lolita Zinke, as the sole owner of LC Hand Holdings, in 2021.	Spouse	\$5,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rent	\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$1,001 - \$2,500
NFCU Bank Account [BA]	Joint	\$15,001	\$50,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Proof Research Stock [PS]  DESCRIPTION: Common shares. Stock is not publicly traded. Estimated value is noted above.	Joint	\$1	\$1,000	None	N/A	N/A
Snowfrog LLC Bank Account Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	Interest	None	None
Snowfrog LLC Property Whitefish MT 59937 [RP]	Joint	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$15,001 - \$50,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000



LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US  COMMENTS: Amount reflected is net income						
U.S. Gold Corp. (USAU) [ST] DESCRIPTION: Common Stock	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
Undeveloped Property Flathead County MT [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Spouse	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
USAA Science and Technology [MF]	Spouse	\$1,001	\$15,000	Capital Gains	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Wells Fargo Bank Account [BA]	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Whitefish Credit Union Account [BA]	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	Interest	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$8,033,018</b>	<b>\$34,397,000</b>		<b>\$75,010 - \$181,200</b>	<b>\$16,010 - \$48,700</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

### ***Earned Income***

**2021: Zinke Reported \$826,000 In Current Year Income From Multiple Consulting Clients And A Navy Pension And \$583,463 In Prior Year Income From The Same Sources.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

<b>Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Earned Income</b>			
<b>Source</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Amount Current Year To Filing</b>	<b>Amount Preceding Year</b>
CDI Client -JVL Enterprises Dallas TX  COMMENTS: Amount represents Gross Income to CDI before Expenses and Taxes	Consultant	\$350,000	\$60,000
CDI Client-Conoco Phillips  COMMENTS: Amount represents Gross Income to CDI before expenses and taxes	Consultant	\$220,000	\$240,000
CDI Client-Cyber Range Solutions (CRS)	Consultant	\$50,000	\$80,000
United States Navy	Retirement	\$38,000	\$36,438



US Gold Corp	Consultant	\$68,000	\$67,025
Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC	Consultant Business	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$826,000</b>	<b>\$583,463</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

## Liabilities

**2021: Zinke Reported Liabilities Worth Between \$1,310,003 And \$5,615,000 From Two Vehicle Loans, A Property Loan, And A Mortgage.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Liabilities					
Owner	Creditor	Date Incurred	Type	Min Value	Max Value
SP	Pacific Premier Bank Santa Barbara CA	March 2021	Loan on LCHand Holdings Property in Santa Barbara CA	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000
JT	GMAC	Oct 2021	Loan on vehicle	\$50,001	\$100,000
JT	Wells Fargo Bank	February 2021	Mortgage 410 3rd Street West Whitefish MT 59937	\$250,001	\$500,000
JT	USAA	March 2018	Loan on vehicle	\$10,000	\$15,000
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$1,310,003</b>	<b>\$5,615,000</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

## Positions

**2021: Zinke Reported Positions With U.S. Gold Corp, Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, Double Tap LLC, And Dalrado Corp.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Positions	
Position	Name Of Organization
Board Member. Technical Committee Chair	US Gold Corp (NASDAQ: USAU)
Managing Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC
Partner	Snowfrog LLC
Partner	Double Tap LLC
Advisory Board Member	Dalrado Corp

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]



## Agreements

**2021: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Agreements.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

SCHEDULE F: AGREEMENTS
None disclosed.

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

## Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source

**2021: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From U.S. Trinity, Oasis Petroleum Company, Keelen Group, DM Group, And Domestic Energy Producers Alliance.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

Zinke 2021 Financial Disclosure Compensation	
Source (Name And Address)	Brief Description Of Duties
US Trinity (FT Worth, TX, US)	Consultant
Oasis Petroleum Company (Houston, TX, US)	Consultant
Keelen Group (Washington, DC, US)	Advisor
DM Group (Las Vegas, NV, US)	Advisor
Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) (Oklahoma City, OK, US)	Advisor

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

## Exclusions And Exemptions

**2021: Zinke Did Not Exclude Information About Qualified Blind Trusts Or Excepted Trusts.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]



**EXCLUSIONS OF SPOUSE, DEPENDENT, OR TRUST INFORMATION**

**Trusts:** Details regarding "Qualified Blind Trusts" approved by the Committee on Ethics and certain other "excepted trusts" need not be disclosed. Have you excluded from this report details of such a trust benefiting you, your spouse, or dependent child?

Yes  No

**Exemption:** Have you excluded from this report any other assets, "unearned" income, transactions, or liabilities of a spouse or dependent child because they meet all three tests for exemption?

Yes  No

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [11/29/21](#)]

**Candidate – June 2022**

**Assets**

**June 2022: Zinke Reported 20 Assets Worth Between \$8,718,018 And \$35,646,000 With Current Year Income Between \$82,509 And \$200,600 And Prior Year Income Between \$75,007 And \$180,600.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

**Zinke June 2022 Financial Disclosure Assets**

Asset	Owner	Min Value	Max Value	Income Type(s)	Income Current Year	Income Preceding Year
3rd Street House [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	None
Auto Collection [OT]  DESCRIPTION: Family Auto Collection	Joint	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
Bay Point Whitefish [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Spouse	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$2,501 - \$5,000	None
Boat [OT]  DESCRIPTION: Boat	Joint	\$15,001	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
CDI Bank Account [BA]  DESCRIPTION: Operating Amount	Joint	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
Coca-Cola Company (KO) [ST]	Spouse	\$1	\$1,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Dalrado Corp [OP]	Joint	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A





DESCRIPTION: Clean Energy Advisory Board						
Double Tap LLC [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish , MT, US  DESCRIPTION: Low Income Housing	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
Family Art Collection [CO]  DESCRIPTION: Art	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	None	N/A	N/A
Hand Property [RP]  LOCATION: SANTA BARBARA, CA, US  DESCRIPTION: Hand Family Residence	Spouse	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000	None	N/A	N/A
Harlow House Whitefish MT 59937 [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
LC Hand Holdings [RP]  LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA, US  DESCRIPTION: Family Rental Property	Spouse	\$5,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rent	\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$50,001 - \$100,000
Other Bank Savings Accounts [BA]  DESCRIPTION: WCU and NFCU Interest Accounts	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Shield AI [OP]  DESCRIPTION: Advisory Board Member. Warrants issued with no determined valued	Joint	N/A	N/A	Capital Gains	None	None
Snowfrog Bank Account LLC	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	None	N/A	N/A



Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]  DESCRIPTION: Snowfrog Operating Account						
Snowfrog LLC [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$15,001 - \$50,000	\$15,001 - \$50,000
U.S. Gold Corp. (USAU) [ST]  DESCRIPTION: Board Member	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
Undeveloped Property Flathead County, MT, US  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Spouse	\$250,001	\$500,000	Capital Gains	None	None
USAA Science and Technology [MF]	Spouse	\$1,001	\$15,000	Capital Gains	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Wells Fargo Bank Account [BA]	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	None	N/A	N/A
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$8,718,018</b>	<b>\$35,646,000</b>		<b>\$82,509 - \$200,600</b>	<b>\$75,007 - \$180,600</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

### ***Earned Income***

**June 2022: Zinke Reported \$288,000 In Current Year Income From The U.S. Navy, U.S. Gold Corp, CDI LLC, And LC Land Holdings LLC, And \$286,000 In Prior Year Income From The Same Sources.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

<b>Zinke June 2022 Financial Disclosure Earned Income</b>			
<b>Source</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Amount Current Year To Filing</b>	<b>Amount Preceding Year</b>
US Navy	Retirement Income	\$20,000	\$38,000
US Gold Corp	Consultant	\$68,000	\$68,000
CDI LLC Whitefish MT	Partner	\$100,000	\$100,000
LC Hand Holdings LLC	Sole Spouse Ownership	\$100,000	\$80,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$288,000</b>	<b>\$286,000</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

### ***Liabilities***



**June 2022: Zinke Reported Liabilities Worth Between \$1,810,004 And \$6,615,000 From Two Vehicle Loans, Two Mortgages, And A Property Loan.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

<b>Zinke June 2022 Financial Disclosure Liabilities</b>					
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Creditor</b>	<b>Date Incurred</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Min Value</b>	<b>Max Value</b>
SP	Pacific Premier Bank Santa Barbara CA	March 2021	Loan on LCHand Holdings Property in Santa Barbara CA	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000
JT	Wells Fargo Bank	February 2021	Mortgage. Whitefish MT	\$250,001	\$500,000
JT	North Pointe Bank	March 2021	Mortgage Whitefish MT	\$500,001	\$1,000,000
JT	GMAC	Oct 2021	AUTO Loan	\$50,001	\$100,000
JT	USAA	March 2018	Auto Loan	\$10,000	\$15,000
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$1,810,004</b>	<b>\$6,615,000</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

### **Positions**

**June 2022: Zinke Reported Positions With U.S. Gold Corp, Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, Double LLC, And Dalrado Corp, Shield AI, And The Deason Institute For Cybersecurity.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

<b>Zinke June 2022 Financial Disclosure Positions</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name Of Organization</b>
Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC
Partner	Snowfrog LLC
Partner	Double Tap LLC
Board Member. Technical Committee Chair	US Gold Corp (NASDAQ: USAU)
Clean Energy Advisory Board	Dalrado Corp
Advisory Board Member	Shield AI
Advisory Board Member	Deason Institute for CyberSecurity. SMU

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

### **Agreements**

**June 2022: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Agreements.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

<p><b>SCHEDULE F: AGREEMENTS</b></p> <p>None disclosed.</p>
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[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]



## Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source

June 2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From 11 Separate Entities. [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

Zinke June 2022 Financial Disclosure Compensation	
Source (Name And Address)	Brief Description Of Duties
JVL Enterprises Dallas TX (Dallas, TX, US)	Consultant. End of Service: May 2022
CDI LLC (Whitefish, MT, US)	Partner
Conoco Phillips (Houston, TX, US)	Consultant. End of Service: Dec 2021.
Cyber Range Solutions (CRS) (Washington , DC, US)	Advisor. End of Service: Dec 2021
Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) (Oklahoma City, OK, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020
DM Group (Las Vegas , NV, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020
US Gold Corp (Cheyenne , WY, US)	Consultant
US Trinity (FT Worth, TX, US)	Consultant End of Service: 2020
Keelen Group (Washington, DC, US)	Advisor End of Service 2020
Oasis Petroleum Company (Houston, TX, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020
LC Hand Holdings LLC (Santa Barbara , CA, US)	Spouses sole property and business

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

## Exclusions And Exemptions

June 2022: Zinke Did Not Exclude Information About Qualified Blind Trusts Or Excepted Trusts. [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

EXCLUSIONS OF SPOUSE, DEPENDENT, OR TRUST INFORMATION
<p><b>Trusts:</b> Details regarding "Qualified Blind Trusts" approved by the Committee on Ethics and certain other "excepted trusts" need not be disclosed. Have you excluded from this report details of such a trust benefiting you, your spouse, or dependent child?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Exemption:</b> Have you excluded from this report any other assets, "unearned" income, transactions, or liabilities of a spouse or dependent child because they meet all three tests for exemption?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [6/21/22](#)]

## Candidate – July 2022

### Assets



**July 2022: Zinke Reported 20 Assets Worth Between \$8,518,018 And \$35,246,000 With Current Year Income Between \$82,509 And \$200,600 And Prior Year Income Between \$75,007 And \$180,600.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Assets</b>						
<b>Asset</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Min Value</b>	<b>Max Value</b>	<b>Income Type(s)</b>	<b>Income Current Year</b>	<b>Income Preceding Year</b>
3rd Street House [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	None
Auto Collection [OT]  DESCRIPTION: Family Auto Collection	Joint	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
Bay Point Whitefish [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Spouse	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$2,501 - \$5,000	None
Boat [OT]  DESCRIPTION: Boat	Joint	\$15,001	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
CDI Bank Account [BA]  DESCRIPTION: Operating Amount	Joint	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
Coca-Cola Company (KO) [ST]	Spouse	\$1	\$1,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Dalrado Corp [OP]  DESCRIPTION: Clean Energy Advisory Board	Joint	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
Double Tap LLC [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish , MT, US  DESCRIPTION: Low Income Housing	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
Family Art Collection [CO]  DESCRIPTION: Art	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	None	N/A	N/A
Hand Property [RP]  LOCATION: SANTA BARBARA, CA, US	Spouse	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000	None	N/A	N/A





DESCRIPTION: Hand Family Residence						
Harlow House Whitefish MT 59937 [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$5,001 - \$15,000	\$5,001 - \$15,000
LC Hand Holdings [RP]  LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA, US  DESCRIPTION: Family Rental Property	Spouse	\$5,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rent	\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$50,001 - \$100,000
Other Bank Savings Accounts [BA]  DESCRIPTION: WCU and NFCU Interest Accounts	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Shield AI [OP]  DESCRIPTION: Advisory Board Member. Warrants issued with no determined valued	Joint	N/A	N/A	Capital Gains	None	None
Snowfrog Bank Account LLC Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]  DESCRIPTION: Snowfrog Operating Account	Joint	\$1,001	\$15,000	None	N/A	N/A
Snowfrog LLC [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	Joint	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$15,001 - \$50,000	\$15,001 - \$50,000
U.S. Gold Corp. (USAU) [ST]  DESCRIPTION: Board Member	Joint	\$100,001	\$250,000	Capital Gains	None	None
Undeveloped Property Flathead County, MT, US	Spouse	\$250,001	\$500,000	Capital Gains	None	None



LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US						
USAA Science and Technology [MF]	Spouse	\$1,001	\$15,000	Capital Gains	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Wells Fargo Bank Account [BA]	Joint	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$8,518,018</b>	<b>\$35,246,000</b>		<b>\$82,509 - \$200,600</b>	<b>\$75,007 - \$180,600</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

## ***Earned Income***

**June 2022: Zinke Reported \$249,240 In Current Year Income From The U.S. Navy, U.S. Gold Corp, CDI LLC, And LC Land Holdings LLC, And \$266,000 In Prior Year Income From The Same Sources.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Earned Income</b>			
Source	Type	Amount Current Year To Filing	Amount Preceding Year
US Navy	Retirement Income	\$21,240	\$38,000
US Gold Corp	Consultant	\$68,000	\$68,000
CDI LLC Whitefish MT	Partner	\$100,000	\$100,000
LC Hand Holdings LLC	Sole Spouse Ownership	\$60,000	\$60,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$249,240</b>	<b>\$266,000</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

## ***Liabilities***

**July 2022: Zinke Reported Liabilities Worth Between \$1,810,004 And \$6,615,000 From Two Vehicle Loans, Two Mortgages, And A Property Loan.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Liabilities</b>					
Owner	Creditor	Date Incurred	Type	Min Value	Max Value
SP	Pacific Premier Bank Santa Barbara CA	March 2021	Loan on LCHand Holdings Property in Santa Barbara CA	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000
JT	Wells Fargo Bank	February 2021	Mortgage. Whitefish MT	\$250,001	\$500,000
JT	North Pointe Bank	March 2021	Mortgage Whitefish MT	\$500,001	\$1,000,000
JT	GMAC	Oct 2021	AUTO Loan	\$50,001	\$100,000
JT	USAA	March 2018	Auto Loan	\$10,000	\$15,000
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$1,810,004</b>	<b>\$6,615,000</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

## ***Positions***



**June 2022: Zinke Reported Positions With U.S. Gold Corp, Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, Double LLC, And Dalrado Corp, Shield AI, And The Deason Institute For Cybersecurity.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Positions</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name Of Organization</b>
Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC
Partner	Snowfrog LLC
Partner	Double Tap LLC
Board Member. Technical Committee Chair	US Gold Corp (NASDAQ: USAU)
Clean Energy Advisory Board	Dalrado Corp
Advisory Board Member	Shield AI
Advisory Board Member	Deason Institute for CyberSecurity. SMU

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

### **Agreements**

**July 2022: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Agreements.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<p><b>SCHEDULE F: AGREEMENTS</b></p> <p>None disclosed.</p>
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[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

### **Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source**

**July 2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From Nine Separate Entities.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Compensation</b>	
<b>Source (Name And Address)</b>	<b>Brief Description Of Duties</b>
JVL Enterprises Dallas TX (Dallas, TX, US)	Consultant. End of Service: May 2022
CDI (Whitefish, MT, US)	Partner
Conoco Phillips (Houston, TX, US)	Consultant. End of Service: Dec 2021.
Cyber Range Solutions (CRS) (Washington DC, DC, US)	Advisor. End of Service: Dec 2021
DM Group (Las Vegas, NV, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020
US Gold Corp (Cheyenne, WY, US)	Consultant
US Trinity (FT Worth, TX, US)	Consultant End of Service: 2020
Keelen Group (Washington, DC, US)	Advisor End of Service 2020
Oasis Petroleum Company (Houston, TX, US)	Advisor. End of Service: 2020

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

### **Exclusions And Exemptions**

**July 2022: Zinke Did Not Exclude Information About Qualified Blind Trusts Or Excepted Trusts.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]



## EXCLUSIONS OF SPOUSE, DEPENDENT, OR TRUST INFORMATION

**Trusts:** Details regarding "Qualified Blind Trusts" approved by the Committee on Ethics and certain other "excepted trusts" need not be disclosed. Have you excluded from this report details of such a trust benefiting you, your spouse, or dependent child?

Yes  No

**Exemption:** Have you excluded from this report any other assets, "unearned" income, transactions, or liabilities of a spouse or dependent child because they meet all three tests for exemption?

Yes  No

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

## Member – New Filer 2022

### Assets

**2022: Zinke Reported 16 Assets Worth Between \$7,833,014 And \$33,846,000 With Current Year Income Between \$77,508 And \$185,600 And Prior Year Income Between \$70,006 And \$165,600.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

Zinke 2022 Financial Disclosure Assets						
Asset	Owner	Min Value	Max Value	Income Type(s)	Income Current Year	Income Preceding Year
3rd Street House [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	JT	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5001 - \$15000	None
Auto Collection [OT]  DESCRIPTION: Family Auto Collection	JT	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
Bay Point Condo Whitefish [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	SP	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$2501 - \$5000	None
Boat [OT]  DESCRIPTION: Pontoon Boat	JT	\$15,001	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
CDI Bank Account [BA]  DESCRIPTION: Operating Amount	JT	\$15,000	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
Coca-Cola Company (KO) [ST]	SP	\$1	\$1,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200



<p>Double Tap LLC [RP]</p> <p>LOCATION: Whitefish , MT, US</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Low Income Housing</p>	JT	\$100,001	\$250,000	Rent	\$5001 - \$15000	\$5001 - \$15000
<p>Family Art Collection [CO]</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Art</p>	JT	\$100,001	\$250,000	None	N/A	N/A
<p>Hand Property [RP]</p> <p>LOCATION: SANTA BARBARA, CA, US</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Hand Family Residence</p>	SP	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000	None	N/A	N/A
<p>LC Hand Holdings [RP]</p> <p>LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA, US</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Family Rental Property</p>	SP	\$5,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rent	\$50001 - \$100000	\$50001 - \$100000
<p>Other Bank Savings Accounts [BA]</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: WCU and NFCU Interest Accounts</p>	JT	\$1,001	\$15,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
<p>Snowfrog Bank Account LLC Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Snowfrog Operating Account</p>	JT	\$1,001	\$15,000	None	N/A	N/A
<p>Snowfrog LLC [RP]</p> <p>LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US</p>	JT	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$15001 - \$50000	\$15001 - \$50000
<p>Undeveloped Property Flathead County, MT, US</p> <p>LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US</p>	SP	\$250,001	\$500,000	Capital Gains	None	None





USAA Science and Technology [MF]	SP	\$1,001	\$15,000	Capital Gains	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Wells Fargo Bank Account [BA]	JT	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$7,833,014</b>	<b>\$33,846,000</b>		<b>\$77,508 - \$185,600</b>	<b>\$70,006 - \$165,600</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

**Transactions**

**2022: Zinke Omitted Any Mention Of Transactions.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

**Earned Income**

**2022: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Earned Income.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

SCHEDULE C: EARNED INCOME
None disclosed.

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

**Liabilities**

**2022: Zinke Reported Liabilities Worth Between \$1,810,004 And \$6,615,000 From Two Vehicle Loans, Two Mortgages, And A Property Loan.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

Zinke 2022 Financial Disclosure Liabilities					
Owner	Creditor	Date Incurred	Type	Min Value	Max Value
SP	Pacific Premier Bank Santa Barbara CA	March 2021	Loan on LCHand Holdings Property in	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000



			Santa Barbara CA		
JT	Wells Fargo Bank	February 2021	Mortgage. Whitefish MT	\$250,001	\$500,000
JT	North Pointe Bank	March 2021	Mortgage Whitefish MT	\$500,001	\$1,000,000
JT	GMAC	Oct 2021	AUTO Loan	\$50,001	\$100,000
JT	USAA	March 2018	Auto Loan	\$10,000	\$15,000
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$1,810,004</b>	<b>\$6,615,000</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

## Positions

**2022: Zinke Reported Positions With Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, And Double Tap LLC.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

<b>Zinke 2022 Financial Disclosure Positions</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name Of Organization</b>
Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC Whitefish MT
Partner	Snowfrog LLC Whitefish MT
Partner	Double Tap LLC Whitefish MT

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

## Agreements

**2022: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Agreements.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

<p><b>SCHEDULE F: AGREEMENTS</b></p> <p>None disclosed.</p>
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[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

## Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source

**2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From JVL Enterprises And Conoco Phillips.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Compensation</b>	
<b>Source (Name And Address)</b>	<b>Brief Description Of Duties</b>
JVL Enterprises (Dallas, TX, US)	Consultant Ended 2022
Conoco Phillips (Houston, TX, US)	Consultant Ended 2021

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

## Gifts



**2022: Zinke Omitted Any Mention Of Gifts.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

### ***Travel***

**2022: Zinke Omitted Any Mention Of Reportable Travel.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

### ***Payments Made To Charity In Lieu Of Honoraria***

**2022: Zinke Omitted Any Mention Of Honoraria.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

### ***Exclusions And Exemptions***

**2022: Zinke Did Not Exclude Information About Qualified Blind Trusts, Excepted Trusts, Or IPOs.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

<b>EXCLUSIONS OF SPOUSE, DEPENDENT, OR TRUST INFORMATION</b>
<p><b>Trusts:</b> Details regarding "Qualified Blind Trusts" approved by the Committee on Ethics and certain other "excepted trusts" need not be disclosed. Have you excluded from this report details of such a trust benefiting you, your spouse, or dependent child?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Exemption:</b> Have you excluded from this report any other assets, "unearned" income, transactions, or liabilities of a spouse or dependent child because they meet all three tests for exemption?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke New Filer Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

## **Member – 2022 Amendment**

### ***Assets***

**2022: Zinke Reported 16 Assets Worth Between \$7,833,014 And \$33,846,000 With Current Year Income Between \$77,508 And \$185,600 And Prior Year Income Between \$70,006 And \$165,600.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

<b>Zinke 2022 Financial Disclosure Assets</b>						
<b>Asset</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Min Value</b>	<b>Max Value</b>	<b>Income Type(s)</b>	<b>Income Current Year</b>	<b>Income Preceding Year</b>
3rd Street House [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	JT	\$250,001	\$500,000	Rent	\$5001 - \$15000	None
Auto Collection [OT]  DESCRIPTION: Family Auto Collection	JT	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A



Bay Point Condo Whitefish [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	SP	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$2501 - \$5000	None
Boat [OT]  DESCRIPTION: Pontoon Boat	JT	\$15,001	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
CDI Bank Account [BA]  DESCRIPTION: Operating Amount	JT	\$15,000	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
Coca-Cola Company (KO) [ST]	SP	\$1	\$1,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Double Tap LLC [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish , MT, US  DESCRIPTION: Low Income Housing	JT	\$100,001	\$250,000	Rent	\$5001 - \$15000	\$5001 - \$15000
Family Art Collection [CO]  DESCRIPTION: Art	JT	\$100,001	\$250,000	None	N/A	N/A
Hand Property [RP]  LOCATION: SANTA BARBARA, CA, US  DESCRIPTION: Hand Family Residence	SP	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000	None	N/A	N/A
LC Hand Holdings [RP]  LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA, US  DESCRIPTION: Family Rental Property	SP	\$5,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rent	\$50001 - \$100000	\$50001 - \$100000
Other Bank Savings Accounts [BA]  DESCRIPTION: WCU and NFCU Interest Accounts	JT	\$1,001	\$15,000	Dividends	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200



Snowfrog Bank Account LLC Whitefish MT 59937 [BA]  DESCRIPTION: Snowfrog Operating Account	JT	\$1,001	\$15,000	None	N/A	N/A
Snowfrog LLC [RP]  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	JT	\$500,001	\$1,000,000	Rent	\$15001 - \$50000	\$15001 - \$50000
Undeveloped Property Flathead County, MT, US  LOCATION: Whitefish, MT, US	SP	\$250,001	\$500,000	Capital Gains	None	None
USAA Science and Technology [MF]	SP	\$1,001	\$15,000	Capital Gains	\$1 - \$200	\$1 - \$200
Wells Fargo Bank Account [BA]	JT	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$7,833,014</b>	<b>\$33,846,000</b>		<b>\$77,508 - \$185,600</b>	<b>\$70,006 - \$165,600</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/13/23](#)]

### ***Transactions***

**2022: Zinke Omitted Any Mention Of Transactions.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

### ***Earned Income***

**2022: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Earned Income.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]





**SCHEDULE C: EARNED INCOME**

None disclosed.

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

**Liabilities**

**2022: Zinke Reported Liabilities Worth Between \$1,810,004 And \$6,615,000 From Two Vehicle Loans, Two Mortgages, And A Property Loan.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

<b>Zinke 2022 Financial Disclosure Liabilities</b>					
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Creditor</b>	<b>Date Incurred</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Min Value</b>	<b>Max Value</b>
SP	Pacific Premier Bank Santa Barbara CA	March 2021	Loan on LCHand Holdings Property in Santa Barbara CA	\$1,000,001	\$5,000,000
JT	Wells Fargo Bank	February 2021	Mortgage. Whitefish MT	\$250,001	\$500,000
JT	North Pointe Bank	March 2021	Mortgage Whitefish MT	\$500,001	\$1,000,000
JT	GMAC	Oct 2021	AUTO Loan	\$50,001	\$100,000
JT	USAA	March 2018	Auto Loan	\$10,000	\$15,000
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$1,810,004</b>	<b>\$6,615,000</b>

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

**Positions**

**2022: Zinke Reported Positions With Continental Divide International, Snowfrog LLC, And Double Tap LLC.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

<b>Zinke 2022 Financial Disclosure Positions</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name Of Organization</b>
Partner	Continental Divide International (CDI) LLC Whitefish MT



Partner	Snowfrog LLC Whitefish MT
Partner	Double Tap LLC Whitefish MT

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

## **Agreements**

**2022: Zinke Did Not Disclose Any Reportable Agreements.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

<p><b>SCHEDULE F: AGREEMENTS</b></p> <p>None disclosed.</p>
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[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

## **Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source**

**2022: Zinke Reported Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 From JVL Enterprises.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

<b>Zinke July 2022 Financial Disclosure Compensation</b>	
<b>Source (Name And Address)</b>	<b>Brief Description Of Duties</b>
JVL Enterprises (Dallas, TX, US)	Consultant Ended 2022

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Candidate Report, filed [7/24/22](#)]

## **Gifts**

**2022: Zinke Omitted Any Mention Of Gifts.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

## **Travel**

**2022: Zinke Omitted Any Mention Of Reportable Travel.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

## **Payments Made To Charity In Lieu Of Honoraria**

**2022: Zinke Omitted Any Mention Of Honoraria.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

## **Exclusions And Exemptions**

**2022: Zinke Did Not Exclude Information About Qualified Blind Trusts, Excepted Trusts, Or IPOs.** [United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

## EXCLUSIONS OF SPOUSE, DEPENDENT, OR TRUST INFORMATION

**Trusts:** Details regarding "Qualified Blind Trusts" approved by the Committee on Ethics and certain other "excepted trusts" need not be disclosed. Have you excluded from this report details of such a trust benefiting you, your spouse, or dependent child?

Yes  No

**Exemption:** Have you excluded from this report any other assets, "unearned" income, transactions, or liabilities of a spouse or dependent child because they meet all three tests for exemption?

Yes  No

[United States House Financial Disclosures, Ryan Zinke Amended Member Report, filed [5/6/24](#)]

## Key Interior Department IG Reports

### Challenge Areas

**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Identified Nine Challenge Areas For Management And Performance Challenges, Including Energy Management, Climate Effects, And Operational Efficiencies.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "The identified challenge areas reflect continuing vulnerabilities and emerging issues faced by the DOI. Each area is connected to the DOI's mission, includes large expenditures, requires continuous management improvements, or involves significant fiduciary relationships. The OIG identified the top management and performance challenges for fiscal year (FY) 2017 as: • Energy management • Public safety and disaster response • Information technology • Water programs • Responsibility to American Indians and Insular Areas • Acquisition and financial assistance • Climate effects • Operational efficiencies • Workplace culture and ethics." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

- **November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Added "Workplace Culture And Ethics" As A New Challenge Area In The 2017 Major Management And Performance Challenges For The First Time.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "These nine challenges are not presented in order of priority. Some of the critical topics discussed span multiple challenge areas, serving as a reminder of the complex nature of the DOI's mission. This year we have added workplace culture and ethics as a new challenge area, reflecting recent attention and serious concerns at multiple bureaus. This report is based on specific OIG and U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reviews and other reports, as well as our general knowledge of the DOI's programs and operations. Our analysis generally considers the accomplishments that the DOI reported as of September 30, 2017." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

**November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Noted That Despite "Heightened Efforts" To Improve DOI's "Workplace Culture And Ethics," Investigators Found A "Resistance To Change."** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "Promoting and maintaining an ethical workplace culture that is free of harassment is a continued management challenge at the DOI. We included this challenge area in our Major Management Challenges Report for the first time last year, after identifying instances of unethical behavior and other misconduct over several years. Despite heightened efforts to improve the DOI's workplace culture and ethics, resistance to change remains. We have identified instances in which DOI employees have engaged in unethical or illegal conduct, as well as other behavior that negatively affects workplace culture. These violations have included inappropriate conduct or sexual harassment, insufficient actions in response to reports of sexual harassment, the acceptance of gifts from outside sources, conflicts of interest (including the use of public office for private gain),



and the misuse of Government resources.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]

## Controls

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**November 2018: An Independent Interior Department Audit Found A “Significant Deficiency” With The Department’s “Lack Of Sufficient Controls Over General Property, Plant, And Equipment.”** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s Independent Audit Report for FY17-18, “Under a contract issued by DOI and monitored by the Office of Inspector General, KPMG, an independent public accounting firm, audited the DOI financial statements for the FYs ended September 30, 2018, and 2017. The contract required that the audit be performed in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, Office of Management and Budget audit guidance, and the Government Accountability Office/Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Financial Audit Manual. In its audit of DOI, KPMG reported: • The financial statements were fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles • No material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting, but did identify one significant deficiency: o Lack of Sufficient Controls over General Property, Plant, and Equipment.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Independent Audit Report, [11/15/18](#)]

## Ethics

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**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Identified Nine Challenge Areas For Management And Performance Challenges, Including Energy Management, Climate Effects, And Operational Efficiencies.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “The identified challenge areas reflect continuing vulnerabilities and emerging issues faced by the DOI. Each area is connected to the DOI’s mission, includes large expenditures, requires continuous management improvements, or involves significant fiduciary relationships. The OIG identified the top management and performance challenges for fiscal year (FY) 2017 as: • Energy management • Public safety and disaster response • Information technology • Water programs • Responsibility to American Indians and Insular Areas • Acquisition and financial assistance • Climate effects • Operational efficiencies • Workplace culture and ethics.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

- **November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Added “Workplace Culture And Ethics” As A New Challenge Area In The 2017 Major Management And Performance Challenges For The First Time.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “These nine challenges are not presented in order of priority. Some of the critical topics discussed span multiple challenge areas, serving as a reminder of the complex nature of the DOI’s mission. This year we have added workplace culture and ethics as a new challenge area, reflecting recent attention and serious concerns at multiple bureaus. This report is based on specific OIG and U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reviews and other reports, as well as our general knowledge of the DOI’s programs and operations. Our analysis generally considers the accomplishments that the DOI reported as of September 30, 2017.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

## Harassment

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### 2017

**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Reported That An April 2017 DOI Survey Found That Nearly 39 Percent Of National Park Service Employees Had Experienced Harassment Based On “Sex, Age, Race, Religion, Or Ability” Within The Past 12 Months.** According to the Interior Department



Inspector General's 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "The DOI has taken some action to combat ethics violations and other misconduct. In April 2017, Secretary Zinke sent an email to all DOI employees ('Subject: Harassment Policy Statement') to remind employees of their responsibility to report ethics violations and misconduct, and to notify managers and supervisors of required training to prevent harassment and improve the workplace environment. In addition, Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt sent emails to all employees on his first day ('Subject: Day One Employee Message') reminding employees of basic principles of ethical conduct, and about a month later ('Subject: Month Two Message') assuring employees that reports of misconduct will be taken seriously and that action will be taken in a timely manner when appropriate. The DOI also sponsored a 'prevalence survey' at the NPS to allow employees to anonymously report whether they have faced harassment in the workplace. The results of this survey found that nearly 39 percent of NPS employees said they had experienced harassment based on sex, age, race, religion, or ability within the past 12 months." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Referenced Instances In Which "Some DOI Employees, Including Senior Officials," Had Engaged In "Unethical Or Illegal Conduct, As Well As Other Misconduct.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "Promoting and maintaining an ethical workplace culture has emerged as a management challenge in some areas of the DOI. This is the first year we have listed this challenge area in our Major Management Challenges Report. We have identified instances in which some DOI employees, including senior officials, have engaged in unethical or illegal conduct, as well as other misconduct. These violations have included sexual harassment; the acceptance of gifts from outside sources; conflicts of interest, including the use of public office for private gain; and the misuse of Government resources. In some recent cases, DOI employees found to have engaged in misconduct were later promoted, retained, or returned to their positions. The disclosure of these violations spurred a number of congressional hearings and extensive media coverage on DOI workplace culture, and resulted in secretarial directives to address." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

- **November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That In Some Recent Cases, Employees That Were Found Guilty Of Misconduct "Were Later Promoted, Retained, Or Returned To Their Positions."** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "Promoting and maintaining an ethical workplace culture has emerged as a management challenge in some areas of the DOI. This is the first year we have listed this challenge area in our Major Management Challenges Report. We have identified instances in which some DOI employees, including senior officials, have engaged in unethical or illegal conduct, as well as other misconduct. These violations have included sexual harassment; the acceptance of gifts from outside sources; conflicts of interest, including the use of public office for private gain; and the misuse of Government resources. In some recent cases, DOI employees found to have engaged in misconduct were later promoted, retained, or returned to their positions. The disclosure of these violations spurred a number of congressional hearings and extensive media coverage on DOI workplace culture, and resulted in secretarial directives to address." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Despite The Department's Attempts To Address Harassment, The Department Was Not Holding "All Of Its Employees, Including Senior Officials, To The Highest Standards Of Ethical Conduct."** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's 2017 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, "Following reports of sexual harassment at national parks, the NPS established an ombuds office, which is an independent, neutral, and confidential resource for employees to raise concerns about a range of workplace issues, including harassment and ethics violations. In addition, the NPS implemented new required training for employees and managers, and hired a sexual harassment prevention and response coordinator. The DOI continues to face challenges, however, in holding all of its employees, including senior officials, to the highest standards of ethical conduct; ensuring that the consequences of wrongdoing are clearly understood; taking decisive actions to address





unacceptable behavior; and providing relevant ethics training to all employees.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2017-ER-050, [11/2/17](#)]

**October 2017: Zinke Told Reporters That Multiple Employees Had Resigned, Retired, Or Been Removed As A Result Of Accusations Of Harassment And Discrimination, Including Nine Staff At Grand Canyon Park.**

The New York Times reported, “In a phone call with reporters after the speech, Mr. Zinke, Mr. Reynolds and Christine Lehnertz, the Grand Canyon superintendent, confirmed that multiple employees — including nine people from the Grand Canyon park — have resigned, retired or been removed as a result of accusations of harassment, intimidation or discrimination. The secretary said the department would be adding 14 positions to the employee relations and ethics staffs to respond to reports of abuse and discrimination and would require more training for employees on how to respond to harassment allegations.” [New York Times, [10/13/17](#)]

**December 2017: Zinke Fired Four Senior Interior Department Managers For Inappropriate Conduct That Included Sexual Harassment.**

ABC News reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke revealed today he has fired four senior managers at the Interior Department for inappropriate conduct, including sexual harassment. ‘I’ve already removed four senior leaders that were guilty of inappropriate behavior and I will remove four hundred more if necessary. Intimidation, harassment and discrimination is a cancer to any organization. However deep it goes, we will remove it from Interior,’ Zinke said in a video posted on the agency’s website today. Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email the department could not provide any specific information on the people who were fired but said they generally ‘abused their authority to intimidate or harass fellow employees. This includes but is not limited to sexual harassment.’” [ABC News, [12/14/17](#)]

- **December 2017 – Zinke: “I Have Already Removed Four Senior Leaders That Were Guilty Of Inappropriate Behavior And I Will Remove Four Hundred More If Necessary.”** ABC News reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke revealed today he has fired four senior managers at the Interior Department for inappropriate conduct, including sexual harassment. ‘I’ve already removed four senior leaders that were guilty of inappropriate behavior and I will remove four hundred more if necessary. Intimidation, harassment and discrimination is a cancer to any organization. However deep it goes, we will remove it from Interior,’ Zinke said in a video posted on the agency’s website today. Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email the department could not provide any specific information on the people who were fired but said they generally ‘abused their authority to intimidate or harass fellow employees. This includes but is not limited to sexual harassment.’” [ABC News, [12/14/17](#)]

## **2018**

**November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Identified The Same Nine Areas For Improvement In The 2017 And 2018 Major Management And Performance Challenges.**

According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “The OIG identified the top management and performance challenges for fiscal year (FY) 2018 as: • Workplace culture and ethics • Energy management • Public safety and disaster response • Information technology • Water programs • Responsibility to American Indians and Insular Areas • Acquisition and financial assistance • Climate effects • Operational efficiencies These nine challenges are the same as in last year’s report and are not presented in order of priority. Some of the critical topics discussed span multiple challenge areas, serving as a reminder of the complex nature of the DOI’s mission.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]

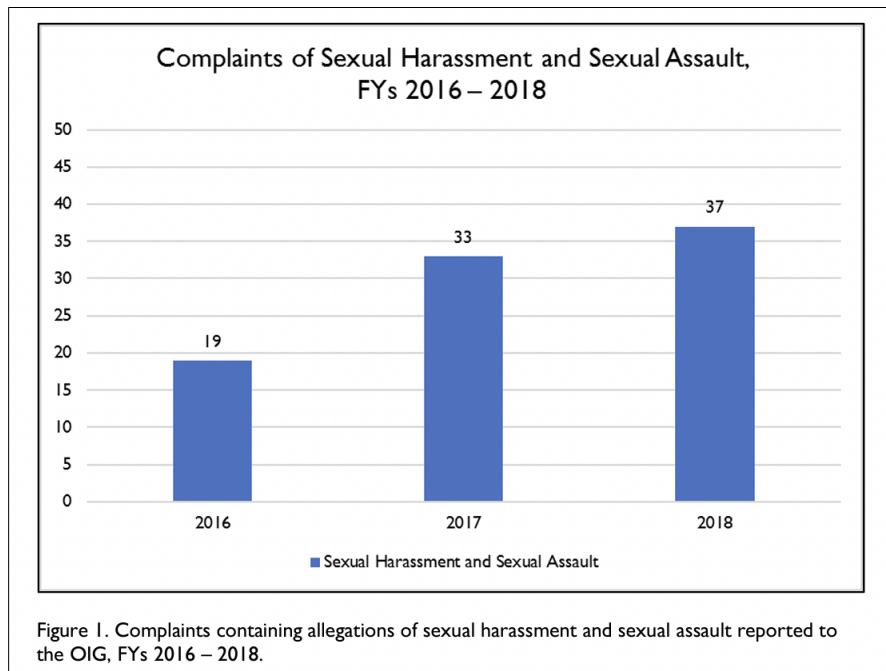
**November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Noted That Despite “Heightened Efforts” To Improve DOI’s “Workplace Culture And Ethics,” Investigators Found A “Resistance To Change.”**

According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Promoting and maintaining an ethical workplace culture that is free of harassment is a continued management challenge at the DOI. We included this challenge area in our Major Management Challenges Report for the first time last year, after identifying instances of unethical behavior and other misconduct

over several years. Despite heightened efforts to improve the DOI’s workplace culture and ethics, resistance to change remains. We have identified instances in which DOI employees have engaged in unethical or illegal conduct, as well as other behavior that negatively affects workplace culture. These violations have included inappropriate conduct or sexual harassment, insufficient actions in response to reports of sexual harassment, the acceptance of gifts from outside sources, conflicts of interest (including the use of public office for private gain), and the misuse of Government resources.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]

**November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found An Increase In Complaints Over The Past Three Years, “Including Those Containing Allegations Of Sexual Harassment And Assault.”** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Results from a Departmentwide work environment survey, conducted between January 2017 and March 2017, showed 35 percent of respondents reported being harassed or discriminated against in the past 12 months. The OIG has also seen an increase in reporting of complaints over the past 3 years, including those containing allegations of sexual harassment and assault (see Figure 1). We cannot conclude that the increase in these complaints is tied to an increase in the behavior; it may be that with changes in workplace culture more employees are willing to come forward to report their experiences than in the past. Regardless of the cause, the increase in reported complaints shows that maintaining a professional and productive work environment and improving workplace culture are continuing challenges for the DOI.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]

**November 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Received 33 Complaints Of Sexual Harassment And Sexual Assault In FY 2017 And 37 Complaints In FY 2018.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, the Interior Department Inspector General received 19 complaints of sexual harassment and sexual assault in FY 2016, 33 complaints in FY 2017, and 37 complaints in FY 2018. [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]



[U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2018-ER-041, [11/7/18](#)]



**November 2019: The Interior Department Inspector General Had Opened 22 Sexual Harassment Investigations And “Numerous Other Misconduct Investigations” Within The Interior Department Since 2016.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Promoting and maintaining a culture of ethics is key to employee morale, productivity, and trust. Explaining his commitment to transform the DOI ethics program, Secretary Bernhardt noted that our investigations over the years have highlighted a culture ‘that did not embrace necessary ethical standards, which erodes the public’s faith in our work.’ A 2016 OIG investigation that found widespread sexual misconduct at the Grand Canyon led to other investigations that raised an alarm about the prevalence of such misconduct across the DOI. Complaints reported to the OIG included allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and retaliation. Since 2016, we have opened 22 sexual harassment investigations and numerous other misconduct investigations. In one recent case, we found that a manager made inappropriate and unwelcome sexual comments to a subordinate after being counseled for similar misconduct in 2013 and 2016.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2019-ER-052, [11/15/19](#)]

**November 2019: The Interior Department Inspector General Found “One Recent Case” In Which A Manager Made “Inappropriate And Unwelcome Sexual Comments” To A Subordinate After Receiving Counseling For Similar Problems In 2013 And 2016.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s 2018 Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges, “Promoting and maintaining a culture of ethics is key to employee morale, productivity, and trust. Explaining his commitment to transform the DOI ethics program, Secretary Bernhardt noted that our investigations over the years have highlighted a culture ‘that did not embrace necessary ethical standards, which erodes the public’s faith in our work.’ A 2016 OIG investigation that found widespread sexual misconduct at the Grand Canyon led to other investigations that raised an alarm about the prevalence of such misconduct across the DOI. Complaints reported to the OIG included allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and retaliation. Since 2016, we have opened 22 sexual harassment investigations and numerous other misconduct investigations. In one recent case, we found that a manager made inappropriate and unwelcome sexual comments to a subordinate after being counseled for similar misconduct in 2013 and 2016.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Report No. 2019-ER-052, [11/15/19](#)]

## Travel

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**November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Sent A Letter To Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt Requesting Complete Travel Records To Investigate Zinke’s Travel With Taxpayer Funds.** According to a management advisory memorandum from the Interior Department Inspector General to Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt, “The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently investigating multiple allegations regarding Secretary Ryan Zinke’s travel. During our work, we discovered several issues that need prompt attention and changes to current IOS procedures. Our investigation has been delayed by absent, or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include proper documentation and accountability. Although we have received full cooperation from all employees contacted, we have found the documentation and adherence to Departmental travel policies deficient and without proper management oversight and accountability. Many authorizations and vouchers required for Secretary Zinke’s fiscal year (FY) 2017 travel have yet to be completed and processed. [...] Finally, based on the documents we have received to date, we have not been able to determine the full extent to which Lolita Zinke, the Secretary’s wife, accompanied the Secretary on official travel.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Memorandum, [11/15/17](#)]

- **November 2017: The Interior Department Inspector General Wrote That Investigations Into Zinke’s Travel Had Been “Delayed By Absent, Or Incomplete Documentation For Several Pertinent Trips.”** According to a management advisory memorandum from the Interior Department Inspector General to Deputy Interior Department Secretary Bernhardt, “The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently investigating multiple allegations regarding Secretary Ryan Zinke’s travel. During our work, we discovered several issues that need prompt attention and changes to current IOS procedures. Our investigation has been delayed by absent, or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include



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**April 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke's \$12,375 Taxpayer-Funded Flight From Las Vegas To Montana "Might Have Been Avoided."** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's Investigative Report On Secretary Zinke's Use Of Chartered And Military Aircraft Between March And September 2017, "We determined that Zinke's use of chartered flights in fiscal year (FY) 2017 generally followed relevant law, policy, rules, and regulations. We found, however, that a June 2017 trip during which he used a \$12,375 chartered flight after speaking at the developmental camp for the Golden Knights, a National Hockey League team in Las Vegas, was reviewed and approved by DOI ethics officials without complete information, and that the use of the chartered flight might have been avoided if the DOI employees who were scheduling Zinke's trip had worked with the Golden Knights to better accommodate his schedule. We also determined that Zinke had been aware of the Golden Knights event as early as March 7, 2017, and that a grant announcement in nearby Pahrump, NV, was scheduled after Zinke and his staff had already planned to be in Las Vegas for the event. While it was Zinke's chief of staff, Scott Hommel, who ultimately authorized the trip and the cost of the flight, he said he did so based in part on approval from the Ethics Office." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [4/16/18](#)]

**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke's Wife Was Approved By DOI Staff To Ride In Government Vehicles Along With Zinke, Which Was Against DOI Policy.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, "We determined that, despite a DOI policy prohibiting non-Government employees from riding in Government vehicles, the DOI Office of the Solicitor's Division of General Law approved Lolita Zinke and other individuals to ride in Government vehicles with Secretary Zinke. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt and Deputy Solicitor Edward Keable said Secretary Zinke was not bound by DOI policy, while Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani said he was unsure. We also determined that the Zinkes reimbursed costs associated with Lolita Zinke's travel in DOI vehicles when required. In addition, Lolita Zinke ultimately did not become a volunteer; while Secretary Zinke confirmed that his staff had researched the implications of making her a volunteer, he denied that it was an effort to circumvent the requirement to reimburse the DOI for her travel." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke's Staff Had Researched Making His Wife A Volunteer In Order For Her To Travel With Zinke, But Denied That It Was An Effort To "Circumvent" The Reimbursement Requirement.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, "We determined that, despite a DOI policy prohibiting non-Government employees from riding in Government vehicles, the DOI Office of the Solicitor's Division of General Law approved Lolita Zinke and other individuals to ride in Government vehicles with Secretary Zinke. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt and Deputy Solicitor Edward Keable said Secretary Zinke was not bound by DOI policy, while Principal Deputy Solicitor Daniel Jorjani said he was unsure. We also determined that the Zinkes reimbursed costs associated with Lolita Zinke's travel in DOI vehicles when required. In addition, Lolita Zinke ultimately did not become a volunteer; while Secretary Zinke confirmed that his staff had researched the implications of making her a volunteer, he denied that it was an effort to circumvent the requirement to reimburse the DOI for her travel." [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That Zinke Had Used A Protective Service Detail For A Family Vacation To Turkey And Greece, Which Cost The Interior Department Over \$25,000.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General's Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of





Position By Secretary Zinke, “In addition, we examined Secretary Zinke’s use of his protective service detail, including during a vacation the Zinkes took to Turkey and Greece. We also reviewed the Office of the Secretary’s purchase of secretarial challenge coins (small coins bearing an organization’s emblem, logo, or insignia, given as tokens of recognition or appreciation), and an allegation that a DOI employee resigned because Secretary Zinke made her walk his dog while at work. [...] While we found no prohibition against a security detail protecting Secretary Zinke during the Zinkes’ vacation, we learned that the U.S. Park Police had no finalized policy governing the detail’s activities and that the detail, which was unarmed, cost the DOI over \$25,000. We also determined that Secretary Zinke told his security detail on one occasion to drive a nongovernment employee to the airport, but he was later told that this direction was not appropriate, and it has not happened again.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That The U.S. Park Police Had No Finalized Policy Governing Zinke’s Unarmed Vacation Detail.** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, “In addition, we examined Secretary Zinke’s use of his protective service detail, including during a vacation the Zinkes took to Turkey and Greece. We also reviewed the Office of the Secretary’s purchase of secretarial challenge coins (small coins bearing an organization’s emblem, logo, or insignia, given as tokens of recognition or appreciation), and an allegation that a DOI employee resigned because Secretary Zinke made her walk his dog while at work. [...] While we found no prohibition against a security detail protecting Secretary Zinke during the Zinkes’ vacation, we learned that the U.S. Park Police had no finalized policy governing the detail’s activities and that the detail, which was unarmed, cost the DOI over \$25,000. We also determined that Secretary Zinke told his security detail on one occasion to drive a nongovernment employee to the airport, but he was later told that this direction was not appropriate, and it has not happened again.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

**October 2018: The Interior Department Inspector General Found That The Zinke Told His Security Detail To Drive A Nongovernment Employee To The Airport, But Did Not Repeat The Offense After “He Was Later Told That This Direction Was Not Appropriate.”** According to the Interior Department Inspector General’s Investigative Report Of Alleged Abuse Of Position By Secretary Zinke, “In addition, we examined Secretary Zinke’s use of his protective service detail, including during a vacation the Zinkes took to Turkey and Greece. We also reviewed the Office of the Secretary’s purchase of secretarial challenge coins (small coins bearing an organization’s emblem, logo, or insignia, given as tokens of recognition or appreciation), and an allegation that a DOI employee resigned because Secretary Zinke made her walk his dog while at work. [...] While we found no prohibition against a security detail protecting Secretary Zinke during the Zinkes’ vacation, we learned that the U.S. Park Police had no finalized policy governing the detail’s activities and that the detail, which was unarmed, cost the DOI over \$25,000. We also determined that Secretary Zinke told his security detail on one occasion to drive a nongovernment employee to the airport, but he was later told that this direction was not appropriate, and it has not happened again.” [U.S. Interior Department Office of the Inspector General, Investigative Report, [10/22/18](#)]

## Leases On Federal Land

### Acres Leased

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**2017: 11,859,396 Acres Of Land Were Offered During Bureau Of Land Management Lease Sales, With At Least 792,823 Acres Of Land Receiving Bids.** According to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 11,859,396 acres of land were offered at competitive oil and gas lease sale auctions and 792,823 of those acres received bids during calendar year 2017. [U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Acres Offered for Lease and Acres Sold, [2009 – 2017](#)]







21st Century Exploration LLC	Hart Oil Company Inc	Raymond Oil Company Inc
3d Exploration LLC	Hat Creek Resources LLC	Rc Michael Company Inc
4x4 Energy Inc	Herbaly Exploration LLC	Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc.
5 Star Exploration LLC	Herco LLC	Red Willow Great Plains LLC
7h Energy LLC	Heritage Resources Inc	Renos Land & Minerals Co LLC
Aberdeen Petroleum LLC	High West Resources, LTD	Ridge Energy Partners LLC
Advance Energy Ptrns LLC	Highland Exploration LLC	Rio Energy LLC
Ameredev New Mexico LLC	Hilcorp Energy Company	Riverside Resources Inc
Ameredev Nm LLC	Hiline Resources LLC	Rm Oil Company LLC
American Shale Energy LLC	Hill Resources LLC	Robert A Schalla
Amy Adams	Hoover & Stacy Inc	Robert Dunbar
Anadarko E&P	HORNET ENERGY LLC	ROBERT L BAYLESS PRODUCER LLC
Anderson Oil LTD	Hrm Resources Iii LLC	Rock Creek Ranch I LTD
Annastin Energy LLC	Hunter Energy Corporation	Rockies Resources Agent Corp
Anschutz Corp	Impact Agent Co	Rockies Resources Holding LLC
Anschutz Exploration Corp	Independent Energy Partners	Rockies Standard Oil Co LLC
Antelope Energy Company LLC	International Petroleum LLC	Ronald Miles
Antelope Energy Company LLC	Interstate Exploration LLC	Roy G. Barton, Jr.
Antler Creek Land & Minerals LLC	Interwest Petroleum Corp	Royal Energy LLC
Apache Corp	Intrepid Production Corp	Rte Land Inc
Apache Corporation	Jane Swanson	Ryan Smith
Ari Kogut	Jasper Energy Resources LLC	Sage Energy Inc
Atomic Oil & Gas LLC	Jma Energy Co LLC	Sandridge Expl & Prod LLC
August Oil LLC	Johnson Exploration LLC	Sapphire Energy Company
Avinash Ahuja	Jones Energy Resources Inc	Sapphire Exploration LLC
Ayres Energy LLC	K2t2 Resources LLC	Sea Eagle Ford, LLC
Azalea Oil Co LLC	Kastleford Land Co LLC	Seven Sisters Oil & Gas LLC
Balidor Oil & Gas LLC	Kew Drilling	Shalin Shah
Baseline Minerals Inc	Kingsmill Resources, LLC	Sharbro Energy LLC
Bayou Well Service LLC	Kirkwood Oil & Gas LLC	Shiloh Exploration LLC
Behm Energy, Inc.	Kkrep, LLC	Silver Energy LLC
Bissell Oil Operating Co Inc	Knox Exploration LLC	Silverbow Resources Operating, LLC
Black Hills Expl & Prod Inc	Lagrange Petroleum LLC	Skyworld Oil Nd LTD
Black Oak Energy LLC	Land Resources Usa, LLC	Slash Exploration LP
Black Tooth Exploration LLC	Larry R. Moyer Exploration, LLC	Slash Exploration LP Po
Blackbeard Operating LLC	Lawler Timothy	Slate Exploration LLC
Blue Devil Exploration, LLC	Layne Resources LLC	Smith Exploration Inc
Bmr Montana LLC	Leon Michael Wilkerson	Sonora Exploration LLC
Bold Resources, LLC	Lesrich Lane	Southern Resources LLC
Bro Energy LLC	Liberty Petroleum Corporation	Southern Royalty Company LLC
Broadway Petroleum LLC	Linn Energy Holdings LLC	Southland Royalty Company LLC
Brown Maurice W	Little Exploration LLC	Southwest Energy LLC
Browning Oil Co Inc	Logos Resources Ii LLC	Southwestern Energy
Bta Oil Producers LLC	Lonewolf Exploration & Prod	Special Energy Corp
Calm Fort Worth Ventures LLC	Lonewolf Operating, LLC	Spur Energy LLC
Canam Production LLC	Longhorn Energy LLC	St. Devote LLC
Cargo Energy Services LLC	Lowland Resources Inc	Staghorn Petroleum LLC



Caribou Land & Livestock Mt LLC	M B Resources Inc	Stanley Matzke
Carlow Exchange Properties LLC	Magnum Producing LP	Star Energy Inc
Carpenter & Sons Inc	Major Oil International LLC	Stephen Smith
Caspian Energy Inc	Marathon Oil Permian LLC	Straud Exploration Company LLC
Castleford Land Company LLC	Marshall & Winston, Inc.	Strong Petroleum LLC
Caza Petroleum LLC	Maurice W Brown O&G LLC	Summit Energy LLC
Century O&G South LLC	Mbogo Energy LLC	Sunset Exploration LLC
Chalfant Properties Inc	Mc Murray Turst Company	Sunset Production Company LLC
Chase Oil Corp	Mcdaniel Exploration LLC	Tacitus LLC
Chase Oil Corporation	Mcdonald Land Services LLC	Tap Rock Resources LLC
Cherokee Royalty LLC	Mcmahon Energy Partners, LP	Tc Craighead & Co
Chesapeake Exploration LLC	Medina Energy LLC	Teocali Energy LLC
Chevron Usa Inc	Merit Mgmt Partners Iii LP Et Al	Texas Royalty Company LLC
Chisholm Energy Agent, Inc.	Michael O'neal	The Allar Co
Cimarex Energy Co	Midstates Petroleum Company, LLC	Thunder Basin Resources LLC
Cimarex Energy Co 1700	Midway Exploration LLC	Tidewater Resources LLC
Cobra Oil & Gas Corporation	Mike Davis	Tierra Oil Co LLC
Cog Operating LLC	Missouri River Royalty Corp	Timber Exploration LLC
Colgate Production LLC	Monkota Petroleum Corp.	Titan Exploration LLC
Comanche Exploration Co LLC	Montana Resources Inc	Tk Production Co
Conocophillips	MRC Permian Company	Triad Hunter, LLC
Conocophillips Alaska, Inc.	Murchison Oil & Gas	Trident Energy LLC
Conocophillips Co	Mustang Energy LLC	Trident Oil & Gas LLC
Conquest Land Co LLC	Mystic Energy Inc	Triex Resources Inc
Contex Energy Co LLC	Name	Trinity Exploration LLC
Continental Energy Partners LLC	Nashville Exploration LLC	Triumph Exploration LLC
Continental Resources, Inc.	Navigation Petroleum LLC	Trove Energy LLC
Crow Creek Resources LLC	Navigation Powder River LLC	Trove Energy, LLC
Cypress Energy Corporation	New Century Production Co LLC	True Oil LLC
Daniel Yanke	Newcastle Resources Inc	Trujillo Ann M
Daubenergy LLC	Newfield Explrn Mid-Cont Inc	Tucson Exploration LLC
Debra S. Bohac	Newtex Partners LLC	TULSA RESOURCES INC
Delego Oil Company LLC	North American Helium	Twin Bridges Resources LLC
Dennis W. Yockim	Northstar Energy Co LLC	UNION EXPLORATION LLC
Dgp Energy LLC	Northwest Exploration LLC	United Exploration LLC
Dodson Exploration Co LLC	Northwoods Land Inc	United Natural Gas LLC
Dunlap Petroleum LLC	Novo O & G Northern Delawarll	Upl Pinedale LLC
E & B Natural Res Mgmt Corp	Oakspring Energy Holdings LLC	Valencia Rhodes
Eagle Oil & Gas Co	O'brien Energy Res Corp	Verduon Oil Ef LLC
Eastern Resources Inc	Overton Energy Inc	Vermilion Energy Usa LLC
Eclipse Resources I, LP	Oxy Usa Inc	Viking Energy LLC
Edge Petroleum LLC	Pacer Energy Acquisitions LLC	Wapiti Rocky Mountain LLC
Emerald House LLC	Pajaro Energy LLC	Warren American Oil Company
Empire Exploration LLC	Par Five Exploration LLC	Wasatch Energy Mgmt LLC
Equity Trust Company	Parker & O'connor Energy Inc	Wayne Sawka
Esco Energy Inc	Patrick Oil Company LLC	Wells Exploration LLC
Farleigh Oil Properties	Peach Exploration LLC	Wells Petroleum Inc
Featherstone Dev Corp	Peachtree Resources Inc	Western American Resources LLC





251	Beacon Offshore Energy Exploration LLC	\$1,979,024.43	\$739,537.00	\$1,239,487.43
250	BHP Billiton Petroleum (Deepwater) Inc.	\$5,282,860.00	\$5,282,860.00	\$0.00
247	BHP Billiton Petroleum (Deepwater) Ir	\$1,498,022.26	\$1,498,022.26	\$0.00
247	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	\$2,129,637.74	\$2,129,637.74	\$0.00
249	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	\$1,663,252.50	\$1,663,252.50	\$0.00
250	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	\$20,068,202.00	\$20,068,202.00	\$0.00
251	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	\$16,639,314.00	\$12,571,230.00	\$4,068,084.00
247	Byron Energy Inc	\$561,108.00	\$561,108.00	\$0.00
249	Byron Energy Inc.	\$142,222.00	\$142,222.00	\$0.00
250	Byron Energy Inc.	\$2,610,082.00	\$2,610,082.00	\$0.00
251	Byron Energy Inc.	\$406,593.00	\$406,593.00	\$0.00
250	Cantium, LLC	\$301,175.00	\$301,175.00	\$0.00
250	Castex Offshore, Inc.	\$260,247.49	\$260,247.49	\$0.00
251	Castex Offshore, Inc.	\$224,485.71	\$224,485.71	\$0.00
247	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	\$50,033,872.00	\$35,566,603.00	\$14,467,269.00
249	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	\$31,053,098.00	\$27,917,668.00	\$3,135,430.00
250	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	\$36,643,507.00	\$29,448,882.00	\$7,194,625.00
251	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	\$18,705,332.00	\$18,705,332.00	\$0.00
251	CL&F Offshore LLC	\$199,455.40	\$78,480.00	\$120,975.40
247	Cobalt International Energy, L.P.	\$4,076,557.67	\$2,816,492.00	\$1,260,065.67
249	Cobalt International Energy, L.P.	\$3,533,412.00	\$0.00	\$3,533,412.00
249	Cretaceous LLC	\$70,416.00	\$70,416.00	\$0.00
249	Deep Gulf Energy III, LLC	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00
250	Deep Gulf Energy III, LLC	\$1,577,000.00	\$1,577,000.00	\$0.00
251	Deep Gulf Energy III, LLC	\$6,674,145.72	\$5,533,710.22	\$1,140,435.50
250	Dorado Deep GP, LLC	\$71,627.81	\$71,627.81	\$0.00
251	Dorado Deep GP, LLC	\$18,065.80	\$18,065.80	\$0.00
249	Ecopetrol America Inc.	\$460,000.00	\$460,000.00	\$0.00





251	Ecopetrol America Inc.	\$3,908,000.00	\$3,908,000.00	\$0.00
250	EnVen Energy Ventures, LLC	\$5,263,438.00	\$4,662,153.00	\$601,285.00
251	EnVen Energy Ventures, LLC	\$2,160,000.00	\$2,160,000.00	\$0.00
251	Equinor Gulf of Mexico LLC	\$17,949,999.50	\$13,224,671.50	\$4,725,328.00
247	Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$21,910,475.00	\$21,910,475.00	\$0.00
249	Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$21,012,200.00	\$20,385,425.00	\$626,775.00
250	Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$2,167,760.00	\$0.00	\$2,167,760.00
251	Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$42,932,880.00	\$40,555,000.00	\$2,377,880.00
251	Fieldwood Energy LLC	\$1,584,362.50	\$1,584,362.50	\$0.00
249	Fieldwood Energy Offshore LLC	\$765,000.00	\$765,000.00	\$0.00
250	Fieldwood Energy Offshore LLC	\$150,150.50	\$150,150.50	\$0.00
250	Focus Exploration, LLC	\$530,293.69	\$530,293.69	\$0.00
250	GOME 1271 LLC	\$396,852.71	\$396,852.71	\$0.00
251	GOME 1271 LLC	\$313,959.48	\$313,959.48	\$0.00
249	GulfSlope Energy, Inc.	\$131,989.00	\$131,989.00	\$0.00
251	GulfSlope Energy, Inc.	\$322,022.00	\$322,022.00	\$0.00
247	Hess Corporation	\$44,969,487.00	\$43,873,740.00	\$1,095,747.00
250	Hess Corporation	\$7,025,112.00	\$4,524,223.00	\$2,500,889.00
251	Hess Corporation	\$38,507,672.50	\$36,178,320.50	\$2,329,352.00
244	Hilcorp Alaska, LLC	\$3,034,815.00	\$3,034,815.00	\$0.00
247	Houston Energy, L.P.	\$2,239,847.75	\$2,082,090.15	\$157,757.60
249	Houston Energy, L.P.	\$444,976.38	\$444,976.38	\$0.00
250	Houston Energy, L.P.	\$1,099,221.29	\$1,077,999.09	\$21,222.20
251	Houston Energy, L.P.	\$3,042,003.05	\$1,418,919.89	\$1,623,083.17
249	LLOG Bluewater Holdings, L.L.C.	\$2,649,279.00	\$2,649,279.00	\$0.00
250	LLOG Bluewater Holdings, L.L.C.	\$435,555.45	\$435,555.45	\$0.00
247	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	\$8,166,146.70	\$3,279,523.50	\$4,886,623.20



249	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	\$1,604,658.50	\$1,604,658.50	\$0.00
250	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	\$5,044,665.50	\$4,620,221.50	\$424,444.00
251	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	\$4,089,333.50	\$912,888.50	\$3,176,445.00
251	Murphy Exploration & Production Compa	\$359,685.20	\$359,685.20	\$0.00
249	Murphy Exploration & Production Company	\$512,807.50	\$512,807.50	\$0.00
250	Murphy Exploration & Production Company	\$731,500.00	\$369,000.00	\$362,500.00
249	Peregrine Oil & Gas II, LLC	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	\$0.00
251	Peregrine Oil & Gas II, LLC	\$254,900.00	\$254,900.00	\$0.00
247	Red Willow Offshore, LLC	\$1,804,969.45	\$1,489,454.25	\$315,515.20
249	Red Willow Offshore, LLC	\$575,355.44	\$575,355.44	\$0.00
250	Red Willow Offshore, LLC	\$512,721.36	\$311,110.46	\$201,610.90
251	Red Willow Offshore, LLC	\$1,680,655.29	\$1,155,432.79	\$525,222.50
250	Renaissance Offshore, LLC	\$128,500.00	\$128,500.00	\$0.00
249	Repsol E&P USA Inc.	\$460,000.00	\$460,000.00	\$0.00
247	Reserves Management, L.C.	\$158,000.00	\$158,000.00	\$0.00
247	Ridgewood Energy Corporation	\$4,773,961.80	\$4,773,961.80	\$0.00
249	Ridgewood Energy Corporation	\$1,422,188.69	\$1,422,188.69	\$0.00
250	Ridgewood Energy Corporation	\$201,610.90	\$0.00	\$201,610.90
251	Ridgewood Energy Corporation	\$1,059,871.91	\$1,059,871.91	\$0.00
250	SDB Offshore Energy, LLC	\$1,048,320.00	\$1,048,320.00	\$0.00
251	SDB Offshore Energy, LLC	\$299,520.00	\$299,520.00	\$0.00
247	Shell Offshore Inc.	\$61,220,537.00	\$55,856,380.00	\$5,364,157.00
249	Shell Offshore Inc.	\$32,462,955.00	\$25,096,163.00	\$7,366,792.00
250	Shell Offshore Inc.	\$22,931,808.00	\$22,931,808.00	\$0.00
251	Shell Offshore Inc.	\$7,207,952.00	\$6,305,964.00	\$901,988.00



247	Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC	\$51,282,640.00	\$44,500,688.00	\$6,781,952.00
249	Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC	\$4,999,904.00	\$4,999,904.00	\$0.00
250	Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC	\$4,030,280.00	\$4,030,280.00	\$0.00
249	Stone Energy Offshore, L.L.C.	\$512,807.50	\$512,807.50	\$0.00
250	Stone Energy Offshore, L.L.C.	\$1,214,000.00	\$851,500.00	\$362,500.00
250	Talos Energy Offshore LLC	\$822,920.50	\$822,920.50	\$0.00
251	Talos Energy Offshore LLC	\$5,272,978.00	\$5,272,978.00	\$0.00
249	TOPCO OFFSHORE, LLC	\$134,134.00	\$134,134.00	\$0.00
250	TOPCO OFFSHORE, LLC	\$135,599.31	\$135,599.31	\$0.00
247	TOTAL E&P USA, INC.	\$16,210,651.33	\$15,000,000.00	\$1,210,651.33
249	TOTAL E&P USA, INC.	\$18,000,000.00	\$16,799,283.00	\$1,200,717.00
250	TOTAL E&P USA, INC.	\$15,106,525.00	\$15,106,525.00	\$0.00
251	TOTAL E&P USA, INC.	\$7,551,142.00	\$5,800,786.00	\$1,750,356.00
250	Venari Offshore LLC	\$529,021.50	\$208,666.50	\$320,355.00
250	W & T Energy VI, LLC	\$141,800.00	\$141,800.00	\$0.00
249	W & T Offshore, Inc.	\$125,063.00	\$125,063.00	\$0.00
250	W & T Offshore, Inc.	\$797,700.00	\$797,700.00	\$0.00
251	W & T Offshore, Inc.	\$825,750.00	\$825,750.00	\$0.00
247	Walter Oil & Gas Corporation	\$6,268,088.00	\$6,268,088.00	\$0.00
250	Walter Oil & Gas Corporation	\$652,400.00	\$652,400.00	\$0.00
251	Walter Oil & Gas Corporation	\$5,397,050.00	\$5,397,050.00	\$0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$688,657,749.32</b>	

[Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, accessed [7/14/24](#); [7/14/24](#); [7/14/24](#); [7/14/24](#); [7/14/24](#)]

## Flagged Companies

### *Exxon Mobil & Chevron*

**2015 – 2016: Zinke Received \$5,000 From ExxonMobil’s PAC.** E&E News reported, “FEC data show Oasis’ support represents a fraction of the money given by the energy industry. In 2015-16, energy and natural resources



political action committees contributed \$126,000 to Zinke’s campaign, according to OpenSecrets.org. That includes \$3,000 from the Halliburton Company PAC, \$5,000 from both the ExxonMobil PAC and Conoco Phillips, \$2,500 from the Koch Industries Inc. PAC and \$1,000 from the Peabody Energy PAC. All of them represent companies that do business with the Interior Department.” [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

**2021 – 2024: Zinke Received \$1,000 From The Exxon Mobil PAC And \$5,000 From The Chevron Employees PAC.** According to the FEC, Zinke’s congressional campaigns received \$1,000 from Exxon Mobil PAC and \$5,000 from the Chevron Employees PAC from 2021 – 2024. [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

<b>2021-2024: Zinke Exxon/Chevron Contributions</b>	
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
EXXON MOBIL PAC	\$1,000.00
CHEVRON EMPLOYEES PAC	\$5,000.00

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**2017 – 2018: Chevron USA Won 64 Bids Between Four Off-Shore Oil And Gas Lease Auctions.** According to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Chevron U.S.A. Inc. won 64 bids between off-shore oil and gas lease auctions 247, 249, 250, and 251 from 2017 – 2018. [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Lease Sale Statistics, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

<b>2017 -- 2018: Chevron &amp; Exxon Off-Shore Oil And Gas Lease Auction Winning Bids</b>			
<b>Sale No.</b>	<b>Company Name</b>	<b>High Bids</b>	<b>Total Amount High Bids</b>
247	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	20	\$35,566,603.00
249	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	15	\$27,917,668.00
250	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	24	\$29,448,882.00
251	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	5	\$18,705,332.00
247	Exxon Mobil Corporation	19	\$21,910,475.00
249	Exxon Mobil Corporation	7	\$20,385,425.00
251	Exxon Mobil Corporation	25	\$40,555,000.00

[Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Lease Sale Statistics, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

**2017 – 2018: Exxon Mobil Corporation Won 51 Bids Between Three Off-Shore Oil And Gas Lease Auctions.** According to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Exxon Mobil Corporation won 51 bids between off-shore oil and gas lease auctions 247, 249, and 251 from 2017 – 2018. [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Lease Sale Statistics, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

<b>2017 -- 2018: Chevron &amp; Exxon Off-Shore Oil And Gas Lease Auction Winning Bids</b>			
<b>Sale No.</b>	<b>Company Name</b>	<b>High Bids</b>	<b>Total Amount High Bids</b>
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247	Exxon Mobil Corporation	19	\$21,910,475.00

249	Exxon Mobil Corporation	7	\$20,385,425.00
251	Exxon Mobil Corporation	25	\$40,555,000.00

[Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Lease Sale Statistics, accessed [7/11/24](#)]

## ***Oasis Petroleum***

**January 2017: Zinke’s Top Individual Campaign Donor Was Taylor Reid, The President And Chief Operating Officer Of Oasis Petroleum.** E&E News reported, “Watchdog groups say the contributions, totaling \$345,000 since 2013, raise questions about whether the fossil fuel industry could influence a Cabinet secretary who controls drilling, mining and conservation policies across more than 500 million acres of public land. Zinke’s top individual campaign donor is Taylor Reid, president and chief operating officer of a Texas-based oil and gas company that drills in the Bakken oil field. Reid, who has been with Oasis Petroleum since its founding in 2007, donated \$11,600 to Zinke’s election efforts between 2013 and 2016, an analysis of Federal Election Commission data shows.” [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

- **Oasis Petroleum Was A Texas-Based Oil And Gas Company That Drilled In The Bakken Oil Field.** E&E News reported, “Watchdog groups say the contributions, totaling \$345,000 since 2013, raise questions about whether the fossil fuel industry could influence a Cabinet secretary who controls drilling, mining and conservation policies across more than 500 million acres of public land. Zinke’s top individual campaign donor is Taylor Reid, president and chief operating officer of a Texas-based oil and gas company that drills in the Bakken oil field. Reid, who has been with Oasis Petroleum since its founding in 2007, donated \$11,600 to Zinke’s election efforts between 2013 and 2016, an analysis of Federal Election Commission data shows.” [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]
- **2013 – 2016: Zinke Received \$11,600 In Campaign Contributions From Oasis President Taylor Reid.** E&E News reported, “Watchdog groups say the contributions, totaling \$345,000 since 2013, raise questions about whether the fossil fuel industry could influence a Cabinet secretary who controls drilling, mining and conservation policies across more than 500 million acres of public land. Zinke’s top individual campaign donor is Taylor Reid, president and chief operating officer of a Texas-based oil and gas company that drills in the Bakken oil field. Reid, who has been with Oasis Petroleum since its founding in 2007, donated \$11,600 to Zinke’s election efforts between 2013 and 2016, an analysis of Federal Election Commission data shows.” [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

**2013 – January 2017: Oasis President Taylor Reid And Nine Other Oasis Executives Collectively Donated \$41,750 To Zinke’s Campaigns.** E&E News reported, “Reid is one of 10 executives at Oasis Petroleum who collectively donated \$41,750 to Zinke over the last four years, an E&E News analysis found. Thomas Nusz, president of the company and one of its directors, was another top donor, kicking in \$10,600 to Zinke’s campaigns. Oasis has interests in about 50,000 acres of public land, a little under 10 percent of the company’s full holdings, which cover about 540,000 acres in the North Dakota and Montana regions of the Williston Basin, a spokesman for the company said. The region includes the oil-rich Bakken and Three Forks formations. Reid and Nusz could not be reached for comment.” [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

**January 2017: Oasis Petroleum’s Holdings Covered About 50,000 Acres Of Public Land In North Dakota And Montana, Including The Bakken And Three Forks Formations.** E&E News reported, “Reid is one of 10 executives at Oasis Petroleum who collectively donated \$41,750 to Zinke over the last four years, an E&E News analysis found. Thomas Nusz, president of the company and one of its directors, was another top donor, kicking in \$10,600 to Zinke’s campaigns. Oasis has interests in about 50,000 acres of public land, a little under 10 percent of the company’s full holdings, which cover about 540,000 acres in the North Dakota and Montana regions of the Williston Basin, a spokesman for the company said. The region includes the oil-rich Bakken and Three Forks formations. Reid and Nusz could not be reached for comment.” [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]



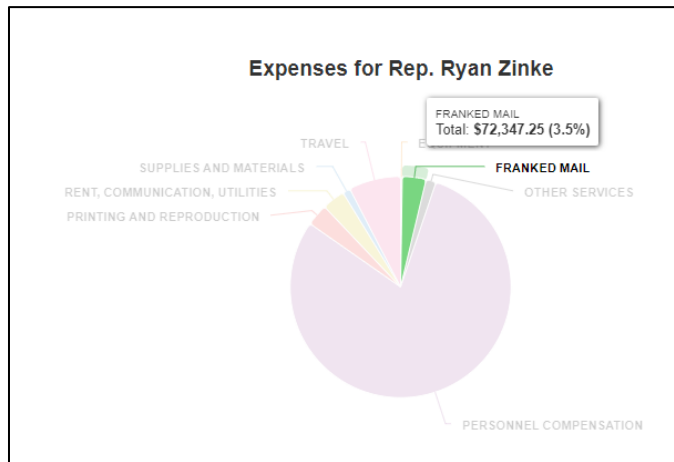
## Coal Companies

**2013 – 2017: Zinke Received Contributions From Coal Industry Companies Arch Coal Inc., Alpha Natural Resources Inc., Cloud Peak Energy Inc. And Peabody Energy Corp, All Of Which Did Business With The Interior Department.** E&E News reported, “Spivak is especially concerned about the level of political support Zinke has received from the coal industry. Interior owns and manages about 40 percent of U.S. coal reserves, largely in the Powder River Basin. Under President Obama, the agency has undertaken a full review of the federal coal program and paused new leasing for three years. Trump has vowed to undo the review and moratorium within his first 100 days in office. Coal giants Arch Coal Inc., Alpha Natural Resources Inc., Cloud Peak Energy Inc. and Peabody Energy Corp. have all given to Zinke. BNSF Railway Co., a large player in transporting coal from the Powder River Basin, has given the congressman \$14,000 since 2013.” [E&E News, [1/13/17](#)]

## Office Expenditures

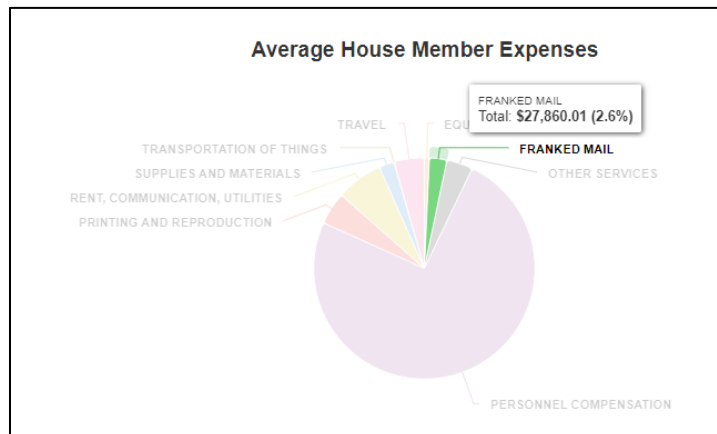
### Franked Mail

**2023-2024: Zinke’s Office Spent 72,347.25 On Franked Mail, Representing 3.5 Percent Of Its Budget.** [Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



[Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

- **2023-2024: The Average House Member Spent \$27,860.01 On Franked Mail, Representing 2.6 Percent Of The Average House Member’s Budget.** [Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

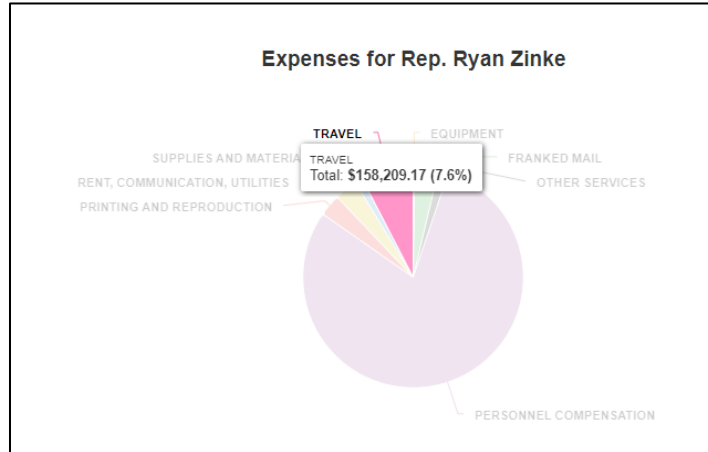


[Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Travel

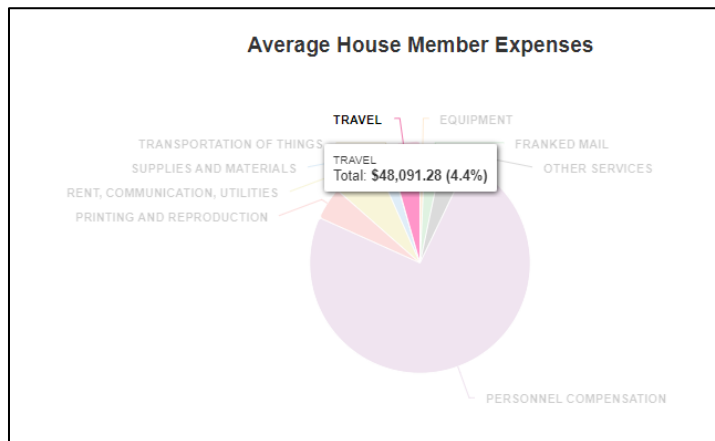
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**2023-2024: Zinke's Office Spent \$158,209.17 On Travel, Representing 7.6 Percent Of Its Budget.** [Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



[Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

- **2023-2024: The Average House Member Spent \$48,091.28 On Travel, Representing 4.4 Percent Of The Average House Member's Budget.** [Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



[Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

- **Zinke Had Not Disclosed Any Privately Financed Travel Since 2016.** [Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



**Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Montana, 1st) - Privately Financed Travel**  
 In Office - Alternate Name: Ryan Keith Zinke

Summary Staff Disclosures Lobbying District StormFeed Town Halls **Trips** Notes (0)

Click here for map Trips history

	NO.	COST	
Trips Approved	5	\$28,486	
Trips Taken	3	\$23,016	
Top Staff Traveler	1	\$4,331	- Chambers, Micah David

Trips Taken by Member Trips Taken by Staffers All Trips from Office

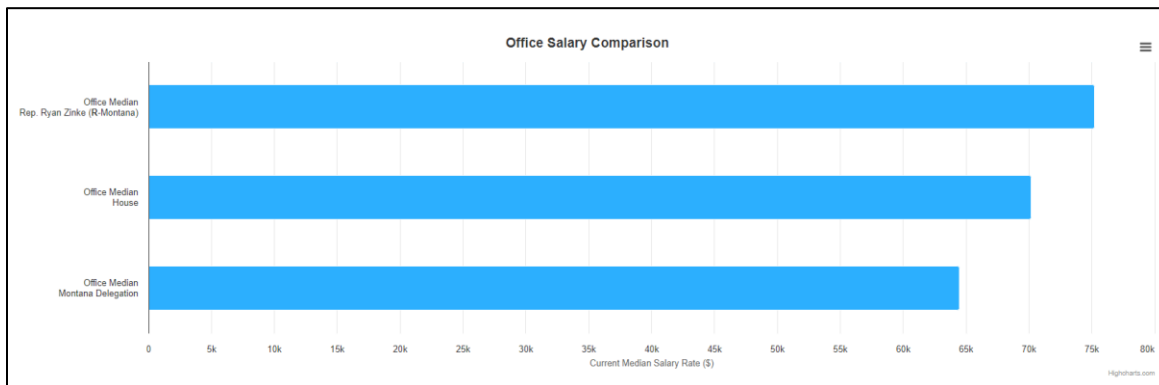
VIEW DETAILS / PDF	TRAVELER/ DATES	SPONSOR	DESTINATION/ PURPOSE	COST
	Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) 01/22/16-01/23/16	Steamboat Institute	Las Vegas, NV Attended national security events; participated on global security panel.	\$772.80
	Hommel, Scott C. 01/03/16-01/04/16	Consumer Technology Association	Las Vegas, NV Attended conference sessions on technology and legislation and exhibits on the show floor.	\$1,136.50
	Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) 01/03/16-01/04/16	Consumer Technology Association	Las Vegas, NV Attended conference sessions on technology and legislation and exhibits on the show floor.	\$1,204.50
	Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) 09/09/15-09/16/15	American Israel Education Foundation	Jerusalem, Israel - Kibutz Kfar Azza, Israel - ... more Traveled to Israel to attend events and educational briefings to educate members of congress about L... more	\$21,039.23
	Chambers, Micah David 05/25/15-05/31/15	Turkish Coalition of America	Eceabat, Turkey - Istanbul, Turkey - ... more Attended roundtables with Turkish officials; met with business, Turkish, Bosnian, U.S. and civil soc... more	\$4,331.89

5 results

[Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Salaries

**2024: Zinke's Median Office Salary Was \$75,206.04, Whereas The Median For The Entire House Was \$70,192.27, And The Median For The Montana Delegation Was \$64,489.90.** [Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



[Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Personal Political Contributions

**2008-2022: Zinke Contributed To The Montana Republican State Committee, Joe Dooling, And The Montana Shooting Sports Association PAC, Always Listing His Address As 409 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Whitefish, MT.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

Ryan Zinke Personal Political Contributions				
Recipient	Contributor	Address	Date	Amount
MONTANA REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	ZINKE, RYAN	WHITEFISH MT 59937	5/1/08	\$150.00
MONTANA REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	ZINKE, RYAN	WHITEFISH MT 59937	6/9/09	\$230.00



MONTANA REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	ZINKE, RYAN	WHITEFISH MT 59937	6/9/10	\$175.00
FRIENDS OF JOE DOOLING	ZINKE, RYAN	WHITEFISH MT 59937-3010	9/30/19	\$2,366.15
MONTANA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSN POLITICAL COMMITTEE	ZINKE, RYAN	WHITEFISH MT 59932	4/2/22	\$400.00

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [7/16/24](#)]

**2008-2024: Zinke Consistently Listed His Address As 409 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St In Whitefish On His State-Level Contributions, Including As Recently As January 2024, With The Only Exception Being PO Boxes And The Addresses For His Congressional District Offices At 601 Nikles Dr #5 In Bozeman And 2901 W Broadway #200 In Missoula.** [Montana Campaign Finance via Illumis Search, accessed 7/18/24]

**Ryan Zinke Montana Personal Political Contributions**

Recipient	Contributor	Date	Amount
Reksten, Linda E	Zinke, Ryan	3/21/24	\$400.00
Regier, Matt	Zinke, Ryan	2/1/24	\$400.00
McGinley, Mark J	Zinke, Ryan	1/22/24	\$400.00
Malone, Marty	Zinke, Ryan	1/6/24	\$200.00
Rusk, Wayne	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/24	\$400.00
Regier, Amy	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/24	\$400.00
Hedalen, Susie	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/24	\$790.00
Knudsen, Austin	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/24	\$790.00
Brockman, Tony	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/24	\$400.00
Fitzpatrick, John S	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/24	\$400.00
Bedey, David F.	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/24	\$400.00
Brown, James	Zinke, Ryan K	1/1/24	\$790.00
Cochran, Curtis J	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/24	\$400.00
Vance, Shelley	Zinke, Ryan K	1/1/22	\$350.00
Gianforte, Greg	Zinke, Ryan	8/16/20	\$710.00
Arntzen, Elsie	Zinke, Ryan K	6/16/20	\$81.00
Arntzen, Elsie	Zinke, Ryan K	4/16/20	\$232.00
Webb, Peggy	Zinke, Ryan	10/28/16	\$100.00
Vinton, Susanne E.	Zinke, Ryan K	10/28/16	\$100.00
Gianforte, Greg	Zinke, Ryan	10/28/16	\$500.00
Arntzen, Elsie	Zinke, Ryan	10/20/16	\$200.00
Flathead County Republican Central Committee	Zinke, Ryan	5/22/16	\$1,400.00
Gianforte, Greg	Zinke, Ryan	3/28/16	\$500.00
Hill County Republican Central Cmte.	Zinke, Ryan K	1/1/16	\$100.00



Hill County Republican Central Committee	Zinke, Ryan K	1/1/16	\$100.00
Buttrey, Francis (Ed)	Zinke, Ryan	10/23/14	\$170.00
Johnson, Brad S.	Zinke, Ryan	6/19/14	\$170.00
Mortensen, Dale	Ryan, Zinke	5/22/14	\$100.00
Dooling, Joe	Zinke, Ryan	1/6/14	\$120.00
Johnson, Brad S.	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/14	\$170.00
Hoven, Brian E	Zinke, Ryan	11/1/13	\$100.00
Zolnikov, Daniel	Zinke, Ryan K	8/6/13	\$100.00
Zolnikov, Daniel	Zinke, Ryan K	8/6/13	\$70.00
Flathead County Republican Central Committee	Zinke, Ryan	1/1/13	\$100.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	5/3/12	\$5,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	4/30/12	\$5,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	4/25/12	\$20,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	4/17/12	\$20,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	3/30/12	\$5,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	3/12/12	\$5,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	2/8/12	\$10,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	1/12/12	\$7,500.00
Uploadtest, Dominik	Zinke, Ryan	12/30/11	\$2,500.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	12/30/11	\$2,500.00
Uploadtest, Dominik	Zinke, Ryan	11/23/11	\$5,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	11/23/11	\$5,000.00
Uploadtest, Dominik	Zinke, Ryan	11/7/11	\$5,000.00
Livingstone, Neil C	Zinke, Ryan	11/7/11	\$5,000.00
Wise, Doug	Zinke, Ryan K	9/2/11	\$160.00
Lavin, Steve	Zinke, Ryan	6/24/10	\$160.00
Pace, Damon	Zinke, Ryan	3/16/10	\$75.00
Zinke, Ryan K	Zinke, Ryan K	10/3/08	\$10,000.00
Zinke, Ryan K	Zinke, Ryan K	5/21/08	\$2,284.90

[Montana Campaign Finance via Illumis Search, accessed 7/18/24]

## Staff Revolving Door

**10 Of Zinke’s Former Staffers Went On To Lobby For Corporations Including BP, Navigators Global, Sempra Energy, And Others.** [Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Zinke Revolving Door Staffers		
Staffer Name	Lobbied For	Worked For Zinke At
Scott C. Hommel	Ervin Graves Strategy Group LLC, Peduzzi Associates Ltd.	Congressional Office & U.S. Department of Interior
Kipp S. McGuire	North American Equipment Dealers Association	Congressional Office & Zinke for Congress



George Robert McKemey III	Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, DISH Network LLC	Congressional Office
James R. Payne	National Electrical Contractors Association Inc.	Congressional Office & Zinke for Congress
Landon Andrew Stropko	Invariant LLC	Congressional Office
Downey Palmer Magallanes	BP America Inc., Enterprise Mobility	U.S. Department of the Interior
Gregg D. Renkes	Chenega Corp., Van Ness Feldman LLP	U.S. Department of the Interior
John Tahsuda III	Navigators Global LLC, First Nations Strategies LLC	U.S. Department of the Interior
Todd Dorcey Willens	Potomac Consulting LLC, RBW Group LLC	U.S. Department of the Interior
Melissa Maria Simpson	Sempra Energy	U.S. Department of the Interior

[Legistorm, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Turnberry Solutions

### News Clips

**2019: Zinke Joined The D.C. Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions As A Senior Adviser, With Politico Noting That “Zinke’s Quick Turn To The Lobbying World... Shows The Appetite Among The President’s Allies To Cash In On Their High-Profile Positions, Even When They’ve Been Dogged By Controversy.”** The Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, who resigned as interior secretary last year amid scandal, is teaming up with Corey Lewandowski, President Donald Trump’s former campaign manager, to work as senior advisers at Washington lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions. Jason Osborne, a partner at Turnberry, said Lewandowski won’t do any work that would require him to register as a lobbyist, but said that Zinke was likely to do so. ‘Zinke will if it’s the right clients and it’s something he’s passionate about,’ Osborne said. Zinke is the first former member of Trump’s Cabinet to join a lobbying firm - a new milestone for a president who took office promising to ‘drain the swamp.’ Lewandowski, meanwhile, is one of a multitude of former Trump campaign staffers and fundraisers who have offered to advise corporate America on how to deal with the administration. Some of them have registered as lobbyists, while others, including Lewandowski, have declined to do so. Zinke’s quick turn to the lobbying world and his move alongside Lewandowski also shows the appetite among the president’s allies to cash in on their high-profile positions, even when they’ve been dogged by controversy.” [Politico, 2/8/19]

- **Zinke Said He Was “Excited To Join Turnberry Solutions And I Look Forward To Helping Companies Navigate The Washington, DC Bureaucracy.”** The Politico reported, “Lewandowski said in a statement that he looked ‘forward to working with Secretary Zinke to provide strategic advice and counsel to clients.’ Zinke, meanwhile, plans to work on energy and defense matters. He’ll split his time among Montana, California and Washington. The former Interior secretary is limited in his ability to lobby the administration by Trump’s ethics pledge and doesn’t plan to do so, according to Osborne. But he’s allowed to lobby Congress, in which he represented Montana for one term before resigning to join Trump’s Cabinet. Zinke said in a statement that he was ‘excited to join Turnberry Solutions and I look forward to helping companies navigate the Washington, DC bureaucracy.’” [Politico, 2/8/19]
- **Zinke Joined Turnberry Alongside Former Trump Campaign Manager Corey Lewandowski, With The Firm’s Partner Saying That Lewandowski Would Not Register As A Lobbyist, But Zinke Might.** The Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, who resigned as interior secretary last year amid scandal, is teaming up with Corey Lewandowski, President Donald Trump’s former campaign manager, to work as senior advisers at Washington lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions. Jason Osborne, a partner at Turnberry, said Lewandowski won’t do any work that would require him to register as a lobbyist, but said that Zinke was likely to do so.

‘Zinke will if it’s the right clients and it’s something he’s passionate about,’ Osborne said. Zinke is the first former member of Trump’s Cabinet to join a lobbying firm - a new milestone for a president who took office promising to ‘drain the swamp.’ Lewandowski, meanwhile, is one of a multitude of former Trump campaign staffers and fundraisers who have offered to advise corporate America on how to deal with the administration. Some of them have registered as lobbyists, while others, including Lewandowski, have declined to do so. Zinke’s quick turn to the lobbying world and his move alongside Lewandowski also shows the appetite among the president’s allies to cash in on their high-profile positions, even when they’ve been dogged by controversy.” [Politico, 2/8/19]

- **Politico: “Zinke, Meanwhile, Plans To Work On Energy And Defense Matters... The Former Interior Secretary Is Limited In His Ability To Lobby The Administration By Trump’s Ethics Pledge And Doesn’t Plan To Do So... But He’s Allowed To Lobby Congress.”** The Politico reported, “Lewandowski said in a statement that he looked ‘forward to working with Secretary Zinke to provide strategic advice and counsel to clients.’ Zinke, meanwhile, plans to work on energy and defense matters. He’ll split his time among Montana, California and Washington. The former Interior secretary is limited in his ability to lobby the administration by Trump’s ethics pledge and doesn’t plan to do so, according to Osborne. But he’s allowed to lobby Congress, in which he represented Montana for one term before resigning to join Trump’s Cabinet. Zinke said in a statement that he was ‘excited to join Turnberry Solutions and I look forward to helping companies navigate the Washington, DC bureaucracy.’” [Politico, 2/8/19]
- **Turnberry Reportedly Worked As A Lobbyist For The Government Of The Northern Mariana Islands.** The Politico reported, “Zinke said in a statement that he was ‘excited to join Turnberry Solutions and I look forward to helping companies navigate the Washington, DC bureaucracy.’ Zinke declined to comment further. Lewandowski did not respond to a request for further comment. Turnberry’s other clients include the government of the Northern Mariana Islands, which is a U.S. commonwealth. Osborne is also registered to lobby for the government of Azerbaijan and Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa, the Polish state defense conglomerate, through another lobbying firm, the BGR Group.” [Politico, 2/8/19]

**Turnberry Solutions’ Lobbying Spending Grew From \$510,000 In 2017 To \$790,000 In 2018, With The Firm Spending \$230,000 In The First Quarter Of 2019 As It Continued To Represent T-Mobile In Its Attempt To Merge With Sprint.** According to a press release from the Center for Responsive Politics, “A Corey Lewandowski-linked firm, Turnberry Solutions, is based out of a D.C. row home frequented by the former Trump campaign manager, but Lewandowski maintains he doesn’t do any work that requires him to be a lobbyist. Former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, who resigned under pressure after numerous ethics investigations were launched into his behavior, joined Turnberry after he left the Cabinet. Jason Osborne, a former senior advisor to the Trump campaign and formerly of Avenue Strategies is a registered lobbyist at the firm. The firm’s lobbying grew from \$510,000 to \$790,000 between 2017 and 2018, and the momentum seems to have carried into 2019. Turnberry reported \$230,000 in lobbying for the first quarter. Among other clients, it continues to represent T-Mobile as the company seeks a merger with Sprint.” [Center for Responsive Politics, Press Release, 4/23/19]

**2019: Zinke Said He Was Not Lobbying For Turnberry, But Rather Helping Firms Navigate The Energy Permitting Process, Saying, “I Promote Energy... It Is Better To Produce Energy In This Country With Reasonable Regulation Than Watch It Get Produced Overseas With None.”** The Boston Globe reported, “He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides. Zinke said he is not lobbying but, rather, helping firms navigate local permitting processes. ‘I promote energy,’ he said. ‘It is better to produce energy in this country with reasonable regulation than watch it get produced overseas with none.’ Zinke said his work does not run afoul of prohibitions on post-government employment.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

- **HEADLINE: “Industries He Oversaw Are Zinke Clients.”** [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**2019: Turnberry Solutions Was Reportedly Lobbying To Help The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe Achieve Recognition By The Federal Government.** The Greenwire reported, “A Trump-connected lobbying firm that includes former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is helping an American Indian tribe that has worked for decades to be recognized by the federal government. Turnberry Solutions, where Zinke has been a senior adviser since February, disclosed in a filing last month the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area paid the company \$30,000 for work in May and June. Zinke joined the firm months after he resigned from the Interior Department under the pressure of numerous allegations that he violated ethics policies. While it’s unclear what role, if any, Zinke is playing in the tribe’s advocacy, his position at the firm could give Muwekma a significant leg up over other tribes. As Interior secretary, he oversaw nearly the entirety of the federal government’s relations with tribes, including the officials who decide which tribes get federal recognition. Turnberry did not specify on what issue or issues it is advocating, writing only that it lobbied on ‘Guidance on issues impacting the Tribe,’ despite a legal requirement that quarterly disclosures include ‘a list of the specific issues’ on which the firm worked.” [Greenwire, 8/7/19]

- **Greenwire: “[Zinke’s] Position At The Firm Could Give Muwekma A Significant Leg Up Over Other Tribes. As Interior Secretary, He Oversaw Nearly The Entirety Of The Federal Government’s Relations With Tribes, Including The Officials Who Decide Which Tribes Get Federal Recognition.”** The Greenwire reported, “A Trump-connected lobbying firm that includes former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is helping an American Indian tribe that has worked for decades to be recognized by the federal government. Turnberry Solutions, where Zinke has been a senior adviser since February, disclosed in a filing last month the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area paid the company \$30,000 for work in May and June. Zinke joined the firm months after he resigned from the Interior Department under the pressure of numerous allegations that he violated ethics policies. While it’s unclear what role, if any, Zinke is playing in the tribe’s advocacy, his position at the firm could give Muwekma a significant leg up over other tribes. As Interior secretary, he oversaw nearly the entirety of the federal government’s relations with tribes, including the officials who decide which tribes get federal recognition. Turnberry did not specify on what issue or issues it is advocating, writing only that it lobbied on ‘Guidance on issues impacting the Tribe,’ despite a legal requirement that quarterly disclosures include ‘a list of the specific issues’ on which the firm worked.” [Greenwire, 8/7/19]
- **Greenwire: “Zinke’s Connections Could Be Valuable For The Tribe. Turnberry’s Disclosure Said The Company Is Targeting Interior In Its Lobbying.”** The Greenwire reported, “Nonetheless, Zinke’s connections could be valuable for the tribe. Turnberry’s disclosure said the company is targeting Interior in its lobbying, in addition to the House and the Senate. Zinke has established at least one more tie with Muwekma: He led a business delegation last month to Turkey that was slated to include textile recycling company 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Recycling Inc., according to the Daily Sabah, an Istanbul newspaper. That company’s CEO, according to California records, is Charlene Nijmeh—Muwekma’s chairwoman. People familiar with American Indian policy told E&E News that Muwekma appears to be banking on Turnberry’s connections to Trump to get federal recognition—an unusual tactic in the highly specialized business of Indian law. The tribe doesn’t currently have land, meaning it would be difficult to pay Turnberry’s \$30,000 fee.” [Greenwire, 8/7/19]

**Keene Sentinel Editorial Board: “In February, ProPublica Documented A List Of Nearly Three Dozen Former Trump Hires Who Are Doing What Trump Said They Shouldn’t, With Impunity. The Leading Scofflaw Is Probably Ryan Zinke.”** According to the Keene Sentinel Editorial Board, “Trump never details how he will accomplish most of his promises, but regarding influence-peddling in our nation’s capital, one thing he did insist on -- in the form of an executive order -- was that his political appointees who leave office not lobby the agencies from which they departed for five years. Further, they cannot lobby anyone in the Trump administration while he’s in office. [...] In February, ProPublica documented a list of nearly three dozen former Trump hires who are doing what Trump said they shouldn’t, with impunity. The leading scofflaw is probably Ryan Zinke, former Interior Department secretary, whose abuse of ethics while in office was both appalling and legendary, eventually leading to his resignation. Zinke didn’t suffer long, landing a job at the lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions, along with former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski—who’s now mulling a challenge to New Hampshire



Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. That has led Zinke to work with U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development. Zinke says he won't lobby for U.S. Gold, but the head of the company noted Zinke's 'excellent relationship' with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining the hiring." [Keene Sentinel, Editorial, 9/12/19]

- **Keene Sentinel Editorial Board: “Zinke Didn’t Suffer Long, Landing A Job At The Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions... That Has Led Zinke To Work With U.S. Gold Corp... Zinke Says He Won’t Lobby For U.S. Gold, But The Head Of The Company Noted Zinke’s ‘Excellent Relationship’ With The Bureau Of Land Management And The Interior Department In Explaining The Hiring.”** According to the Keene Sentinel Editorial Board, “In February, ProPublica documented a list of nearly three dozen former Trump hires who are doing what Trump said they shouldn’t, with impunity. The leading scofflaw is probably Ryan Zinke, former Interior Department secretary, whose abuse of ethics while in office was both appalling and legendary, eventually leading to his resignation. Zinke didn’t suffer long, landing a job at the lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions, along with former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski—who’s now mulling a challenge to New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. That has led Zinke to work with U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development. Zinke says he won’t lobby for U.S. Gold, but the head of the company noted Zinke’s ‘excellent relationship’ with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining the hiring.” [Keene Sentinel, Editorial, 9/12/19]

**2019: Turnberry Solutions Spent \$1.2 Million On Lobbying.** According to a press release from the Center for Responsive Politics, “Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski joined Turnberry Solutions last year, and former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke also began working at Turnberry Solutions in 2019. Zinke became the first cabinet member of the Trump administration to join a lobbying firm after leaving the administration. Turnberry Solutions saw its earnings increase from about \$790,000 in 2018 to \$1.2 million in 2019.” [Center for Responsive Politics, Press Release, 1/29/20]

**Turnberry Solutions Reportedly Had Clients Including Oil And Gas Companies And Native American Tribes.** The Associated Press reported, “Zinke resigned in December 2018 amid several investigations that he had misused his office for personal gain. He quickly joined Turnberry Solutions, a D.C. lobbying firm whose clients include oil and gas companies and Native American tribes. Phone messages seeking comment from Zinke about the wildlife council’s dissolution did not receive a response.” [Associated Press, 2/11/20]

**Center For Responsive Politics: “Ryan Zinke Joined Trump-Connected Lobbying Firm Turnberry Solutions Shortly After Leaving The Administration, But Did Not Register As A Lobbyist.”** According to a press release from the Center for Responsive Politics, “Several former Trump officials now work for lobbying firms but are not registered as lobbyists. Former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus has not registered as a lobbyist, but he leads a lobbying firm that saw record revenues in 2020. Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke joined Trump-connected lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions shortly after leaving the administration, but did not register as a lobbyist.” [Center for Responsive Politics, Press Release, 1/21/21]

## Lobbying Disclosures

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### Clients

**2017-2020: Turnberry Solutions Registered As A Lobbying Firm For 21 Companies, Including The American Ethane Company, The Center For Sportfishing Policy, T-Mobile, Multiple Tribal Groups, And Others.** [United States Senate Lobbying Disclosure, Turnberry Solutions, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Turnberry Solutions Lobbying Clients	
Client	Registration Date
AMERICAN ETHANE COMPANY LLC	2/19/19



BIG CAT RESCUE	10/11/17
CENTER FOR SPORTFISHING POLICY	9/20/17
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	10/11/17
COMMUNITY CHOICE FINANCIAL INC.	10/11/17
COX OPERATIONS, LLC	1/8/19
ELEVATE TEXTILES	7/7/20
ELIO MOTORS	9/18/17
GARNER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	5/21/19
HARVEY GULF INTERNATIONAL MARINE, LLC	7/22/19
HICHAM CHAHINE	3/22/18
KAZI INVESTMENT GROUP	11/2/18
MUWEKMA OHLONE TRIBE OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA	5/21/19
NAC FOUNDATION, LLC	11/2/18
NORTHERN MARIANA BUSINESS ALLIANCE	10/11/17
REDHORSE CORPORATION	10/20/17
SUFFOLK ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES LLC	1/8/19
THE GREATEST GENERATIONS FOUNDATION	11/2/18
T-MOBILE USA, INC.	1/23/18
TRANSIT LABS	12/2/20
TURN THERAPEUTICS	7/7/20

[United States Senate Lobbying Disclosure, Turnberry Solutions, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## ***Agencies Lobbied***

**2018-2021: Turnberry Solutions Reported Lobbying The Department Of The Interior.** [Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]



Select year: **2018** ▾

**Agencies lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2018** Export to CSV

Agency	Number of Lobbyists
Dept of Labor	3
Dept of the Interior	3
Executive Office of the President	3
Environmental Protection Agency	3
White House	3
Dept of the Treasury	3

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Select year: **2019** ▾

**Agencies lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2019** Export to CSV

Agency	Number of Lobbyists
Dept of Labor	2
Dept of Defense	2
Dept of the Interior	2
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	2

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Select year: **2020** ▾

**Agencies lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2020** Export to CSV

Agency	Number of Lobbyists
Dept of Labor	2
Dept of Defense	2
Dept of the Interior	2
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	2

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Select year: **2021** ▾

**Agencies lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2021** Export to CSV

Agency	Number of Lobbyists
/federal-lobbying/agencies/summary?id=0000&year=2021	2
Dept of the Interior	2
Dept of Transportation	2
Federal Emergency Management Agency	2

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Issues

**2017-2021: Turnberry Solutions Lobbied On Issues Including Energy & Nuclear Power, Indian/Native American Affairs, Animals, Marine, Boats, & Fisheries, Health Issues, And More.** [Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2017** Export to CSV

Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients
Economics & Econ Development	4	3	2
Finance	2	3	1
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	2	3	1
Small Business	2	3	1
Animals	2	3	1
Automotive Industry	2	3	1
Telecommunications	1	0	1

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2018** [Export to CSV](#)

Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients
Economics & Econ Development	5	3	2
Animals	4	3	1
Telecommunications	4	3	1
Civil Rights & Civil Liberties	3	2	1
Government Issues	3	2	1
Health Issues	1	2	1
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	1	3	1
Small Business	1	3	1
Automotive Industry	1	3	1
Energy & Nuclear Power	1	2	1
Finance	1	3	1

Showing 1 to 11 of 11 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2019** [Export to CSV](#)

Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients
Economics & Econ Development	4	2	1
Government Issues	4	1	1
Health Issues	4	2	1
Animals	4	2	1
Telecommunications	4	2	1
Defense	3	2	1
Disaster & Emergency Planning	3	2	1
Indian/Native American Affairs	3	2	1
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	3	2	1

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2020** [Export to CSV](#)

Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients
Health Issues	7	2	2
Defense	5	2	2
Disaster & Emergency Planning	4	2	1
Economics & Econ Development	4	2	1
Government Issues	4	1	1
Indian/Native American Affairs	4	2	1
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	4	2	1
Telecommunications	4	2	1
Animals	4	2	1
Veterans Affairs	1	2	1

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

**Issues lobbied by Turnberry Solutions, 2021** [Export to CSV](#)

Issue	Number of Reports	Number of Lobbyists	Number of Clients
Animals	1	2	1
Disaster & Emergency Planning	1	2	1
Economics & Econ Development	1	2	1
Government Issues	1	1	1
Indian/Native American Affairs	1	2	1
Marine, Boats & Fisheries	1	2	1
Telecommunications	1	2	1

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

[Opensecrets.org, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

## Legislative Record

### Key Committee Markup Votes

#### Energy

##### *Clean Energy Programs*

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Rescinding Unobligated Funds For Clean Energy Programs.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Bishop’s amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill, which would, “remove language rescinding \$3.25 billion in unobligated funds for clean energy programs and unobligated funds for debt relief programs for farmers and ranchers.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/14/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Energy-Water Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions To Defund Home Electrification Projects.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Energy-Water appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$5.6 billion in previously appropriated funds, including \$4.5 billion for rebates for new electric appliances and home electrification projects, \$1 billion to support state and local governments in updating building codes and \$150 million for the Energy Department’s loan guarantee program. [...] The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would receive \$3 billion, or \$466 million below the fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] The bill would redirect \$3.6 billion in unobligated funds previously appropriated by the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law for advanced nuclear reactor demonstration programs, including \$2.4 billion for advanced nuclear fuel and \$1.2 billion for small modular reactor research and development.” The bill was reported 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 Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Defunded GSA Electric Vehicle And Energy Efficiency Programs.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “cut General Services Administration funding about 7 percent to \$9.3 billion, and rescind another \$3.2 billion provided in 2022 for making federal buildings greener and more sustainable. It would prohibit GSA from using funds for electric vehicles, electric vehicle batteries or electric vehicle charging stations. [...] It would prohibit D.C. from using local and federal funds for abortion-related services and ban the use of local funds to legalize marijuana. The bill would also maintain anti-abortion policy riders, including a prohibition on the use of funds for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program for abortion-related services. The measure would also block the SEC from rulemakings including on corporate disclosure of climate-related risks and custody of cryptocurrency assets.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

##### *Office Of Energy Efficiency*

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Energy-Water Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions To Defund The Office Of Energy Efficiency.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Energy-Water appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$5.6 billion in previously appropriated funds, including \$4.5 billion for rebates for new electric appliances and home electrification projects, \$1 billion to support state and local governments in updating building codes and \$150 million for the Energy Department’s loan guarantee program. [...] The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would receive \$3 billion, or \$466 million below the fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] The bill would redirect \$3.6 billion in unobligated funds previously appropriated by the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law for advanced nuclear reactor demonstration programs, including \$2.4 billion for advanced nuclear fuel and \$1.2 billion for small modular reactor research and development.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/22/23]





## ***Rural Energy For America***

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Rescinding Unobligated Funds From The Rural Energy For America Program.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. DeLauro’s amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to rescind \$500 million in unobligated funds from the Rural Energy for America Program.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/14/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Prohibit The Use Of Unobligated Funds From The Rural Energy For America Program To Award Grants Under The Program.** According to CQ, Zinke voted for Rep. Harris’s amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill, which would, “prohibit the Agriculture secretary from using the remaining balance of unobligated funds not rescinded in the bill from the Rural Energy for America Program to award grants under the program.” The amendment was adopted, with 34 Republicans voting in favor and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/14/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Agriculture Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions Rescinding Funding For Rural Clean Energy Projects.** 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]

## ***Nuclear Energy***

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Energy-Water Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions To Increase Funding For The Development Of Nuclear Power.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Energy-Water appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$5.6 billion in previously appropriated funds, including \$4.5 billion for rebates for new electric appliances and home electrification projects, \$1 billion to support state and local governments in updating building codes and \$150 million for the Energy Department’s loan guarantee program. [...] The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would receive \$3 billion, or \$466 million below the fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] The bill would redirect \$3.6 billion in unobligated funds previously appropriated by the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law for advanced nuclear reactor demonstration programs, including \$2.4 billion for advanced nuclear fuel and \$1.2 billion for small modular reactor research and development.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/22/23]

## ***Energy Leasing***

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language That Reinstated Hardrock Mineral Leases In The Superior National Forest.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. McCollum’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike language that would require the Interior secretary, within 30 days of the bill’s enactment, to reinstate hardrock mineral leases in the Superior National Forest that were issued in 2019 and later rescinded.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Removing Restrictions On Mineral And Geothermal Leasing In Northern Minnesota.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. McCollum’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill language to prohibit the use of any funds made



available by the bill to enforce Public Land Order 7917, which withdrew 225,000 acres of land in the National Forest System in northern Minnesota for consideration for mineral and geothermal leasing for 20 years.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted Against Striking A Policy Rider From The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill That Would Require The Interior Secretary To Issue A Five-Year Plan For Expanding Offshore Oil And Gas Leasing.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Pingree’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill 47 sections, including sections that would: [...] Prevent the use of any funds made available to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon into any federal rulemaking. [...] Prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver to California that would allow the state to finalize its own rulemaking requiring all new cars be zero-emission models by 2035. Require the Interior secretary issue a five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing within 60 days of enactment, and that this plan include two region-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sales per year. Prevent the EPA from promulgating or implementing any program that regulates greenhouse gas emissions associated with livestock’s biological processes. Rescind unobligated fiscal 2022 funding for EPA activities for greenhouse gas emission reduction and environmental and climate justice block grants.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Add Language Encouraging The Interior Department To Maximize The Amount Of Land Available For Energy Leasing Sales In Gulf Of Mexico And Alaska.** According to CQ, Zinke voted in favor of Rep. Simpson’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “add report language to encourage the Interior Department to maximize the acreage offered for lease sales in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area and the Alaska region for 2023 through 2028.” The amendment was adopted, with 32 Republicans voting in favor and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill, Which Required The Interior Department To Resume Quarterly Oil And Gas Leasing Sales.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$9.4 billion in prior appropriations, including \$7.8 billion allocated to fund renewable energy projects and \$1.4 billion to support environmental and climate justice programs that were included in the 2022 climate and tax reconciliation law. [...] It would provide \$6.2 billion to the EPA, a \$4 billion decrease from the fiscal 2023 enacted level. Within that total, the bill would provide \$560.7 million for science and technology, a \$242 million decrease; \$2.4 billion for environmental programs and management, an \$857 million reduction from fiscal 2023; and \$356 million for the hazardous substance Superfund, a \$927 million decrease equal to the president’s budget. [...] It would prohibit the EPA from finalizing a proposed rule concerning steam electric power plants published in March 2023, and prohibit the use of funds provided by the measure to require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems. It would also prohibit the use of such funds to implement any regulation requiring the reporting of emissions associated with livestock’s biological processes. It would prohibit the use of any funds made available by the bill to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon as part of any cost-benefit analysis required by law. [...] It would require the Interior Department to conduct all lease sales that were outlined in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing program by Sept. 30, 2024. It would also require the department to resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales. [...] As amended, it also would prohibit the use of any funds to finalize certain regulations, including: The EPA rule proposed April 24, 2023, titled, ‘National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review.’ The EPA rule proposed May 23, 2023, that would finalize new source performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified and reconstruction fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. The EPA rule proposed April 13, 2023, on national emission standards for ethylene oxide. The EPA rule proposed May 5, 2023, on multi-pollutant emission standards for model years 2027 and later for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles. The EPA rule proposed April 27, 2023, on greenhouse gas emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full house, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

## **Environment**

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## ***Climate Change Executive Orders***

**May 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Restricting The Use Of Military Construction-VA Funds To Implement Climate-Related Executive Orders.** 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 Implement Climate-Related Executive Orders.** 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 Implement Climate Change-Related Executive Orders.** 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]

## ***U.N. Green Climate Fund***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Eliminating U.S. Financial Support For The U.N. Green Climate Fund.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Lee's amendment to the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, "strike language prohibiting the use of funds for: [...] The U.N. Green Climate Fund." The amendment was rejected, with 25 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, Which Included A Ban On Funding For The U.N. Green Climate Fund.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, "prohibit funding to the: [...] Green Climate Fund. [...] It would include the expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds from going to foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions, and the traditional Helms amendment language, which bans the use of U.S. foreign aid to directly pay for abortions." The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 31 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]

## ***Climate Mitigation Funds***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Defense Appropriations Bill, Which Did Not Include \$621.2 Million In Funding For Climate Change Initiatives That Had Been Requested By The Biden Administration.** 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 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Blocked The SBA From Using Funds For Climate Change Initiatives.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “would prohibit D.C. from using any funding: For abortion-related services, including the use of local funds. To carry out D.C.’s Reproductive Health Nondiscrimination Act, which prohibits employers from discriminating against women based on their reproductive health choices. [...] It also would maintain the ban on the use of funds to provide abortion-related coverage in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. [...] It also would prohibit the use of funds by the SBA for climate change initiatives, to expand its direct lending program, or to collect data on lending to women and minority-owned businesses. [...] It would block the SEC from implementing its climate risk disclosure rule and Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121, which sets accounting requirements for firms holding digital assets. [...] As amended, the bill would prohibit the use of funds by the General Services Administration to implement a proposed rule titled ‘Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk.’” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 33 Republicans voting in favor and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Defense Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions To Defund Climate Change Initiatives.** 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]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, Which Included The Rescission Of \$11.1 Billion In Unobligated EPA Funds From The Inflation Reduction Act.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which “includes the expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds from going to foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions. It also contains the traditional Helms amendment language, which prohibits the use of U.S. foreign aid to pay for abortions. It would rescind more than \$11.1 billion of the unobligated funding provided to the EPA under the 2022 climate and health care budget reconciliation law.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 32 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/12/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted Against Striking A Policy Rider From The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill That Would Rescind Funds For EPA Activities Related To Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Environmental And Climate Justice Block Grants.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Pingree’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill 47 sections, including sections that would: [...] Prevent the use of any funds made available to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon into any federal rulemaking. [...] Prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver to California that would allow the state to finalize its own rulemaking requiring all new cars be zero-emission models by 2035. Require the Interior secretary issue a five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing within 60 days of enactment, and that this plan include two region-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sales per year. Prevent the EPA from promulgating or implementing any program that regulates greenhouse gas emissions associated with livestock’s biological processes. Rescind unobligated fiscal 2022 funding for EPA activities for greenhouse gas emission reduction and environmental and climate justice block grants.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language That Rescinded Funding For Environmental And Climate Justice Grants And A Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Lee’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill sections that would rescind funding provided under the 2022 tax and climate reconciliation law, including: \$7.8 billion provided to the EPA to establish the greenhouse gas reduction fund. \$1.3 billion provided for environmental and climate justice





grants.” The amendment was rejected, with 25 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill, Which Rescinded \$9.4 Billion In Funds Allocated For Renewable Energy Projects And Environmental And Climate Justice Programs.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$9.4 billion in prior appropriations, including \$7.8 billion allocated to fund renewable energy projects and \$1.4 billion to support environmental and climate justice programs that were included in the 2022 climate and tax reconciliation law. [...] It would provide \$6.2 billion to the EPA, a \$4 billion decrease from the fiscal 2023 enacted level. Within that total, the bill would provide \$560.7 million for science and technology, a \$242 million decrease; \$2.4 billion for environmental programs and management, an \$857 million reduction from fiscal 2023; and \$356 million for the hazardous substance Superfund, a \$927 million decrease equal to the president's budget. [...] It would prohibit the EPA from finalizing a proposed rule concerning steam electric power plants published in March 2023, and prohibit the use of funds provided by the measure to require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems. It would also prohibit the use of such funds to implement any regulation requiring the reporting of emissions associated with livestock's biological processes. It would prohibit the use of any funds made available by the bill to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon as part of any cost-benefit analysis required by law. [...] It would require the Interior Department to conduct all lease sales that were outlined in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing program by Sept. 30, 2024. It would also require the department to resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales. [...] As amended, it also would prohibit the use of any funds to finalize certain regulations, including: The EPA rule proposed April 24, 2023, titled, ‘National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review.’ The EPA rule proposed May 23, 2023, that would finalize new source performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified and reconstruction fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. The EPA rule proposed April 13, 2023, on national emission standards for ethylene oxide. The EPA rule proposed May 5, 2023, on multi-pollutant emission standards for model years 2027 and later for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles. The EPA rule proposed April 27, 2023, on greenhouse gas emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full house, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill, Which Decreased The EPA’s Budget By \$4 Billion.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$9.4 billion in prior appropriations, including \$7.8 billion allocated to fund renewable energy projects and \$1.4 billion to support environmental and climate justice programs that were included in the 2022 climate and tax reconciliation law. [...] It would provide \$6.2 billion to the EPA, a \$4 billion decrease from the fiscal 2023 enacted level. Within that total, the bill would provide \$560.7 million for science and technology, a \$242 million decrease; \$2.4 billion for environmental programs and management, an \$857 million reduction from fiscal 2023; and \$356 million for the hazardous substance Superfund, a \$927 million decrease equal to the president's budget. [...] It would prohibit the EPA from finalizing a proposed rule concerning steam electric power plants published in March 2023, and prohibit the use of funds provided by the measure to require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems. It would also prohibit the use of such funds to implement any regulation requiring the reporting of emissions associated with livestock's biological processes. It would prohibit the use of any funds made available by the bill to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon as part of any cost-benefit analysis required by law. [...] It would require the Interior Department to conduct all lease sales that were outlined in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing program by Sept. 30, 2024. It would also require the department to resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales. [...] As amended, it also would prohibit the use of any funds to finalize certain regulations, including: The EPA rule proposed April 24, 2023, titled, ‘National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review.’ The EPA rule proposed May 23, 2023, that would finalize new source performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified and reconstruction fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. The EPA rule proposed April 13, 2023, on national emission standards for ethylene oxide. The EPA rule proposed May 5, 2023, on multi-pollutant emission standards for model years 2027 and later for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles. The EPA rule proposed April 27, 2023, on





greenhouse gas emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full house, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

## ***Federal Rules***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Prohibit The Use Of Funds By The General Services Administration To Implement A Rule Requiring Corporations To Disclose Their Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Climate-Related Financial Risk.** According to CQ, Zinke voted for Rep. Joyce’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “Prohibit the use of funds by the General Services Administration to implement a proposed rule titled ‘Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk.’” The amendment was adopted, with 33 Republicans voting in favor and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Blocked The Implementation Of Climate-Risk Disclosure Rules By The SEC And GSA.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “would prohibit D.C. from using any funding: For abortion-related services, including the use of local funds. To carry out D.C.’s Reproductive Health Nondiscrimination Act, which prohibits employers from discriminating against women based on their reproductive health choices. [...] It also would maintain the ban on the use of funds to provide abortion-related coverage in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. [...] It also would prohibit the use of funds by the SBA for climate change initiatives, to expand its direct lending program, or to collect data on lending to women and minority-owned businesses. [...] It would block the SEC from implementing its climate risk disclosure rule and Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121, which sets accounting requirements for firms holding digital assets. [...] As amended, the bill would prohibit the use of funds by the General Services Administration to implement a proposed rule titled ‘Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk.’” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 33 Republicans voting in favor and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted Against Implementing A Rule That Would Require Federal Contractors To Disclose Their Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Climate-Related Financial Risk.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Pingree’s amendment to the Defense appropriations bill, which would, “strike language that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to finalize, promulgate or implement a proposed federal acquisition regulation requiring contractors to disclose greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related financial risk or to propose, promulgate or implement any substantially similar rule or policy.” The amendment was rejected, with 25 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans and one Democrat voting against. [CQ, 6/22/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Defense Appropriations Bill, Which Included Provisions To Block A Rule That Would Require Federal Contractors To Disclose Their Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Climate-Related Financial Risk.** 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 Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Prevented The SEC From Implementing Rules On The Corporate Disclosure Of Climate-Related Risks.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “cut General Services Administration funding about 7 percent to \$9.3 billion, and rescind another \$3.2 billion provided in 2022 for making federal buildings greener and more sustainable. It would prohibit GSA from using funds for electric vehicles, electric vehicle batteries or electric vehicle charging stations. [...] It would prohibit D.C. from using local and federal funds



for abortion-related services and ban the use of local funds to legalize marijuana. The bill would also maintain anti-abortion policy riders, including a prohibition on the use of funds for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program for abortion-related services. The measure would also block the SEC from rulemakings including on corporate disclosure of climate-related risks and custody of cryptocurrency assets.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Barring The Enforcement Of A Rule That Required State And Local Transportation Agencies To Create Declining Vehicle Emissions Targets.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Quigley’s amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “strike sections of the bill to prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to: Finalize, implement, administer or enforce a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proposed rule that requires state and local transportation agencies to establish declining carbon dioxide targets for on-road vehicles.” The amendment was rejected, with 24 Democrats voting in favor and 31 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Prohibited The Department Of Transportation From Implementing A Greenhouse Gas Performance Rule For The National Highway System.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “provide \$8.4 billion for the Public Housing Fund, down \$150 million from fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] It would eliminate spending for the Choice Neighborhoods program, which received \$185 million in fiscal 2023. It also would eliminate spending for Yes in My Backyard, a grant program to encourage changes to local zoning and land-use to encourage residential development. [...] It also would include policy riders that would prohibit the administration from implementing a greenhouse gas performance rule for the national highway system, ban the procurement of Chinese-manufactured drones and prevent HUD from enforcing a proposed fair housing rule that would direct grantees to proactively seek to fix patterns of segregation. [...] As amended, it would no longer provide three projects with community project funding, which includes \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.; \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia; and \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted Against Striking Several Policy Riders From The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill That Would Prevent The Federal Government From Issuing Rules To Combat Climate Change.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Pingree’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill 47 sections, including sections that would: [...] Prevent the use of any funds made available to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon into any federal rulemaking. [...] Prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver to California that would allow the state to finalize its own rulemaking requiring all new cars be zero-emission models by 2035. Require the Interior secretary issue a five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing within 60 days of enactment, and that this plan include two region-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sales per year. Prevent the EPA from promulgating or implementing any program that regulates greenhouse gas emissions associated with livestock’s biological processes. Rescind unobligated fiscal 2022 funding for EPA activities for greenhouse gas emission reduction and environmental and climate justice block grants.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

- **Zinke Voted Against Striking A Provision Preventing Agencies From Incorporating The Social Cost Of Carbon Into Federal Rulemaking.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Pingree’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill 47 sections, including sections that would: [...] Prevent the use of any funds made available to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon into any federal rulemaking. [...] Prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver to California that would allow the state to finalize its own rulemaking requiring all new cars be zero-emission models by 2035. Require the Interior secretary issue a five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing within 60 days of enactment, and that this plan include two region-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sales per year. Prevent the EPA from promulgating or

implementing any program that regulates greenhouse gas emissions associated with livestock's biological processes. Rescind unobligated fiscal 2022 funding for EPA activities for greenhouse gas emission reduction and environmental and climate justice block grants.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

- **Zinke Voted Against Striking A Provision Barring The EPA From Issuing A CAA Waiver To California That Would Allow The State To Require New Cars In The State Be Zero-Emission Models By 2035.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Pingree’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill 47 sections, including sections that would: [...] Prevent the use of any funds made available to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon into any federal rulemaking. [...] Prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver to California that would allow the state to finalize its own rulemaking requiring all new cars be zero-emission models by 2035. Require the Interior secretary issue a five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing within 60 days of enactment, and that this plan include two region-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sales per year. Prevent the EPA from promulgating or implementing any program that regulates greenhouse gas emissions associated with livestock's biological processes. Rescind unobligated fiscal 2022 funding for EPA activities for greenhouse gas emission reduction and environmental and climate justice block grants.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]
- **Zinke Voted Against Striking A Provision Preventing The EPA From Implementing Programs To Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated With Livestock.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Pingree’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “strike from the bill 47 sections, including sections that would: [...] Prevent the use of any funds made available to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon into any federal rulemaking. [...] Prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver to California that would allow the state to finalize its own rulemaking requiring all new cars be zero-emission models by 2035. Require the Interior secretary issue a five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing within 60 days of enactment, and that this plan include two region-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sales per year. Prevent the EPA from promulgating or implementing any program that regulates greenhouse gas emissions associated with livestock's biological processes. Rescind unobligated fiscal 2022 funding for EPA activities for greenhouse gas emission reduction and environmental and climate justice block grants.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Prohibit The EPA From Implementing Several Regulations Setting Emissions Standards For Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants And Vehicles.** According to CQ, Zinke voted in favor of Rep. Simpson’s amendment to the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “prohibit the use of funds made available in the bill to: Implement or operate a vehicle registration system in Glacier National Park. Finalize, implement or administer the EPA rule proposed April 24, 2023 titled ‘National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review.’ [...] Finalize, implement or administer the EPA proposed rule published May 23, 2023, titled ‘New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; and Repeal of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule.’ [...] Finalize, implement, administer or enforce the EPA rule proposed April 13, 2023, titled ‘National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities Residual Risk and Technology Review.’ [...] Finalize, implement or administer the decisions in the EPA rule proposed Nov. 29, 2022, titled ‘Pesticide Registration Review; Proposed Interim Decisions for the Rodenticides; Notice of Availability.’ Finalize, implement or administer the EPA rule proposed May 5, 2023, titled ‘Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles.’ Finalize implement or administer the EPA rule proposed April 27, 2023, titled ‘Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles-Phase 3.’” The amendment was adopted, with 32 Republicans voting in favor and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]



**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill, Which Prohibited The EPA From Implementing Regulations Regarding Power Plant Emissions, Emissions From Manure Management Systems, Fossil-Fuel-Fired Power Plants, And Vehicles.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$9.4 billion in prior appropriations, including \$7.8 billion allocated to fund renewable energy projects and \$1.4 billion to support environmental and climate justice programs that were included in the 2022 climate and tax reconciliation law. [...] It would provide \$6.2 billion to the EPA, a \$4 billion decrease from the fiscal 2023 enacted level. Within that total, the bill would provide \$560.7 million for science and technology, a \$242 million decrease; \$2.4 billion for environmental programs and management, an \$857 million reduction from fiscal 2023; and \$356 million for the hazardous substance Superfund, a \$927 million decrease equal to the president's budget. [...] It would prohibit the EPA from finalizing a proposed rule concerning steam electric power plants published in March 2023, and prohibit the use of funds provided by the measure to require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems. It would also prohibit the use of such funds to implement any regulation requiring the reporting of emissions associated with livestock's biological processes. It would prohibit the use of any funds made available by the bill to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon as part of any cost-benefit analysis required by law. [...] It would require the Interior Department to conduct all lease sales that were outlined in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing program by Sept. 30, 2024. It would also require the department to resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales. [...] As amended, it also would prohibit the use of any funds to finalize certain regulations, including: The EPA rule proposed April 24, 2023, titled, ‘National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review.’ The EPA rule proposed May 23, 2023, that would finalize new source performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified and reconstruction fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. The EPA rule proposed April 13, 2023, on national emission standards for ethylene oxide. The EPA rule proposed May 5, 2023, on multi-pollutant emission standards for model years 2027 and later for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles. The EPA rule proposed April 27, 2023, on greenhouse gas emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full house, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill, Which Barred The EPA From Incorporating The Social Cost Of Carbon Into Federal Rulemaking Decisions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, which would, “rescind \$9.4 billion in prior appropriations, including \$7.8 billion allocated to fund renewable energy projects and \$1.4 billion to support environmental and climate justice programs that were included in the 2022 climate and tax reconciliation law. [...] It would provide \$6.2 billion to the EPA, a \$4 billion decrease from the fiscal 2023 enacted level. Within that total, the bill would provide \$560.7 million for science and technology, a \$242 million decrease; \$2.4 billion for environmental programs and management, an \$857 million reduction from fiscal 2023; and \$356 million for the hazardous substance Superfund, a \$927 million decrease equal to the president's budget. [...] It would prohibit the EPA from finalizing a proposed rule concerning steam electric power plants published in March 2023, and prohibit the use of funds provided by the measure to require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems. It would also prohibit the use of such funds to implement any regulation requiring the reporting of emissions associated with livestock's biological processes. It would prohibit the use of any funds made available by the bill to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon as part of any cost-benefit analysis required by law. [...] It would require the Interior Department to conduct all lease sales that were outlined in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing program by Sept. 30, 2024. It would also require the department to resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales. [...] As amended, it also would prohibit the use of any funds to finalize certain regulations, including: The EPA rule proposed April 24, 2023, titled, ‘National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review.’ The EPA rule proposed May 23, 2023, that would finalize new source performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified and reconstruction fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. The EPA rule proposed April 13, 2023, on national emission standards for ethylene oxide. The EPA rule proposed May 5, 2023, on multi-pollutant emission standards for model years 2027 and later for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles. The EPA rule proposed April 27, 2023, on greenhouse gas emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full house, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/19/23]



## Health Care

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### ***Abortion – Washington, D.C.***

**Zinke Also Voted To Preserve Language Preventing D.C. From Using Local Funds To Subsidize Abortions Or Enforcing A Law Barring Discrimination On The Basis Of Reproductive Healthcare Decisions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “strike several anti-abortion policy riders, including provisions that would block: Federal employee health plans from covering the cost of an elective abortion. The District of Columbia from funding or subsidizing the cost of an elective abortion. The D.C. government from enforcing a 2014 law banning discrimination based on reproductive health care decisions.” The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Barring D.C. From Enforcing A Law That Banned Discrimination On The Basis Of Reproductive Healthcare Decisions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Wasserman Schultz’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to prevent the District of Columbia from enforcing a 2014 reproductive health non-discrimination law banning discrimination based on reproductive health care decisions.” The amendment was rejected, with 24 Democrats voting in favor and 31 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Include Language Blocking The D.C. Local Government From Using Local Funds For Abortion.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “eliminate a provision to bar federal employees’ health benefits from providing coverage or benefits related to an abortion. It also would remove provisions to block the District of Columbia from using local funds for abortions, block implementation of a D.C. law that disallows discrimination based on employees’ reproductive health choices and seeking a report on enforcement of a law banning a method of abortion.” The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Prohibited D.C. From Using Local Funds For Abortion Services.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “cut General Services Administration funding about 7 percent to \$9.3 billion, and rescind another \$3.2 billion provided in 2022 for making federal buildings greener and more sustainable. It would prohibit GSA from using funds for electric vehicles, electric vehicle batteries or electric vehicle charging stations. [...] It would prohibit D.C. from using local and federal funds for abortion-related services and ban the use of local funds to legalize marijuana. The bill would also maintain anti-abortion policy riders, including a prohibition on the use of funds for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program for abortion-related services. The measure would also block the SEC from rulemakings including on corporate disclosure of climate-related risks and custody of cryptocurrency assets.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

### ***Abortion – Federal Employees***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Reverse The Requirement That Federal Employees’ Health Plans Cover Reproductive Health Services.** According to CQ, Zinke voted in favor of Rep. Hinson’s amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, “replace language to require coverage of assisted reproductive treatments in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans with report language to direct the Office of Personnel Management to report to the House Appropriations Committee, within 90 days of the bill’s enactment, on the health care coverage options available to federal employees that include assisted reproductive technology services and procedures.” The amendment was adopted, with 34 Republicans voting in favor and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]





**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve Several Anti-Abortion Policy Riders, Including Provisions That Would Prevent Federal Employees' Health Benefits From Covering The Cost Of Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres's amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, "strike several anti-abortion policy riders, including provisions that would block: Federal employee health plans from covering the cost of an elective abortion. The District of Columbia from funding or subsidizing the cost of an elective abortion. The D.C. government from enforcing a 2014 law banning discrimination based on reproductive health care decisions." The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Prevented The Federal Employee Health Benefits Program From Using Funds To Provide Abortion-Related Health Benefits.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, "would prohibit D.C. from using any funding: For abortion-related services, including the use of local funds. To carry out D.C.'s Reproductive Health Nondiscrimination Act, which prohibits employers from discriminating against women based on their reproductive health choices. [...] It also would maintain the ban on the use of funds to provide abortion-related coverage in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. [...] It also would prohibit the use of funds by the SBA for climate change initiatives, to expand its direct lending program, or to collect data on lending to women and minority-owned businesses. [...] It would block the SEC from implementing its climate risk disclosure rule and Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121, which sets accounting requirements for firms holding digital assets. [...] As amended, the bill would prohibit the use of funds by the General Services Administration to implement a proposed rule titled 'Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk.'" The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 33 Republicans voting in favor and 24 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/13/24]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Barring The Use Of Financial Services Funds For Health Benefit Coverage For Federal Employees' Abortion Care.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Torres's amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, "eliminate a provision to bar federal employees' health benefits from providing coverage or benefits related to an abortion. It also would remove provisions to block the District of Columbia from using local funds for abortions, block implementation of a D.C. law that disallows discrimination based on employees' reproductive health choices and seeking a report on enforcement of a law banning a method of abortion." The amendment was rejected, with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Financial Services Appropriations Bill, Which Barred The Use Of Funds For Federal Employee Health Benefits For Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Financial Services appropriations bill, which would, "cut General Services Administration funding about 7 percent to \$9.3 billion, and rescind another \$3.2 billion provided in 2022 for making federal buildings greener and more sustainable. It would prohibit GSA from using funds for electric vehicles, electric vehicle batteries or electric vehicle charging stations. [...] It would prohibit D.C. from using local and federal funds for abortion-related services and ban the use of local funds to legalize marijuana. The bill would also maintain anti-abortion policy riders, including a prohibition on the use of funds for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program for abortion-related services. The measure would also block the SEC from rulemakings including on corporate disclosure of climate-related risks and custody of cryptocurrency assets." The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/13/23]

## ***Abortion – Immigrant Detention***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, Which Included A Provision To Bar The Use Of Funds To Provide Abortion-Related Care To Immigrants In ICE Custody.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which would, "prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to: [...] Provide abortion-related care or gender-affirming care for detainees in ICE



custody.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Prohibiting The Use Of Homeland Security Funds To Facilitate Abortions For Anyone In ICE Custody, Except In Cases Of Rape, Incest, Or Danger To The Life Of The Mother.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Wasserman Schultz’s amendment to the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which would, “strike provisions to bar the use of funds provided by the bill to: [...] Facilitate an abortion, except in cases of rape, incest or danger to the life of the mother, or administer hormone therapy or other gender-affirming care for a person in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody.” The amendment was rejected, with 25 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/21/23]

**June 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, Which Included A Provision Barring The Use Of Federal Funds To Facilitate An Abortion For Immigrants In ICE Custody.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which would, “bar the Biden administration from implementing any prosecutorial discretion policies for immigration enforcement and prohibit funding to facilitate an abortion or gender-affirming care for detained immigrants.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 33 Republicans voting to report and 25 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/21/23]

### ***Abortion – Mexico City Policy***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Preserve The Mexico City Policy, Which Prohibited The Provision Of Foreign Aid To NGOs That Supported Abortion.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Meng’s amendment to the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to prohibit the use of funds for the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) and strike the bill’s expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds for any foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions. It would add language to provide at least \$575 million in fiscal 2025 funding for the UNFPA to provide family planning/reproductive health care.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 30 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]

**June 2024: Zinke Voted To Report The State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, Which Included An Expanded Mexico City Policy And The Helms Amendment.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, “prohibit funding to the: [...] Green Climate Fund. [...] It would include the expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds from going to foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions, and the traditional Helms amendment language, which bans the use of U.S. foreign aid to directly pay for abortions.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 31 Republicans voting to report and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Barring Global Health Assistance Funding For Foreign NGOs That Promote Or Perform Abortions.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Lee’s amendment to the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, “strike the bill’s prohibition on funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and global health assistance funding for foreign nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or when the pregnancy endangers the mother’s life. It would instead insert language to provide, from bilateral economic assistance funding accounts, a minimum of \$575 million for family planning and reproductive health activities. It would strike the bill’s \$461 million limit on family planning and reproductive health activities. It would authorize the use of funding in the bill for a voluntary contribution to UNFPA for the purposes of expanding access to contraceptives in developing countries, providing maternal and reproductive health care during humanitarian crises, and addressing female genital mutilation and child and forced marriages.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/12/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, Which Included An Expanded Mexico City Policy And The Helms Amendment.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the State-



Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which “includes the expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds from going to foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions. It also contains the traditional Helms amendment language, which prohibits the use of U.S. foreign aid to pay for abortions. It would rescind more than \$11.1 billion of the unobligated funding provided to the EPA under the 2022 climate and health care budget reconciliation law.” The bill was reported favorably to the full House, with 32 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/12/23]

## ***Abortion – 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]

## ***Abortion – Military & Veterans***

**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]

## ***Family Planning***

**June 2024: Zinke Voted Against Providing \$575 Million In Funding For The UNFPA To Provide Family Planning And Reproductive Health Services.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Meng’s amendment to the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to prohibit the use of funds for the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) and strike the bill’s expanded Mexico City policy, which prohibits any global public health assistance funds for any foreign organizations that promote or indirectly support abortions. It would add language to provide at least \$575 million in fiscal 2025 funding for the UNFPA to provide family





planning/reproductive health care.” The amendment was rejected, with 26 Democrats voting in favor and 30 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 6/12/24]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted Against Providing \$575 Million For Family Planning And Reproductive Health Services, Such As Contraception, In Developing Countries.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Lee’s amendment to the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which would, “strike the bill’s prohibition on funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and global health assistance funding for foreign nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or when the pregnancy endangers the mother’s life. It would instead insert language to provide, from bilateral economic assistance funding accounts, a minimum of \$575 million for family planning and reproductive health activities. It would strike the bill’s \$461 million limit on family planning and reproductive health activities. It would authorize the use of funding in the bill for a voluntary contribution to UNFPA for the purposes of expanding access to contraceptives in developing countries, providing maternal and reproductive health care during humanitarian crises, and addressing female genital mutilation and child and forced marriages.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 32 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/12/23]

## Housing

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### *Community Housing Programs*

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Defund Community Housing Projects Run By LGBT Organizations.** According to CQ, Zinke voted in favor of Rep. Cole’s amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “strike language to provide three projects with community project funding, including: \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia. \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The amendment was adopted, with 32 Republicans voting in favor and 26 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted Against Restoring Earmarks To Community Housing Projects Run By LGBT Organizations.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Quigley’s amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “restore community project funding for three projects as follows: \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 30 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Removed Earmarks For Three Community Housing Programs Run By LGBT Organizations.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “provide \$8.4 billion for the Public Housing Fund, down \$150 million from fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] It would eliminate spending for the Choice Neighborhoods program, which received \$185 million in fiscal 2023. It also would eliminate spending for Yes in My Backyard, a grant program to encourage changes to local zoning and land-use to encourage residential development. [...] It also would include policy riders that would prohibit the administration from implementing a greenhouse gas performance rule for the national highway system, ban the procurement of Chinese-manufactured drones and prevent HUD from enforcing a proposed fair housing rule that would direct grantees to proactively seek to fix patterns of segregation. [...] As amended, it would no longer provide three projects with community project funding, which includes \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.; \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia; and \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program





in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

## ***Fair Housing Rule***

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Preserve Language Blocking HUD From Implementing A Rule To Combat Patterns Of Segregation In Housing.** According to CQ, Zinke voted against Rep. Lee’s amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “remove a policy rider in the bill to bar the Department of Housing and Urban Development from implementing a proposed rule directing HUD and its grantees to ‘proactively take meaningful actions’ to fix patterns of segregation in housing as well as advance ‘fair’ housing options.” The amendment was rejected, with 27 Democrats voting in favor and 34 Republicans voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

## ***Housing Development***

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Eliminated Funding For Programs That Provided Grants To Encourage Local Residential Developments, Including Eliminating The \$185 Million Choice Neighborhoods Program.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “provide \$8.4 billion for the Public Housing Fund, down \$150 million from fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] It would eliminate spending for the Choice Neighborhoods program, which received \$185 million in fiscal 2023. It also would eliminate spending for Yes in My Backyard, a grant program to encourage changes to local zoning and land-use to encourage residential development. [...] It also would include policy riders that would prohibit the administration from implementing a greenhouse gas performance rule for the national highway system, ban the procurement of Chinese-manufactured drones and prevent HUD from enforcing a proposed fair housing rule that would direct grantees to proactively seek to fix patterns of segregation. [...] As amended, it would no longer provide three projects with community project funding, which includes \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.; \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia; and \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

## ***Public Housing***

**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Report The Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill, Which Reduced Funding For The Public Housing Fund By \$150 Million From The Previous Year.** According to CQ, Zinke voted to report the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, which would, “provide \$8.4 billion for the Public Housing Fund, down \$150 million from fiscal 2023 enacted level. [...] It would eliminate spending for the Choice Neighborhoods program, which received \$185 million in fiscal 2023. It also would eliminate spending for Yes in My Backyard, a grant program to encourage changes to local zoning and land-use to encourage residential development. [...] It also would include policy riders that would prohibit the administration from implementing a greenhouse gas performance rule for the national highway system, ban the procurement of Chinese-manufactured drones and prevent HUD from enforcing a proposed fair housing rule that would direct grantees to proactively seek to fix patterns of segregation. [...] As amended, it would no longer provide three projects with community project funding, which includes \$850,000 for a senior affordable housing project in Massachusetts for the LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.; \$1.8 million for the William Way Renovation and Expansion project in Pennsylvania for the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia; and \$970,000 for the Center of Greater Reading - Transitional House Program in Pennsylvania for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.” The bill was reportedly favorably to the full House, with 34 Republicans voting to report and 27 Democrats voting against. [CQ, 7/18/23]

## **Key Co-Sponsorships, Sponsorships, And Amendments**



## Crime & Public Safety

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### *Drones*

**January 2024: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 5879, A Bill Creating A Pilot Research Program To Study The Use Of Drones By Law Enforcement Agencies.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 5879, a bill “To amend title 49, United States Code, to permit small, unmanned aircraft pilot research for public safety, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 5879](#), introduced [10/3/23](#)]

## Energy

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### *Coal*

**March 2015: Zinke Sponsored H.R. 1522, A Bill Amending The Federal Tax Code To Expand The Indian Coal Production Tax Credit.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a sponsor of H.R. 1522, a bill “To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and improve the Indian coal production tax credit.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1522](#), introduced [3/19/15](#)]

### *Exports*

**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 287, A Bill Expediting The Approval Process For Importing And Exporting Natural Gas To Members Of The World Trade Organization.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 287, a bill “To enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 287](#), introduced [1/13/15](#)]

**June 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 702, A Bill Prohibiting Restrictions On U.S. Oil Exports.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 702, a bill “To adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 702](#), introduced [2/4/15](#)]

### *Gas Stoves*

**March 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1640, A Bill Limiting The Department Of Energy’s Ability To Set Energy Conservation Standards For Gas Stoves.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1640, a bill “To prohibit the Secretary of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule titled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products”, and for other purposes.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1640](#), introduced [3/17/23](#)]

### *Hydrogen*

**April 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 2962, A Bill Exempting Federal Hydrogen Programs From NEPA Review.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 2962, a bill “To exempt certain Federal hydrogen programs from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 2962](#), introduced [4/27/23](#)]

### *Leasing*

**February 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 866, A Bill Delegating To The States Federal Authority To Lease, Permit, And Regulate Oil And Natural Gas.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 866, a bill “To achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production



of all forms of energy on all available Federal land.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 866](#), introduced [2/11/15](#)]

**February 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 923, A Bill Requiring The Executive Branch To Receive Congressional Approval Before Delaying Oil, Gas, Or Mineral Leases Or Permits On Federal Lands.**

According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 923, a bill “To prohibit the President from issuing moratoria on leasing and permitting energy and minerals on certain Federal land.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 923](#), introduced [2/9/23](#)]

**March 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1, A Bill Expanding And Expediting The Production Of Oil, Gas, And Minerals On Federal Lands.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1, a bill “To lower energy costs by increasing American energy production, exports, infrastructure, and critical minerals processing, by promoting transparency, accountability, permitting, and production of American resources, and by improving water quality certification and energy projects, and for other purposes.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1](#), introduced [3/14/23](#)]

### ***Messaging Bills***

**April 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.Res. 339, A Bill Expressing The Sense That The U.S. Should Increase Domestic Oil And Gas Production And Adopt An “All-Of-The-Above” Approach To Energy.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.Res. 339, a bill “Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy is the most viable approach to energy policy.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.Res. 339](#), introduced [4/28/23](#)]

**September 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 5482, A Bill Directing Federal Agencies To Conduct Reviews Of State And Federal Energy Policies To Evaluate Their Impacts On Energy Costs.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 5482, a bill “To prevent energy poverty and ensure that at-risk communities have access to affordable energy.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 5482](#), introduced [9/14/23](#)]

**October 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 6089, A Bill Prohibiting State And Local Governments From Restricting Energy Services Based On The Source Of The Energy.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 6089, a bill “To prohibit States or local governments from prohibiting the connection, reconnection, modification, installation, or expansion of an energy service based on the type or source of energy to be delivered, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 6089](#), introduced [10/26/23](#)]

**January 2024: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.Res. 987, A Bill Criticizing The Biden Administration’s Energy Policies And Encouraging Domestic Production Of Oil And Gas.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.Res. 987, a bill “Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.Res. 987](#), introduced [1/31/24](#)]

### ***Mining***

**April 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1937, A Bill Expediting The Federal Permitting Process For Domestic Mining.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1937, a bill “To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1937](#), introduced [4/22/15](#)]

**January 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 209, A Bill Expediting The Federal Permitting Process For Mining On Federal Lands.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 209, a bill “To improve the



permitting process for mining on Federal land, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 209](#), introduced [1/9/23](#)]

**April 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 2685, A Bill Creating A Grant Program To Support Domestic Mining Education.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 2685, a bill “To require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 2685](#), introduced [4/18/23](#)]

**July 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 4374, A Bill Nullifying The Withdrawal Of Certain Federal Lands From Mining Claims.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 4374, a bill “To nullify Public Land Order No. 7923, withdrawing certain land in San Juan County, New Mexico, from mineral entry.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 4374](#), introduced [6/27/23](#)]

## ***Pipelines***

**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 3, A Bill Authorizing The Construction Of The Keystone Pipeline.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 3, a bill “To approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 3](#), introduced [1/6/15](#)]

**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 161, A Bill Expediting The Federal Permitting Process For Natural Gas Pipelines.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 161, a bill “To provide for the timely consideration of all licenses, permits, and approvals required under Federal law with respect to the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of any natural gas pipeline projects.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 161](#), introduced [1/6/15](#)]

**March 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1616, A Bill Authorizing The Interior Department To Approve Natural Gas Pipelines Within National Parks.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1616, a bill “To authorize the approval of natural gas pipelines and establish deadlines and expedite permits for certain natural gas gathering lines on Federal land and Indian land.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1616](#), introduced [3/25/15](#)]

## ***Taxes***

**July 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 5073, A Bill Amending The Federal Tax Code To “Allow Intangible Drilling And Development Costs To Be Taken Into Account When Computing Adjusted Financial Statement Income.”** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 5073, a bill “To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 5073](#), introduced [7/28/23](#)]

## ***Environment***

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### ***Carbon Capture And Sequestration***

**November 2016: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 4622, A Bill Amending The Federal Tax Code To Expand Tax Credits For Carbon Sequestration.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 4622, a bill “To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and make permanent the credit for carbon dioxide sequestration.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 4622](#), introduced [2/25/16](#)]

**September 2016: Zinke Sponsored H.R. 6295, A Bill Amending The Federal Tax Code To Revise Requirements For Qualifying For The Tax Credit For Carbon Sequestration.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a sponsor of H.R. 6295, a bill “To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the



requirements for secure geological storage of carbon dioxide for purposes of the carbon dioxide sequestration credit.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 6295](#), introduced [9/28/16](#)]

## ***Carbon Tax***

**January 2024: Zinke Sponsored H.Con.Res. 86, A Bill Expressing The Sense That A Carbon Tax Would Be Harmful To The U.S. Economy.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a sponsor of H.Con.Res. 86, a bill “Expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy.” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.Con.Res. 86](#), introduced [1/25/24](#)]

## ***Clean Energy***

**July 2023: Zinke Introduced H.Amdt. 303, An Amendment Prohibiting Funding For Enforcing An Executive Order Which Promoted Clean Energy.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke introduced H.Amdt. 303, an amendment “to prohibit funding for administering, implementing, or enforcing Executive Order 14057 (Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability).” The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.Amdt. 303](#), introduced [7/26/23](#)]

## ***Emissions & Pollution***

**September 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.J.Res. 68, A Bill Nullifying An EPA Rule That Created Emissions Performance Standards For Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.J.Res. 68, a bill “Disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.J.Res. 68](#), introduced [9/29/15](#)]

**September 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.J.Res. 67, A Bill Nullifying An EPA Rule That Required States To Reduce Carbon Emissions From Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Unit.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.J.Res. 67, a bill “Disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.J.Res. 67](#), introduced [9/29/15](#)]

**November 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.J.Res. 72, A Bill Nullifying An EPA Rule That Required States To Reduce Carbon Emissions From Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Unit.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.J.Res. 72, a bill “Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.J.Res. 72](#), introduced [10/26/15](#)]

**November 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.J.Res. 71, A Bill Nullifying An EPA Rule That Created Emissions Performance Standards For Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.J.Res. 71, a bill “Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.J.Res. 71](#), introduced [10/26/15](#)]

**November 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.J.Res. 74, A Bill Nullifying EPA Rules That Revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards For Ozone.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.J.Res. 74, a bill “Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.J.Res. 74](#), introduced [11/19/15](#)]





## ***Federal Rules***

**April 2016: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1869, A Bill To Require The Four Federal Power Marketing Administrations To Include In Customers' Billing Statements Estimates Of The Cost Of Compliance With Federal Environmental Laws.** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1869, a bill “To provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.R. 1869](#), introduced [4/16/15](#)]

**July 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1986, A Bill Nullifying An EPA Rule That Created Performance Standards For Residential Heaters And Furnaces.** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1986, a bill “To repeal the Environmental Protection Agency’s most recent rule for new residential wood heaters.” The bill did not pass the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.R. 1986](#), introduced [4/23/15](#)]

**July 2015: Zinke Introduced H.Amdt. 601, An Amendment Prohibiting The Use Of Federal Funds To Implement Or Enforce A Proposed Rule Regarding The Value Of Federal And Indian Oil, Gas, And Coal.** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke introduced H.Amdt. 601, an amendment “to prohibit the use of funds to finalize, implement, or enforce subparts F and J of part 1206 of the proposed “Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform” dated January 6, 2015.” The bill did not pass the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.Amdt. 601](#), introduced [7/7/15](#)]

**May 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 3397, A Bill Requiring The BLM To Withdraw A Proposed Rule “Relating To Conservation And Landscape Health.”** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 3397, a bill “To require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw a rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to conservation and landscape health.” The bill passed the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.R. 3397](#), introduced [5/17/23](#)]

**December 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 6129, A Bill Requiring The Council On Environmental Quality To Publish An Annual Report On The Impacts Of NEPA Review On Federal Projects.** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 6129, a bill “To require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.R. 6129](#), introduced [11/1/23](#)]

**May 2024: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.J.Res. 136, A Bill Expressing Congressional Disapproval Of An EPA Rule That Strengthened Vehicle Emissions Standards.** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.J.Res. 136, a bill “Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles.” The bill did not pass the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.J.Res. 136](#), introduced [5/1/24](#)]

## ***Inflation Reduction Act***

**February 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 812, A Bill Repealing The Inflation Reduction Act Of 2022.** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 812, a bill “To repeal the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.” The bill did not pass the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.R. 812](#), introduced [2/2/23](#)]

## ***Paris Agreement***



**November 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.Con.Res. 97, A Bill Expressing The Sense That The President Should Submit The Paris Climate Agreement To The Senate For Consideration.** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.Con.Res. 97, a bill “Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should submit to the Senate for advice and consent the climate change agreement proposed for adoption at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris, France from November 30 to December 11, 2015.” The bill did not pass the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.Con.Res. 97](https://www.congress.gov/bills/114/hconres/97), introduced [11/19/15](https://www.congress.gov/bills/114/hconres/97)]

## Health Care

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### *Abortion*

**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 36, A Bill Prohibiting Abortion From Being Performed After 20 Weeks Except Where Necessary To Save The Life Of The Mother Or In The Case Of Rape Or Incest.**

According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 36, a bill that “Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit any person from performing or attempting to perform an abortion except in conformity with this Act's requirements. Requires the physician to first determine the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child, or reasonably rely upon such a determination made by another physician, by making inquiries of the pregnant woman and performing such medical examinations and tests as a reasonably prudent physician would consider necessary. Prohibits an abortion from being performed if the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child is 20 weeks or greater, except: (1) where necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, or injury, excluding psychological or emotional conditions; (2) where the pregnancy is the result of rape against an adult woman and, at least 48 hours prior to the abortion, such woman has obtained counseling for the rape or medical treatment for the rape or an injury related to the rape; or (3) where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest against a minor and the rape or incest has been reported prior to the abortion to a law enforcement agency or a government agency legally authorized to act on reports of child abuse. Requires the physician, prior to performing such an abortion, to place appropriate documentation in the patient's medical file of the receipt of such medical treatment or counseling or of the reporting of such rape or incest.” The bill passed the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.R. 36](https://www.congress.gov/bills/114/hr/36), introduced [1/6/15](https://www.congress.gov/bills/114/hr/36)]

**June 2023: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 7, A Bill That Would Ban Abortion Coverage From Coverage In ACA Marketplace Plans.** According to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 7, a bill that “modifies provisions relating to federal funding for, and health insurance coverage of, abortions. Specifically, the bill prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions or for health coverage that includes abortions. Such restrictions extend to the use of funds in the budget of the District of Columbia. Additionally, abortions may not be provided in a federal health care facility or by a federal employee. Historically, language has been included in annual appropriations bills for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions—such language is commonly referred to as the Hyde Amendment. Similar language is also frequently included in appropriations bills for other federal agencies and the District of Columbia. The bill makes these restrictions permanent and extends the restrictions to all federal funds (rather than specific agencies). The bill's restrictions regarding the use of federal funds do not apply in cases of rape, incest, or where a physical disorder, injury, or illness endangers a woman's life unless an abortion is performed. The Hyde Amendment provides the same exceptions. The bill also prohibits qualified health plans from including coverage for abortions. Currently, qualified health plans may cover abortion, but the portion of the premium attributable to abortion coverage is not eligible for subsidies.” The bill did not pass the House. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [H.R. 7](https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/hr/7), introduced [1/9/23](https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/hr/7)]

- **HR 7 Would Ban Abortion Coverage From Coverage In ACA Marketplace Plans.** “Under state law, New York currently requires that state-regulated health insurance plans cover abortions. But HR 7, legislation which is co-sponsored by some New York Republicans on Capitol Hill, could upend that. ‘This is something — along with all the other parts of this extreme anti-freedom agenda, anti-reproductive freedom agenda — that we have to stop,’ said Hudson Valley Democratic Congressman Pat Ryan. The bill would codify the Hyde Amendment into law, banning the use of federal funds for abortions with certain exceptions. But it also goes further,



restricting coverage in plans offered through the Obamacare marketplace, says Laurie Sobel, the associate director of women's health policy at KFF. 'It means that people who are going to the marketplace in New York would no longer be able to obtain abortion coverage there. And therefore, anybody who needs help paying for their premium wouldn't be able to obtain abortion coverage,' she said." [Spectrum News, [8/17/23](#)]

- **Women's Health Policy Advocate: HR 7 "Attempts To Take The Power Away From States To Include Abortion Coverage In Their State-Regulated Plans."** "But it also goes further, restricting coverage in plans offered through the Obamacare marketplace, says Laurie Sobel, the associate director of women's health policy at KFF. [...] But Sobel with KFF says HR 7 would set up friction with state statute. Expect litigation, she says, if it were to become law.' It actually restricts what can be covered in ACA marketplace plans, which are plans regulated by the state,' she said. 'So it attempts to take the power away from states to include abortion coverage in their state-regulated plans.'" [Spectrum News, [8/17/23](#)]

## ***Affordable Care Act***

**January 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 596, A Bill Repealing The ACA And The Health Provisions Of The Health Care And Education Reconciliation Act Of 2010.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 596, a bill "To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes." The bill passed the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 596](#), introduced [1/28/15](#)]

**March 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 928, A Bill Repealing A Provision Of The ACA That Imposed An Annual Fee On Health Insurance Providers.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 928, a bill "To repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 928](#), introduced [2/12/15](#)]

**April 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 1234, A Bill Repealing Portions Of The ACA, Including Provisions Requiring Dependent Coverage Until Age 26 And Prohibiting Coverage Exclusions Based On Preexisting Conditions.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 1234, a bill "To restore to States the freedom and flexibility to regulate health insurance markets, and for other purposes." The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 1234](#), introduced [3/4/15](#)]

**July 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 2400, A Bill Creating A New Inspector General To Monitor The Implementation Of The ACA.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 2400, a bill "To establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes." The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 2400](#), introduced [5/18/15](#)]

**July 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 2905, A Bill Limiting The Health Plans Available To Supreme Court Employees To Those Created Under The ACA Or Offered Through A Health Insurance Exchange.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 2905, a bill "To amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide that only health plans made available by the Federal Government to Supreme Court Justices and staff are Exchange health plans." The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 2905](#), introduced [6/25/15](#)]

## **Seniors**

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### ***Social Security***

**July 2015: Zinke Co-Sponsored H.R. 918, A Bill Prohibiting Individuals From Collecting Unemployment Benefits And Social Security Disability Insurance At The Same Time.** According to Congress.gov, Zinke was a co-sponsor of H.R. 918, a bill "To amend title II of the Social Security Act to prevent concurrent receipt of



unemployment benefits and Social Security disability insurance, and for other purposes.” The bill did not pass the House. [Congress.gov, [H.R. 918](#), introduced [2/12/15](#)]

## Key Floor Votes

### Energy

#### *Energy Leasing*

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Require The Energy Department To Develop The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill In Consultation With The EPA And The Council On Environmental Quality.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Tlaib, D-Mich., amendment no. 11 that would require the Energy Department to develop the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill in consultation with the EPA and the Council on Environmental Quality. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 205-220, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 204 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 5 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #37](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing Located In The South Atlantic Planning Area, Straits Of Florida, And Certain Areas In The Eastern Gulf Of Mexico.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Castor, D-Fla., amendment no. 3 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing located in the South Atlantic Planning Area, Straits of Florida, and certain areas in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 214-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 211 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #39](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing Located In The South Atlantic Planning Area, Straits Of Florida, And Certain Areas In The Eastern Gulf Of Mexico.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Pallone, D-N.J., amendment no. 104 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located in the North Atlantic planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 214-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 211 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #40](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Bill Would Not Affect Any Statutory Or Regulatory Restrictions In Effect At The Time Of Enactment That Prohibit Oil And Gas Leasing Within The South Atlantic Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Mace, R-S.C., amendment no. 133 that would specify that the bill would not affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect at the time of enactment that prohibit oil and gas leasing within the South Atlantic planning area.” The motion was agreed to by the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 389-42, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 207 Democrats and 182 Republicans voted for the motion, while 6 Democrats and 36 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #41](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Submits A Certification To Congress Stating That The Price Of Gasoline And Diesel Fuel Will Not Increase During The Development Of The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Soto, D-Fla., amendment no. 44 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department submits a certification to Congress stating that the price of gasoline and diesel fuel will not increase in any of the five U.S. petroleum





administration districts during the development of the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 212 Democrats and 1 Republican voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #43](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Increase, From 10 To 15 Percent, The Maximum Percentage Increase Of Federal Land That Could Be Leased For Oil And Gas Production Under The Leasing Plan Required By The Bill.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Boebert, R-Colo., amendment no. 33 that would increase, from 10 to 15 percent, the maximum percentage increase of federal land that may be leased for oil and gas production under the leasing plan required by the bill.” The motion was agreed to by the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 220-212, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 5 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted for the motion, while 208 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #44](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located Off The Coast Of Virginia.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Spanberger, D-Va., amendment no. 29 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located off the coast of Virginia. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 210 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #45](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located In The Northern California Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Huffman, D-Calif., amendment no. 15 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located in the Northern California planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 212-218, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 210 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #46](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located In The Central California Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Panetta, D-Calif., amendment no. 26 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located in the Central California planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 211 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #48](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located In The Southern California Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Levin, D-Calif., amendment no. 18 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located in the Southern California planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 211 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #49](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing Located In The Washington/Oregon Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “DelBene, D-Wash., amendment no. 7 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing located in the Washington/Oregon planning area. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 211 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #50](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]





**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Providing An Increase In Leased Federal Lands That Would Not Provide A “Fair Return” To Taxpayers.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Levin, D-Calif., amendment no. 21 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from providing an increase in leased federal lands that would not provide a “fair return” to taxpayers. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 210-222, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 210 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #51](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Require The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill To Include A Tribal Consultation Plan With Tribal Governments And The Interior, Agriculture, Defense And Energy Departments.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment no. 55 that would require the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill to include a tribal consultation plan with tribal governments and the Interior, Agriculture, Defense and Energy departments. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 212 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #52](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Federal Land Where Such Leasing Would Result In Or Exacerbate Disproportionate Burdens On Communities Of Color, Low-Income Communities, And Tribal And Indigenous Communities.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment no. 56 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any federal land where such leasing would result in or exacerbate disproportionate burdens on communities of color, low-income communities, and tribal and indigenous communities. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-219, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 212 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #53](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Exclude Federal Lands That Were Viable For Renewable Energy Production From The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment no. 57 that would exclude federal lands that are viable for renewable energy production from the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 197-235, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 196 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 17 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #54](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill Would Only Allow A Lease Or Permit To Be Issued If It Certified To The Energy Department That The Permit Would Not Excessively Increase The Price Of Petroleum Products.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “DeGette, D-Colo., amendment no. 89 that would specify that the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill would only allow a lease or permit to be issued if it certifies to the Energy Department that such lease or permit would not excessively increase the sale price of petroleum products during a severe energy supply interruption or a period of decreased supply of petroleum products. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 212-220, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 212 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #55](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Certified That The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill Was Necessary To Replenish The Strategic Petroleum Reserve To Its Size On Feb. 23, 2022.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Torres, D-Calif., amendment no. 50 that would postpone the effective date



of the bill's requirements until the Energy Department certifies that the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill is necessary to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its size on Feb. 23, 2022. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 204-228, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 204 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 9 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #56](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Providing Any Entity With The Opportunity To Engage In Oil Or Gas Production Activities Unless Such Activities Would Not Negatively Impact Air Quality.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Cohen, D-Tenn., amendment no. 129 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from providing any entity with the opportunity to engage in oil or gas production activities unless such activities will not negatively impact air quality. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 199-232, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 198 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 14 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #59](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill's Requirements Until The Energy Department Certified To Congress That An Increase In The Percentage Of Federal Lands Leased For Oil And Gas Production Would Not Result In An Increase In Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Garcia, D-Calif., amendment no. 53 that would postpone the effective date of the bill's requirements until the Energy Department certifies to Congress that an increase in the percentage of federal lands leased for oil and gas production will not result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 199-230, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 198 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 13 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #60](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill's Requirements Until The Energy Department Certified That An Increase Of Federal Lands Leased For Oil And Gas Production Would Not Perpetuate Environmental Injustice.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Lee, D-Calif., amendment no. 84 that would postpone the effective date of the bill's requirements until the Energy Department certifies that an increase of federal lands leased for oil and gas production would not perpetuate environmental injustice. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 207-223, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 206 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 5 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #61](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Bill Could Not Be Construed To Deny That Communities Of Color And That Low-Wealth Communities “Face The Greatest Harms Due To Climate Change And Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Payne, D-N.J., amendment no. 76 that would specify that the bill may not be construed to deny that communities of color and low-wealth communities “face the greatest harms due to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.” The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 211-217, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 210 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #62](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract Located Within The Big Cypress National Preserve In Florida.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., amendment no. 75 that would prohibit the oil and leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract located within the Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 212-215, with 0 voting present and 13 not voting. 209 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 213 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #63](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]



**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing Located In The Great Lakes.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Schneider, D-Ill., amendment no. 131 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing located in the Great Lakes. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 209-215, with 0 voting present and 16 not voting. 206 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #64](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Determined That The Bill’s Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Would Not Negatively Affect Consumers Whose Homes Were Heated Using Heating Oil Or Other Petroleum-Based Fuels.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Magaziner, D-R.I., amendment no. 58 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department determines that the bill’s oil and gas leasing plan will not negatively affect consumers whose homes are heated using heating oil or other petroleum-based fuels. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 205-220, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 205 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #66](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including The Lease Of Any Land To A Company That Had Purchased An Equity Security Within The Last Decade Of A Company That Was Listed On A National Securities Exchange.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., amendment no. 74 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including the lease of any land to a company that has purchased an equity security within the last decade of a company that is listed on a national securities exchange. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 171-256, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 171 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 40 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #67](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including The Lease Of Federal Land That Would Increase Net Carbon Emissions.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., amendment no. 72 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including the lease of federal land that would increase net carbon emissions. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 193-228, with 0 voting present and 18 not voting. 192 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 18 Democrats and 210 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #68](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including The Leasing Of Federal Land That Would Be Inconsistent With The Goals Of The Paris Climate Accords.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., amendment no. 73 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including the leasing of federal land that would be inconsistent with the goals of the Paris Climate Accords. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 199-229, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 198 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 11 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #69](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing In The Mid-Atlantic Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Ross, D-N.C., amendment no. 70 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing in the Mid-Atlantic Planning Area. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 212-218, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 210 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #72](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]



**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Remove The Requirement That The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill Increase The Percentage Of Federal Lands Leased For Gas Production.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Casten, D-Ill., amendment no. 66 that would remove the requirement that the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill increase the percentage of federal lands leased for gas production. It would also prohibit fossil fuel industry participation in oil production activities under the plan unless an industry entity submits a plan to the Energy Department for reducing its global warming-related pollution by 50 percent of 2022 levels by 2030, without offsets; eliminating such pollution by 2050, without offsets; and limiting its methane emissions from oil production. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 199-231, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 199 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 12 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #73](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Exclude Submerged Lands Of The Outer Continental Shelf From The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Manning, D-N.C., amendment no. 27 that would exclude submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf from the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 206-220, with 0 voting present and 13 not voting. 205 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #76](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department, In Consultation With The Interior Department, Published A Report On The Number, Location And Owner Of All Unused Permits To Drill For Oil And Gas On Federal Land.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Vasquez, D-N.M., amendment no. 63 that would postpone the effective date of the bill’s requirements until the Energy Department, in consultation with the Interior Department, publishes a report on the number, location and owner of all unused permits to drill for oil and gas on federal land. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 204-224, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 203 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 6 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #80](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Strike The Text Of The Bill And Substitute It With A Requirement That The Energy Department Should Acquire Petroleum Products For The Strategic Petroleum Reserve That Were Produced From Domestic Sources.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Vasquez, D-N.M., amendment no. 64 that would strike the text of the bill and substitute it with a requirement that the Energy Department, to the greatest extent possible, should acquire petroleum products for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that are produced from domestic sources. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 187-240, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 187 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 23 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #81](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Federal Land With A Boundary Within 3,200 Feet Of A Residence, School Or Hospital.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Barragan, D-Calif., amendment no. 24 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any federal land with a boundary within 3,200 feet of a residence, school or hospital. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 209-219, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #85](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Postpone The Effective Date Of The Bill’s Requirements Until The Energy Department Submitted A Certification To Congress Stating That Implementing The Bill Would Not Increase The Average Price Of Energy For Consumers.**

According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Plaskett, D-V.I., amendment no. 43 that would postpone the effective date of the





bill's requirements until the Energy Department submits a certification to Congress stating that implementing the bill will not increase the average price of energy for consumers. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 209-221, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #86](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Any Tract In The Washington/Oregon Planning Area If Such Leasing Would Adversely Impact Coastal Fisheries.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Perez, D-Wash., amendment no. 79 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including any tract in the Washington/Oregon planning area if such leasing would adversely impact coastal fisheries. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 210-219, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 209 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #87](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Authorizing The Participation, Including In Any Lease Auction, Of Any Corporation Or Entity That The Energy Department Determined To Have Contributed To Oil And Gas Price-Gouging In 2022.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Bowman, D-N.Y., amendment no. 92 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from authorizing the participation, including in any lease auction, of any corporation or entity that the Energy Department determines to have contributed to oil and gas price-gouging in 2022. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 201-229, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 201 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 9 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #88](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Prohibit The Oil And Gas Leasing Plan Required By The Bill From Including Leasing On Any Protected Public Lands, Including National Park System Units, National Wildlife Refuge System Units, National Monuments, National Recreation Areas And Areas Of Critical Environmental Concern.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment no. 145 that would prohibit the oil and gas leasing plan required by the bill from including leasing on any protected public lands, including National Park System units, National Wildlife Refuge System units, national monuments, national recreation areas and areas of critical environmental concern. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 210-218, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 209 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #89](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 1, A Bill To Require A Number Of Actions To Boost The Domestic Production Of Fossil Fuels And Critical Minerals And Reverse Or Repeal Certain Recent Policies Related To Energy And Climate Change.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and critical minerals, accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, and reverse or repeal certain recent policies related to energy and climate change. Among provisions to boost oil and gas leasing and production, the bill would require the Interior Department to resume quarterly oil and gas lease sales on federal lands; complete certain proposed sales on the Outer Continental Shelf; and implement at least two lease sales per year in each of the Gulf of Mexico and the Alaska regions of the Shelf. It would roll back increased fees and royalties for onshore and offshore oil and gas development and production established by the 2022 budget reconciliation package (PL 117-69). It would adjust revenue sharing requirements for onshore and offshore production to generally decrease federal shares and increase state shares, particularly for coastal states. It would also require annual geothermal lease sales; terminate a moratorium on new coal leasing; and provide for final approval of previously authorized coal leases. It would prohibit the president from declaring a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing and from taking any action that would delay new leases, sales and drill permits for oil and gas, coal or mineral exploration. It would remove restrictions on the import and export of liquified natural gas and prohibit the Chinese Communist Party or a person acting on its behalf from acquiring any interest with respect to lands leased for oil or gas. Among provisions





to streamline the permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act, the bill would set deadlines for the completion of NEPA environmental reviews and adjust thresholds for levels of review; limit the scope of reviews to “reasonably foreseeable” effects and codify 2020 regulations removing requirements to consider climate change impacts in the review process; and direct agencies to use previously completed reviews to satisfy NEPA requirements for substantially similar proposed actions. For oil and gas projects, it would limit the scope of environmental reviews to areas within or immediately adjacent to affected plots and prohibit the consideration of downstream, indirect effects of oil and gas consumption. To expedite certain energy production and infrastructure projects, it would establish procedures and a 120-day expedited deadline for federal agencies to review applications for cross-border oil and natural gas pipelines; and expand the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s role as the lead agency for natural gas pipeline permitting. To address critical mineral supply, the bill would require the Energy Department to conduct ongoing assessments of and develop strategies to strengthen domestic supply chains for critical energy resources, including through increased mining and processing and permit the EPA to temporarily waive certain pollution regulation requirements for processing and refining projects at critical energy resource facilities to address supply chain concerns. It would make coal and critical mineral mining projects eligible for certain expedited infrastructure permitting processes; provide for appointment of a lead agency to coordinate the permitting process for mineral exploration; and limit the withdrawal of federal lands and waters from mineral leasing. The bill would also repeal certain climate-related programs established by the 2022 budget reconciliation package, including the \$27 billion “Greenhouse Gas Reduction” fund to support low- and zero-carbon projects, a program imposing fees on methane emissions from oil and gas drilling sites on federal lands, and energy rebate programs to incentivize energy-efficient homes and buildings. The motion passed the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 225-204, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 4 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted for the motion, while 203 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #182](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Lower Energy Costs Act To The House Natural Resources Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Porter, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Natural Resources Committee. The motion failed the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 207-222, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 207 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 222 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #181](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

## ***Federal Rules***

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds To Implement The April 2015 “Well Control” Rule.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Boustany Jr., R-La., amendment that would prohibit any funds from being used for the implementation of the April 2015 “Well Control” rule, which mandates more stringent design requirements and operational procedures for critical well control equipment used in oil and gas operations on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 234-195, with 0 voting present and 4 not voting. 10 Democrats and 224 Republicans voted for the motion, while 175 Democrats and 20 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #444](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2017: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.B. 26 To Exclude Rules Intended To Either Ensure The Safety Of Natural Gas Or Hazardous Materials Pipelines From The Definition Of A “Major Rule.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “McNerney, D-Calif., for Pallone, D-N.J., amendment that would exclude rules intended to either ensure the safety of natural gas or hazardous materials pipelines or to prevent or reduce the impact of spills from such pipelines from the definition of a “major rule.” The motion failed the House on January 5, 2017 by a vote of 190-235, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 190 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 26, [Vote #19](#), 1/5/17; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/5/17](#)]



## **FERC**

**2016: Zinke Voted For S.2012, A Bill To Increase The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s Licensing And Permitting Authority For Natural Gas Pipelines And Hydropower Projects.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would increase the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) authority with regard to licensing and permitting of natural gas pipelines and hydropower projects, and would set statutory deadlines for agencies. It also would set a deadline for the Energy Department to approve or deny applications to export natural gas to within 30 days of the bill’s enactment or the close of the application’s public comment period, whichever is later. The bill would require FERC to facilitate voluntary information sharing between federal, state, and local authorities and operators and users of the U.S. bulk power system. It would deem mining operations of “strategic and critical minerals” as “infrastructure projects” as described in a 2012 presidential order regarding permitting of infrastructure projects. The measure also would require that additional water be pumped south from Northern California when water levels in the state are generally low rather than retaining water in the north for habitat restoration and other environmental purposes. The motion passed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 241-178, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 8 Democrats and 233 Republicans voted for the motion, while 172 Democrats and 6 Republicans voted against the motion. [S. 2012, [Vote #250](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Remove The Energy Department’s Role In Approving Gas Imports And Exports And Instead Give That Authority To The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would remove the Energy Department’s role in approving gas imports and exports and instead give that authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It also would modify current law to provide FERC the exclusive authority to approve or deny an application for the siting, construction, expansion or operation of any facility to export or import natural gas, not just a liquefied natural gas terminal. It also would require FERC, when determining whether to grant such an application, to deem such exportation or importation to be consistent with the public interest. The motion passed the House on February 15, 2024 by a vote of 224-200, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 9 Democrats and 214 Republicans voted for the motion, while 199 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 7176, [Vote #52](#), 2/15/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [2/15/24](#)]

## **Fossil Fuel Research**

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Cut \$50 Million In Renewable Energy Funding And Increase Fossil Fuel Research Funding By \$45 Million.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Griffith, R-Va., amendment that would reduce funding for Energy Department energy efficiency and renewable energy activities by \$50 million and increase funding for fossil energy research and development by \$45 million. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 182-236, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 0 Democrats and 182 Republicans voted for the motion, while 177 Democrats and 59 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #243](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Cut \$13 Million In Fossil Fuel Research Funding And Increase Funding For Renewable Energy By \$10 Million.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would reduce funding for Energy Department fossil energy research and development by \$13 million and increase funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities by roughly \$10 million. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 167-251, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 155 Democrats and 12 Republicans voted for the motion, while 23 Democrats and 228 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #245](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Reduce Funding For Fossil Energy Research By \$285 Million.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would reduce funding for Energy Department fossil energy research and development by \$285 million and transfer the amount to the spending reduction account. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 144-275,



with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 97 Democrats and 47 Republicans voted for the motion, while 81 Democrats and 194 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #246](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4394 To Increase Funding By \$600 Million For The Energy Department’s Fossil Energy And Carbon Management Programs And Cut \$1.1 Billion In Funding For Energy Efficiency And Renewable Energy Programs.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Griffith, R-Va., amendment no. 15 that would increase funding by \$600 million for the Energy Department’s fossil energy and carbon management programs and reduce funding by \$1.1 billion for the department’s energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The motion failed the House on October 26, 2023 by a vote of 161-257, with 0 voting present and 20 not voting. 0 Democrats and 161 Republicans voted for the motion, while 208 Democrats and 49 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4394, [Vote #532](#), 10/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [10/26/23](#)]

## ***Natural Gas***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove A Prohibition On Finalizing BLM Rules To Establish When Flared Natural Gas Would Qualify As Waste.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Huffman, D-Calif., for Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on finalizing or implementing proposed rules by the Bureau of Land Management that would establish criteria for when flared natural gas would qualify as waste and thus be subject to royalties. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 184-240, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 177 Democrats and 7 Republicans voted for the motion, while 6 Democrats and 234 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #422](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

## ***Nuclear Energy***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Bar Use Of Funds From The Bill To Expand Plutonium Pit Production Capacity.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Garamendi, D-Calif., amendment that would bar use of funds made available by the bill to expand plutonium pit production capacity at the PF-4 facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 126-293, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 126 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 55 Democrats and 238 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #254](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2017: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.B. 26 To Exclude Rules Pertaining To Nuclear Reactor Safety Standards From The Definition Of A “Major Rule.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Nadler, D-N.Y., amendment that would exclude rules pertaining to nuclear reactor safety standards from the definition of a “major rule.” The motion failed the House on January 5, 2017 by a vote of 194-231, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 189 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 230 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 26, [Vote #18](#), 1/5/17; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/5/17](#)]

## ***Offshore Drilling***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove A Prohibition On Updating Regulations For Drilling Margins For Oil And Gas Operations On The Outer Continental Shelf.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Castor, D-Fla., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on developing, enforcing or updating regulations pertaining to drilling margins or static downhole mud weight as related to oil, gas and sulphur operations in the outer continental shelf. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 186-237, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 176 Democrats



and 10 Republicans voted for the motion, while 8 Democrats and 229 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #423](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove A Prohibition On Finalizing Interior Department Rules For Air Quality Control, Reporting And Compliance For Specific Offshore Areas Of The Gulf Of Mexico And The Arctic Ocean.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Huffman, D-Calif., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on finalizing or implementing proposed Interior Department rules regarding air quality control, reporting and compliance for specific offshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic Ocean. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 181-244, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 177 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted for the motion, while 7 Democrats and 237 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #424](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds In The Bill From Being Used To Research, Investigate, Or Study Offshore Drilling In The Eastern Gulf Of Mexico.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Graham, D-Fla., for Jolly, R-Fla., amendment that would prohibit funds made available by the bill to be used to research, investigate, or study offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 185-243, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 163 Democrats and 22 Republicans voted for the motion, while 22 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #447](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds From Being Used To Authorize, Permit Or Conduct Geological Or Geophysical Activities In Support Of Oil, Gas, Or Methane Hydrate Exploration.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Beyer, D-Va., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to authorize, permit or conduct geological or geophysical activities in support of oil, gas, or methane hydrate exploration and development in certain areas of the Atlantic Ocean. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 192-236, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 177 Democrats and 15 Republicans voted for the motion, while 8 Democrats and 228 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #465](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds To Remove Three Alaskan Sites From Potential Oil And Gas Leasing.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Young, R-Alaska, amendment that would prohibit funds to remove three Alaskan sites from a schedule of potential lease sales within the Bureau of Ocean Management’s 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 242-185, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 7 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted for the motion, while 177 Democrats and 8 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #461](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Bar Funds From Being Used To Process Any Application That Would Authorize Use Of Fracking In The Pacific Outer Continental Shelf.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Capps, D-Calif., amendment that would bar funds from being used to process any application that would authorize use of hydraulic fracturing or acid well stimulation treatment in the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 14, 2016 by a vote of 172-254, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 168 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted for the motion, while 15 Democrats and 239 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #469](#), 7/14/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/14/16](#)]



## ***Renewable Energy***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4909 To Prohibit The Defense Department From Purchasing Alternative Energy Unless The Cost And Capability Was Equivalent To Conventional Energy.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Buck, R-Colo, amendment that would prohibit the Defense Department from purchasing alternative energy unless the cost and capability is equivalent to conventional energy. The motion failed the House on May 18, 2016 by a vote of 159-266, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 0 Democrats and 159 Republicans voted for the motion, while 183 Democrats and 83 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4909, [Vote #208](#), 5/18/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/18/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4909 To Prohibit Use Of Funds To Implement Two Executive Orders That Required The Defense Department To Meet Certain Green Energy Mandates And To Incorporate Climate Change Reviews In Operations, Acquisition And Planning.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Fleming, R-La., amendment that would prohibit use of funds to implement two executive orders that require the Defense Department to meet certain green energy mandates and to incorporate climate change reviews in operations, acquisition and planning.” The motion was agreed to by the House on May 18, 2016 by a vote of 227-198, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 0 Democrats and 227 Republicans voted for the motion, while 183 Democrats and 15 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4909, [Vote #209](#), 5/18/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/18/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 1 To Exempt Activities Related To The Production, Construction Or Procurement Of Solar Panels, Electric Vehicles, Electric Vehicle Batteries Or Electric Vehicle Infrastructure From The Bill’s Requirements.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Perry, R-Pa., amendment no. 34 that would exempt activities related to the production, construction or procurement of solar panels, electric vehicles, electric vehicle batteries or electric vehicle infrastructure from the bill’s requirement that actions taken under the Defense Production Act be eligible for expedited federal permitting procedures. The motion failed the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 201-230, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 0 Democrats and 201 Republicans voted for the motion, while 208 Democrats and 22 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #178](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 1 To Require The Government Accountability Office To Publish A Report On All Potential Adverse Effects Of Wind Energy Development In The North Atlantic Planning Area.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Van Drew, R-N.J., amendment no. 36 that would require the Government Accountability Office to publish a report on all potential adverse effects of wind energy development in the North Atlantic Planning Area, including associated infrastructure and vessel traffic, on maritime safety, the economic impacts on commercial fishing, and marine environment and ecology.” The motion was agreed to by the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 220-213, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 6 Democrats and 214 Republicans voted for the motion, while 204 Democrats and 9 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #180](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4366 To Bar The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement The December 2021 Biden Administration Executive Order Regarding The Promotion Of Clean Energy Industries And Jobs.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Zinke, R-Mont., amendment no. 41 that would bar the use of funds provided by the bill to implement the December 2021 Biden administration executive order regarding the promotion of clean energy industries and jobs.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 26, 2023 by a vote of 222-212, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 1 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted for the motion, while 210 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4366, [Vote #378](#), 7/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4394 To Eliminate All Funding In The Bill For The DOE Energy Efficiency And Renewable Energy Programs.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against





“Roy, R-Texas, amendment no.16 that would eliminate all funding in the bill for the DOE energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The motion failed the House on October 26, 2023 by a vote of 137-287, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 0 Democrats and 137 Republicans voted for the motion, while 209 Democrats and 78 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4394, [Vote #533](#), 10/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [10/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4394 To Strike \$35 Million Provided For Energy Department Clean Energy Demonstrations And Transfer The Savings To The Spending Reduction Account.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Perry, R-Pa., amendment no. 19 that would strike \$35 million provided for Energy Department clean energy demonstrations and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account. The motion failed the House on October 26, 2023 by a vote of 135-284, with 0 voting present and 19 not voting. 0 Democrats and 135 Republicans voted for the motion, while 203 Democrats and 81 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4394, [Vote #534](#), 10/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [10/26/23](#)]

## ***Royalties***

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.Con.Res. 112, A Resolution To Express A Sense Of Congress In Opposition To A Proposed \$10-Per-Barrel Oil Tax.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Adoption of the concurrent resolution that would express a sense of Congress in opposition to the president’s proposed \$10-per-barrel tax on oil. It also would express a sense of Congress that lawmakers, in considering future policy, should review potential harms of new taxes on industries that have seen job, revenue and production cuts. The motion passed the House on June 10, 2016 by a vote of 253-144, with 2 voting present and 35 not voting. 23 Democrats and 230 Republicans voted for the motion, while 143 Democrats and 1 Republican voted against the motion. [H.Con.Res. 112, [Vote #296](#), 6/10/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/10/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 1 To Express That Congress Disapproved Of President Joe Biden’s Proposed Repeal Of Tax Provisions That Were “Vital To The Oil And Natural Gas Industry” In His Fiscal 2024 Budget Request.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Hern, R-Okla., amendment no. 5 that would express that Congress disapproves of President Joe Biden’s proposed repeal of tax provisions that are “vital to the oil and natural gas industry” in his fiscal 2024 budget request, including findings that the policy would result in a “tax hike” on U.S. oil and natural gas producers.” The motion was agreed to by the House on March 29, 2023 by a vote of 228-206, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 7 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted for the motion, while 203 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #168](#), 3/29/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/29/23](#)]

- **2024: Zinke Voted For A Resolution To Denounce The Biden Administration’s Energy Policies, Including Federal Land Management Policies That Had Resulted In A Reduction In Leasing To Develop Energy Resources.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the resolution (H Res 987) that would denounce the Biden administration’s energy policies, including federal land management policies that have resulted in a reduction in leasing to develop energy resources. It also would encourage the federal government to support the domestic production of “reliable and affordable” energy sources. The motion passed the House on March 21, 2024 by a vote of 393-24, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 205 Democrats and 188 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 24 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1836, [Vote #98](#), 3/21/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/2024](#); CQ, [3/21/24](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 1 To Strike A Section Of The Bill That Would Roll Back Fees And Royalties On Onshore And Offshore Oil And Gas Development Imposed By The 2022 Budget Reconciliation Package.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Levin, D-Calif., amendment no. 26 that would strike a section of the bill that would roll back fees and royalties on onshore and offshore oil and gas development imposed by the 2022 budget reconciliation package (PL 117-169). The motion failed the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 205-228, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 205 Democrats and 0 Republicans



voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 224 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #176](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Allow The Interior Department To Proceed With Updating Royalty Rates And Valuations For Federal Gas, Oil, And Coal.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Lowenthal, D-Calif., amendment that would allow the Interior Department to proceed with updating royalty rates and valuation for federal coal, oil, and gas. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 183-246, with 0 voting present and 4 not voting. 177 Democrats and 6 Republicans voted for the motion, while 8 Democrats and 238 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #435](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4821 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement, Administer Or Enforce A Section Of The Inflation Reduction Act Related To Increasing Onshore Oil And Gas Royalty Rates, Minimum Bid Requirements And Rental Fees.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Ogles, R-Tenn., amendment no. 120 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to implement, administer or enforce a section of the Inflation Reduction Act (PL 117-169) related to increasing onshore oil and gas royalty rates, minimum bid requirements and rental fees.” The motion was agreed to by the House on November 3, 2023 by a vote of 214-204, with 0 voting present and 20 not voting. 0 Democrats and 214 Republicans voted for the motion, while 202 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #593](#), 11/3/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/3/23](#)]

### ***Strategic Petroleum Reserve***

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Reduce Funding For The Strategic Petroleum Reserve.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Clawson, R-Fla., amendment that would increase funding for Army Corps of Engineers construction by \$50 million and reduce funding for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve by the same amount. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 143-275, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 64 Democrats and 79 Republicans voted for the motion, while 114 Democrats and 161 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #241](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Strike An Exemption In The Bill Allowing The Energy Department To Make Drawdowns From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Prior To The Development Of An Oil And Gas Leasing Plan In The Case Of A Severe Energy Supply Interruption.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Greene, R-Ga., amendment no. 2 that would strike an exemption in the bill allowing the Energy Department to make drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve prior to the development of an oil and gas leasing plan in the case of a severe energy supply interruption. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 14-418, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 0 Democrats and 14 Republicans voted for the motion, while 213 Democrats and 205 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #42](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Bill Did Not Impact The Authority Of The President Or The Energy Department To Initiate Drawdowns From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve To Lower Gas Prices.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Magaziner, D-R.I., amendment no. 59 that would specify that the bill does not impact the authority of the president or the Energy Department to initiate drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the purpose of lowering gas prices. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 204-222, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 204 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #65](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Allow The Energy Department To Make Drawdowns From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Prior To The Development Of An Oil And Gas Leasing**



**Plan If A Delay In Executing A Drawdown Would Increase Gas Prices.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Scholten, D-Mich., amendment no. 60 that would allow the Energy Department to make drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve prior to the development of an oil and gas leasing plan if a delay in executing a drawdown would increase gas prices. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 207-221, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 207 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #77](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Allow The Energy Department To Make Drawdowns From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Prior To The Development Of An Oil And Gas Leasing Plan If A Delay In Executing A Drawdown Would Worsen Inflation.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Nickel, D-N.C., amendment no. 77 that would allow the Energy Department to make drawdowns from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve prior to the development of an oil and gas leasing plan if a delay in executing a drawdown would worsen inflation. The motion failed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 207-222, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 207 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #92](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 21, A Bill To Limit The Drawdown Of Petroleum In The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Until The Department Of Energy Submitted To Congress A Plan To Increase The Percentage Of Federal Lands Leased For Oil And Gas Production.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would prohibit the Department of Energy, after the bill’s enactment, from executing a first drawdown of petroleum products from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve for sale, exchange or loan until the DOE first develops a plan — in consultation with the Agriculture, Interior and Defense departments — to increase the percentage of federal lands leased for oil and gas production by an amount equal to the percentage of petroleum in the Reserve that would be drawn down, up to a maximum of 15 percent. The bill would provide an exception to the planning requirement if the president determines a drawdown is required due to a severe energy supply interruption, defined as an emergency situation reducing the supply of petroleum products and resulting in price increases that would have a major adverse impact on the national economy. Prior to passage, the House adopted 12 amendments to the bill. As amended, the bill would also apply the oil and gas leasing plan requirement retroactively to drawdowns initiated on Jan. 21, 2021, and afterward; require DOE to ensure that such plans would not result in the sale of drawn-down petroleum products to Iran, China, North Korea or Russia; and require DOE to submit such plans to Congress, among other provisions. The motion passed the House on January 27, 2023 by a vote of 221-205, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 1 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted for the motion, while 205 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #93](#), 1/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/27/23](#)]

## Environment

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### ANWR

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds To Implement The Conservations Plan For The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Young, R-Alaska, amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to implement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s conservation plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 237-191, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 6 Democrats and 231 Republicans voted for the motion, while 179 Democrats and 12 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #460](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

### Carbon Tax



**2016: Zinke Voted For H.Con.Res. 89, A Resolution To Express A Sense Of Congress That A Carbon Tax Would Harm Families And Businesses.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Adoption of the concurrent resolution that would express a sense of Congress that a carbon tax would harm families and businesses and is “not in the best interest of the United States.” The motion passed the House on June 10, 2016 by a vote of 237-163, with 2 voting present and 32 not voting. 6 Democrats and 231 Republicans voted for the motion, while 163 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.Con.Res. 89, [Vote #295](#), 6/10/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/10/16](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted Against A Resolution To Express The Sense Of Congress That A Carbon Tax Would Be Detrimental To U.S. Families And Business And Was Not In The Best Interest Of The Country.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Passage of the concurrent resolution (H Con Res 86) that would express the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to U.S. families and business and is not in the best interest of the country. The measure would also state that a carbon tax would reduce America’s global competitiveness and instead encourage development abroad in countries that have not imposed a similar tax. The motion passed the House on March 21, 2024 by a vote of 213-205, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 2 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted for the motion, while 204 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 7023, [Vote #101](#), 3/21/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/2024](#); CQ, [3/21/24](#)]

## ***Climate Change***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Energy Policy Modernization Act Of 2016 With Instructions To Add An Amendment Clarifying That The Bill Would Not Prevent Federal Agencies From Considering Climate Change When Making Permitting Decisions.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Peters, D-Calif., motion to commit the bill, as amended, to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would add a section to the bill that would state that it would not prevent a federal agency from considering potential impacts on climate change during permitting or approval processes undertaken in accordance with the measure. The motion failed the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 178-239, with 0 voting present and 16 not voting. 178 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 238 Republicans voted against the motion. [S. 2012, [Vote #249](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5055 To Bar Use Of Funds From The Bill To Issue Regulations Based On The Social Cost Of Carbon Analysis.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Gosar, R-Ariz., amendment that would prohibit use of funds made available by the bill to issue regulations or guidance that references or relies on the social cost of carbon analysis.” The motion was agreed to by the House on May 25, 2016 by a vote of 230-188, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 0 Democrats and 230 Republicans voted for the motion, while 181 Democrats and 7 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5055, [Vote #256](#), 5/25/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/25/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5293 To Prohibit Funds To Implement A Defense Department Directive On Climate Change.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Buck, R-Colo., amendment that would prohibit use of funds to implement a Defense Department directive related to climate change.” The motion was agreed to by the House on June 16, 2016 by a vote of 216-205, with 0 voting present and 13 not voting. 0 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted for the motion, while 181 Democrats and 24 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5293, [Vote #314](#), 6/16/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/16/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5293 To Bar Use Of Funds For Certain Green Energy Mandates.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “McClintock, R-Calif., amendment that would bar use of funds for implementing certain green energy mandates.” The motion was agreed to by the House on June 16, 2016 by a vote of 221-197, with 0 voting present and 16 not voting. 0 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted for the motion, while 178 Democrats and 19 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5293, [Vote #322](#), 6/16/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/16/16](#)]



**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5485 To Prohibit Funding To Implement SEC Guidance On Disclosures Related To Climate Change.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Posey, R-Fla., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to implement, administer, enforce or codify into regulation the Securities and Exchange Commission’s guidance relating to “Commission Guidance Regarding Disclosure Related to Climate Change.”“ The motion was agreed to by the House on July 7, 2016 by a vote of 230-193, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 0 Democrats and 230 Republicans voted for the motion, while 181 Democrats and 12 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5485, [Vote #392](#), 7/7/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/7/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Strike Provisions That Would Allow Federal Agencies To Use The Social Cost Of Carbon For Guidance.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Peters, D-Calif., amendment that would strike the bill’s provisions that would allow federal agencies to use the social cost of carbon in rule makings and guidance documents. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 185-241, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 180 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 237 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #432](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds Being Used To Oppose An Executive Order To Require Agencies To Integrate Considerations Of Climate Change Into Their Policies And Operations.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Beyer, D-Va., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to oppose an executive order that would require agencies to integrate considerations of climate change into their policies and operations, and an additional executive order that would establish new re-education targets for greenhouse gas emissions and renewable electric energy. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 194-234, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 182 Democrats and 12 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 231 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #464](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds From Being Used To Subvert An Order Calling For Renewable Energy On Public Lands.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Lowenthal, D-Calif., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used in contravention to a 2009 Interior Department Secretarial Order that called for renewable energy on public lands and a response to the impact of climate change on the land, ocean, fish, wildlife, and cultural heritage resources. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 14, 2016 by a vote of 192-233, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 181 Democrats and 11 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 230 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #471](#), 7/14/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/14/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Protect The Climate Change And Environmental Sustainability Executive Order.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Pocan, D-Wis., amendment that would protect the administration’s climate change and environmental sustainability executive order to ensure that no funds be used to weaken the executive order within this act. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 14, 2016 by a vote of 191-236, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 181 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 233 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #472](#), 7/14/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/14/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 2670 To Prohibit The Defense Department From Implementing Several Biden Administration Executive Orders Relating To Climate Change And Environmental Policy.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Roy, R-Texas, amendment no. 64 to HR 2670 that would prohibit the Defense Department from implementing several Biden administration executive orders





relating to climate change and environmental policy.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 14, 2023 by a vote of 217-216, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 0 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted for the motion, while 213 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 2670, [Vote #326](#), 7/14/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/14/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 3935 To Require The Federal Aviation Administration To Include In A Study On Air Turbulence The Impacts Of Weather, Rather Than Climate Change.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Ogles, R-Tenn., amendment no. 70 that would require the Federal Aviation Administration to include in a study on air turbulence the impacts of weather, rather than climate change. The motion failed the House on July 19, 2023 by a vote of 206-227, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 0 Democrats and 206 Republicans voted for the motion, while 211 Democrats and 16 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3935, [Vote #356](#), 7/19/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/19/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4366 To Bar The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement Seven Biden Administration Executive Orders Relating To Climate Change.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Roy, R-Texas, amendment no. 40 that would bar the use of funds provided by the bill to implement seven Biden administration executive orders relating to climate change.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 26, 2023 by a vote of 220-214, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 0 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted for the motion, while 211 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4366, [Vote #377](#), 7/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4368 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement Or Enforce The Executive Order Issued In January 2021 On Climate Change.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Miller, R-Ill., amendment no. 101 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to implement or enforce the executive order issued in January 2021 on climate change.” The motion was agreed to by the House on September 27, 2023 by a vote of 217-216, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 0 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted for the motion, while 213 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4368, [Vote #429](#), 9/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4665 To Decrease By \$10 Million Funding For The Global Environment Facility Fund.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Kelly, R-Miss., amendment no. 27 that would decrease by \$10 million funding for the Global Environment Facility Fund. The motion failed the House on September 28, 2023 by a vote of 199-231, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 0 Democrats and 199 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 19 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4665, [Vote #471](#), 9/28/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4665 To Prohibit The Use Funds In The Bill To Implement The 2015 United Nations Agreement On Climate Change, Commonly Known As The Paris Agreement.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Gaetz, R-Fla., amendment no. 46 that would prohibit the use funds in the bill to implement the 2015 United Nations agreement on climate change, commonly known as the Paris Agreement.” The motion was agreed to by the House on September 28, 2023 by a vote of 219-213, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 0 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4665, [Vote #477](#), 9/28/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4665 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds In The Bill By The State Department To Send Employees To Any Event Or Conference Hosted By The Clinton Global Initiative.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Foxx, R-N.C., amendment no. 61 that would prohibit the use of funds in the bill by the State Department to send employees to any event or conference hosted by the Clinton Global Initiative.” The motion was agreed to by the House on September 28, 2023 by a vote of 218-215, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 0 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4665, [Vote #486](#), 9/28/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4665 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds In The Bill For The Special Presidential Envoy For Climate.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Burchett, R-Tenn., amendment no. 67 that would prohibit the use of funds in the bill for the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.” The motion was agreed to by the House on September 28, 2023 by a vote of 217-212, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 0 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted for the motion, while 210 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4665, [Vote #490](#), 9/28/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4665 To Prohibit The Use Of Any Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement A Series Of Biden Administration Executive Orders Related To Climate Concerns.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Roy, R-Texas, amendment no. 70 that would prohibit the use of any funds provided by the bill to implement a series of Biden administration executive orders (Executive Order nos. 13990, 14008, 14013, 14030, 14057, 14082 and 14096) related to climate concerns.” The motion was agreed to by the House on September 28, 2023 by a vote of 216-213, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 0 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted for the motion, while 210 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4665, [Vote #492](#), 9/28/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 4655, A Bill To Provide \$53.3 Billion In Federal Funding For The Department Of State, Foreign Operations, And Related Programs In Fiscal 2024, Including Striking Funding For The Green Climate Fund.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would provide \$53.3 billion in federal funding for fiscal 2024. The bill includes a \$12.9 billion offset, including \$11.1 billion from a rescission of funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund from the fiscal 2022 budget reconciliation bill (PL 117-169). The bill would provide \$4.4 billion to counter the Chinese Communist Party’s influence and prohibit the use of funds to repay loans to the Chinese government or to support forced labor, crimes against humanity or genocide in China. The bill would provide \$3.1 billion for Israel, \$1.5 billion for Egypt and \$1.7 billion for Jordan. The bill would also require the executive branch, within 60 days of enactment, to report to Congress on a strategy to prioritize U.S. national security interests in responding to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and create new monitoring and oversight mechanisms. Among other provisions, the bill would provide \$10 billion for global health programs, strike funding for the Green Climate Fund, and reimpose the prohibition on federal funding for international non-governmental organizations that provide abortion services. As amended, the bill would reduce the salary of Secretary of State Antony Blinken to \$1, prohibit the use of funds for the Office of Palestinian Affairs, and add language to expand eligibility for security upgrades to soft targets to include places of worship for U.S. embassy staff and their dependents. The motion passed the House on September 28, 2023 by a vote of 216-212, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 0 Democrats and 216 Republicans voted for the motion, while 210 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4665, [Vote #500](#), 9/28/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting A Bill That Would Provide \$53.3 Billion In Federal Funding For The Department Of State, Foreign Operations, And Related Programs In Fiscal 2024 To The House Appropriations Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Salinas, D-Ore., motion to recommit the bill to the House Appropriations Committee. The motion failed the House on September 28, 2023 by a vote of 210-217, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 210 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4665, [Vote #499](#), 9/28/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4394 To Bar The Use Of Funds Under The Bill For The American Climate Corps.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Norman, R-S.C., amendment no. 50 that would bar the use of funds under the bill for the American Climate Corps. The motion failed the House on October 26, 2023 by a vote of 208-209, with 0 voting present and 22 not voting. 0 Democrats and 208 Republicans voted for the motion, while 205 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4394, [Vote #549](#), 10/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [10/26/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4394 To Bar The Use Of Funds Under The Bill For The American Climate Corps.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Norman, R-S.C., amendment no. 50 that would bar the use of funds under the bill for the American Climate Corps.” The motion was agreed to by the House on October 26, 2023 by a vote of 207-204, with 0 voting present and 22 not voting. 0 Democrats and 207 Republicans voted for the motion, while 201 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4394, [Vote #550](#), 10/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [10/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4394 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds To Implement Various Biden Administration Executive Orders Relating To Climate Change.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Rosendale, R-Mont., for Roy, R-Texas, amendment no. 60 that would prohibit the use of funds to implement various Biden administration executive orders relating to climate change. The motion failed the House on October 26, 2023 by a vote of 192-222, with 0 voting present and 25 not voting. 0 Democrats and 192 Republicans voted for the motion, while 201 Democrats and 21 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4394, [Vote #556](#), 10/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [10/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4821 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement, Administer, Apply, Enforce Or Carry Out A Section Of Executive Order 14008 Related To Tackling Climate Change Domestically And Internationally.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Fulcher, R-Idaho, amendment no. 89 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to implement, administer, apply, enforce or carry out a section of Executive Order 14008 related to tackling climate change domestically and internationally.” The motion was agreed to by the House on November 2, 2023 by a vote of 212-202, with 0 voting present and 24 not voting. 3 Democrats and 209 Republicans voted for the motion, while 199 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #581](#), 11/2/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/2/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4821 To Prohibit The Use Of Any Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement A Series Of Biden Administration Executive Orders Related To Climate Concerns.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Roy, R-Texas, amendment no. 127 that would prohibit the use of any funds provided by the bill to implement a series of Biden administration executive orders (Executive Order nos. 13990, 14008, 14013, 14030, 14057, 14082 and 14096) related to climate concerns.” The motion was agreed to by the House on November 3, 2023 by a vote of 208-207, with 0 voting present and 24 not voting. 0 Democrats and 208 Republicans voted for the motion, while 201 Democrats and 6 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #595](#), 11/3/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/3/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4664 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Under The Bill To Implement, Administer Or Enforce The Jan. 27, 2021, Executive Order 14008 Related To Addressing The Climate Crisis In The U.S. And Internationally Or Any Other Rule Or Regulation To Implement Such An Order.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Barr, R-Ky., amendment no. 38 that would prohibit the use of funds under the bill to implement, administer or enforce the Jan. 27, 2021, Executive Order 14008 related to addressing the climate crisis in the U.S. and internationally or any other rule or regulation to implement such an order.” The motion was agreed to by the House on November 8, 2023 by a vote of 219-210, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted for the motion, while 208 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4664, [Vote #630](#), 11/8/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/8/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4664 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Under The Bill To Finalize, Implement Or Enforce The 2022 Proposed Rule Of The Defense Department, General Services Administration And NASA, “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Climate-Related Financial Risk.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Tenney, R-N.Y. , amendment no. 101 that would prohibit the use of funds under the bill to finalize, implement or enforce the 2022 proposed rule of the Defense Department, General Services Administration and NASA, “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk.”“ The motion was agreed to by the House on November 9, 2023 by a vote of 220-202, with 0 voting present and 16 not voting. 4 Democrats and 216



Republicans voted for the motion, while 200 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4664, [Vote #642](#), 11/9/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/9/23](#)]

## ***Emissions & Pollution***

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 4557, A Bill To Delay Compliance Dates For The Environmental Protection Agency's 2015 Rule That Set National Emissions Standards For Hazardous Air Pollutants.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for "Passage of the bill that would delay compliance dates for the Environmental Protection Agency's 2015 rule that set national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants for the manufacturing of brick, structural clay products and clay ceramics. The bill would delay compliance dates until completion of judicial reviews in which legal actions were filed within 60 days of the final rule's publication in the Federal Register. The bill also would apply to any final rule that succeeds or changes the 2015 rule. The motion passed the House on March 3, 2016 by a vote of 238-163, with 0 voting present and 32 not voting. 7 Democrats and 231 Republicans voted for the motion, while 163 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4557, [Vote #109](#), 3/3/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/3/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 3797 To Require The Government Accountability Office To Issue A Report On Sulfur Dioxide Emissions.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against "Bera, D-Calif., amendment that would require the Government Accountability Office to issue a report on the emissions of sulfur dioxide and other air pollutants that were a result of the bill. The motion failed the House on March 15, 2016 by a vote of 179-235, with 0 voting present and 19 not voting. 176 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrat and 234 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3797, [Vote #120](#), 3/15/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/15/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 3797 To Prohibit The Bill From Taking Effect Until The Environmental Protection Agency Certified That It Would Not Cause In An Increase Of Emissions Of Air Pollutants That Adversely Affected Public Health.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against "Veasey, D-Texas, amendment that would prohibit the bill from taking effect until the Environmental Protection Agency certifies that it will not cause in an increase of emissions of air pollutants that adversely affect public health. The motion failed the House on March 15, 2016 by a vote of 182-234, with 0 voting present and 17 not voting. 178 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrat and 233 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3797, [Vote #121](#), 3/15/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/15/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Satisfying Energy Needs And Saving The Environment Act With Instructions To Add An Amendment Delaying Implementation Until The EPA Certified That The Bill Would Not Increase Harmful Air Emissions.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against "Adams, D-N.C., motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, with instructions to report back to the House immediately with an amendment that would delay the implementation of the bill until the Environmental Protection Agency has certified that the bill would not result in an increase in air emissions that harm brain development or causes learn disabilities in infants or children, or that increases mercury in sources of drinking water. The motion failed the House on March 15, 2016 by a vote of 173-236, with 0 voting present and 24 not voting. 172 Democrats and 1 Republican voted for the motion, while 1 Democrat and 235 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3797, [Vote #122](#), 3/15/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/15/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 3797, A Bill To Subject An Electric Generating Unit To The Original Emissions Standards As Set In The Environmental Protection Agency's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR).** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for "Passage of the bill that would subject an electric generating unit that get at least 75 percent of its energy from coal mining byproduct to the original emissions standards as set in the Environmental Protection Agency's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), rather than the lowered emissions totals that have been set as the standard for 2017 through 2020. The bill would also not allow for unused emissions to be transferred to other entities, but would allow for the unused emissions to be added to future compliance periods. Additionally, the bill would alter standards under which an electric generating unit could meet the Clean





Air Act's (PL 91-604) Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule through meeting requirements for either sulfur dioxide or hydrogen chloride, but not for both. The motion passed the House on March 15, 2016 by a vote of 231-183, with 0 voting present and 19 not voting. 3 Democrats and 228 Republicans voted for the motion, while 175 Democrats and 8 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3797, [Vote #123](#), 3/15/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/15/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4775 To Remove The Bill's Language To Allow The EPA To Consider "Technological Feasibility" For New Air Quality Standards.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against "Pallone, D-N.J., amendment that would remove a portion of the bill that would allow the EPA to consider "technological feasibility" when establishing new National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The motion failed the House on June 8, 2016 by a vote of 169-242, with 0 voting present and 22 not voting. 167 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 8 Democrats and 234 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4775, [Vote #278](#), 6/8/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/8/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4775 To Require The EPA To Add Hydrogen Sulfide To The List Of Hazardous Air Pollutants.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against "Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would require the EPA to issue a rule that would add hydrogen sulfide to the list of hazardous air pollutants. The motion failed the House on June 8, 2016 by a vote of 160-251, with 0 voting present and 22 not voting. 160 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 14 Democrats and 237 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4775, [Vote #279](#), 6/8/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/8/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove Provisions To Prohibit The EPA From Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Power Plants.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against "Peters, D-Calif., for Pallone, D-N.J., amendment that would remove the bill's provisions that would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from limiting greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 182-244, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 177 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted for the motion, while 7 Democrats and 237 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #431](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Strike Provisions Prohibiting Funds For The EPA To Develop Methane Emissions Guidance Or Rules.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against "Polis, D-Colo., amendment that would remove the bill's provisions prohibiting the use of funds by the Environmental Protection Agency to develop rules or guidelines relating to methane emissions. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 187-240, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 179 Democrats and 8 Republicans voted for the motion, while 5 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #434](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds From Being Used To Implement An EPA Rule To Incentivize State Early Emission Reduction Projects.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for "Ratcliffe, R-Texas, amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to finalize or implement a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule related to the design details of a voluntary program for states to incentivize certain early emission reduction projects. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies." The motion was agreed to by the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 231-197, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 0 Democrats and 231 Republicans voted for the motion, while 185 Democrats and 12 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #457](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 5538, A Bill To Prohibit The EPA From Limiting Greenhouse Gas, Methane, And Air Emissions From Power Plants And The Oil And Gas Industry.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for "Passage of the bill that would provide \$32.1 billion in fiscal 2017 for the Interior Department, the EPA





and related agencies. The bill would provide \$12.1 billion for the Interior Department, \$8 billion for the EPA, \$5.4 billion for the Forest Service, \$1.2 billion for the Bureau of Land Management and \$5.1 billion for the Indian Health Service. The measure would prohibit the EPA from limiting greenhouse gas, methane, and air emissions from power plants and the oil and gas industry. The measure would also block the EPA from completing its “Waters of the United States” rule-making to clarify which bodies of water are subject to regulation under the clean air act. As amended, the measure would prohibit funds from being used to finalize, implement or enforce new regulations on offshore Arctic energy exploration and development. The motion passed the House on July 14, 2016 by a vote of 231-196, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 3 Democrats and 228 Republicans voted for the motion, while 181 Democrats and 15 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #477](#), 7/14/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/14/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against Amendments To H.R. 5982 To Exempt From The Bill’s Provisions And Rules That The Director Of OMB Determined Would Have Benefits Exceeding Their Costs.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Connolly, D-Va., amendments that would exempt from the bill’s provisions rules that the director of the Office of Management and Budget determines would have benefits that exceed their costs. The amendments also would exempt from the bill’s provisions rules that would address effects of climate change. The motion failed the House on November 17, 2016 by a vote of 180-237, with 0 voting present and 17 not voting. 180 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 236 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5982, [Vote #583](#), 11/17/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/17/16](#)]

**2017: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.B. 26 To Require Agencies To Include An Accounting Of Greenhouse Gas Emission Impacts Associated With A Rule In The Report That Would Be Required By The Bill To Be Submitted To Congress.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grijalva, D-Ariz., amendment that would require agencies to include an accounting of greenhouse gas emission impacts associated with a rule in the report that would be required by the bill to be submitted to Congress. The report also would need to include an analysis of the rule’s impacts on low-income and rural communities. If a rule would increase carbon equivalent emissions by 25,000 metric tons annually or possibly increase the risk of certain diseases to low-income or rural communities, then the rule would be considered a “major rule.” The motion failed the House on January 5, 2017 by a vote of 193-230, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 188 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 229 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 26, [Vote #13](#), 1/5/17; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/5/17](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 21 To Specify That The Bill Could Not Be Used To Controvert U.S. Commitments Under The Paris Agreement To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Blunt Rochester, D-Del., amendment no. 71 that would specify that the bill may not be used to controvert U.S. commitments under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The motion failed the House on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 213-218, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 212 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #38](#), 1/26/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/26/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To Repeal Current Law That Required State Governors To Prevent Or Eliminate Air Pollutants Emitted In Their States That The EPA Determined Endangered Public Health Or Welfare In A Foreign Country.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Perry, R-Pa., amendment no. 12 that would repeal current law that requires state governors to prevent or eliminate air pollutants emitted in their states that the EPA determines endanger public health or welfare in a foreign country, if certain conditions are met. The motion failed the House on March 29, 2023 by a vote of 96-336, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 3 Democrats and 93 Republicans voted for the motion, while 207 Democrats and 129 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #173](#), 3/29/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/29/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Resolution To Disapprove Of The January 2023 EPA Rule Imposing More Stringent Emissions Standards On Heavy-Duty Engines And Vehicles.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the joint resolution that would provide for congressional disapproval of the January 2023 EPA rule imposing more stringent emissions standards on heavy-duty engines and vehicles. The rule requires



heavy-duty vehicles, starting in model year 2027, to comply with reduced emissions limits of nitrogen oxides and other pollutants, both in real-world conditions and laboratory-tested scenarios. It would also lengthen the period during the engine's operational life when the reduced emissions standard must be met. According to the EPA, the rule will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from heavy-duty trucks by almost 50 percent by 2045. The EPA rule took effect on March 27, 2023. Under the joint resolution, the rule would have no force or effect. The motion passed the House on May 23, 2023 by a vote of 221-203, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 4 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted for the motion, while 202 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [S.J.Res. 11, [Vote #232](#), 5/23/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/23/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4821 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Finalize, Implement Or Enforce A 2023 Proposed EPA Rule Titled “Reconsideration Of The National Ambient Air Quality Standards For Particulate Matter.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Gosar, R-Ariz., amendment no. 91 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to finalize, implement or enforce a 2023 proposed EPA rule titled “Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter.”” The motion was agreed to by the House on November 2, 2023 by a vote of 212-206, with 0 voting present and 20 not voting. 3 Democrats and 209 Republicans voted for the motion, while 201 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #582](#), 11/2/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/2/23](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted For Recommitting A Bill That Would Repeal Section 134 Of The Clean Air Act, Relating To The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund To The House Energy And Commerce Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Peters, D-Calif., motion to recommit HR 1023 to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The motion failed the House on March 22, 2024 by a vote of 206-211, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 206 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1023, [Vote #103](#), 3/22/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/2024](#); CQ, [3/22/24](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted Against A Bill To Repeal Authorizations For The EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund That Helped Finance Clean Energy And Technology Projects As Well As The Methane Emission Reduction Program That Promotes Reductions In Methane Emissions, Both Of Which Were Authorized And Funded As Part Of The Inflation Reduction Act.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Passage of the bill that would repeal authorizations for the EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund that helps finance clean energy and technology projects as well as the Methane Emission Reduction Program that promotes reductions in methane emissions, both of which were authorized and funded as part of the 2022 climate, health and tax law. It also would rescind any unobligated funds from those programs. The motion passed the House on March 22, 2024 by a vote of 209-204, with 0 voting present and 19 not voting. 1 Democrats and 208 Republicans voted for the motion, while 203 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1023, [Vote #104](#), 3/22/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/2024](#); CQ, [3/22/24](#)]

## ***Environmental Justice***

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4821 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement Executive Order 14096, Relating To Revitalizing U.S. Commitment To Environmental Justice For All.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “McCormick, R-Ga., amendment no. 102 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to implement Executive Order 14037, related to strengthening American leadership in clean cars and trucks; EO 14057, related to catalyzing clean energy industries and jobs through federal sustainability; and EO 14096, relating to revitalizing U.S. commitment to environmental justice for all.” The motion was agreed to by the House on November 2, 2023 by a vote of 217-202, with 0 voting present and 19 not voting. 4 Democrats and 213 Republicans voted for the motion, while 200 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #585](#), 11/2/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/2/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4821 To Bar The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill From Being Used For Environmental Justice Activities.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Roy, R-Texas,



amendment no. 126 that would bar the use of funds provided by the bill from being used for environmental justice activities.” The motion was agreed to by the House on November 3, 2023 by a vote of 212-204, with 0 voting present and 22 not voting. 0 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted for the motion, while 202 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #594](#), 11/3/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/3/23](#)]

## ***EPA***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4775 To Prohibit The Bill From Taking Effect If The EPA Found Negative Impacts To Human Health Or The Environment.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Norton, D-D.C., amendment that would prohibit the bill from taking effect if the EPA finds that it could harm human health or the environment. The motion failed the House on June 8, 2016 by a vote of 171-239, with 0 voting present and 23 not voting. 170 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 5 Democrats and 234 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4775, [Vote #280](#), 6/8/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/8/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Decrease Funding For Science And Technology At The Environmental Protection Agency By \$88.3 Million.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Smith, R-Mo., amendment that would decrease funding for science and technology at the Environmental Protection Agency by \$88.3 million and would increase the amount that the bill would exceed the proposed new budget authority by the same amount. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 208-217, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 0 Democrats and 208 Republicans voted for the motion, while 184 Democrats and 33 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #425](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Decrease Appropriations For The EPA By 17 Percent.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Perry, R-Pa., amendment that would decrease all appropriations under the bill for the Environmental Protection Agency by 17 percent. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 188-239, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 2 Democrats and 186 Republicans voted for the motion, while 183 Democrats and 56 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #456](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4821 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill For The EPA’s Clean School Bus Program.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Nehls, R-Texas, amendment no. 107 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill for the EPA’s Clean School Bus Program. The motion failed the House on November 2, 2023 by a vote of 196-222, with 0 voting present and 20 not voting. 0 Democrats and 196 Republicans voted for the motion, while 204 Democrats and 18 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #587](#), 11/2/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/2/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting A Bill That Would Provide \$37.7 Billion In Discretionary Spending To The Department Of The Interior, The Environmental Protection Agency, And Related Agencies To The House Appropriations Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Leger Fernandez, D-N.M., motion to recommit the bill to the House Appropriations Committee. The motion failed the House on November 3, 2023 by a vote of 201-215, with 0 voting present and 17 not voting. 201 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #596](#), 11/3/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/3/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 4821, A Bill To Provide \$37.7 Billion In Discretionary Spending To The Department Of The Interior, The Environmental Protection Agency, And Related Agencies.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would provide \$37.7 billion in discretionary



spending, including \$25.4 billion subject to the measure’s discretionary cap and \$9.4 billion offset by rescissions. It would provide \$14.6 billion for the Interior Department, including \$3 billion for the National Park Service; \$1.5 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service; \$1.3 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey; and \$1.3 billion for the Bureau of Land Management. It would provide approximately \$11.2 billion for Native American programs in fiscal 2024, including \$2.6 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, \$1.4 billion for the Bureau of Indian Education and \$7.1 billion for the Health and Human Services Department’s Indian Health Service (an IHS total that includes \$5.1 billion in advance appropriations enacted in the fiscal 2023 spending measure). The bill would provide an additional \$5.9 billion in fiscal 2025 advance appropriations for IHS. The bill would provide \$6.2 billion for the EPA, which includes \$2.4 billion for environmental programs and management and \$561 million for science and technology. It would provide \$8 billion for the Forest Service, including \$4.4 billion for wildfire management and response. Between the Forest Service and Interior Department, it would provide \$619 million for wildfire preparedness and \$1.4 billion for fire suppression activities. The bill would also provide \$960 million for the Smithsonian Institution; \$178 million for the National Gallery of Art; and \$373 million combined for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Among its policy provisions, it would prohibit the use of funds to promote “critical race theory”; block a January 2023 EPA and Army Corps of Engineers rule on the definition of “Waters of the United States”; prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver to allow California to issue its own emissions standards for small off-road vehicle engines; require the Interior Department to conduct quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales; and prohibit the use of funds to implement certain regulations under the Endangered Species Act, including protections for the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat. It would rescind \$9.4 billion in funding for the EPA, Interior Department and Council on Environmental Quality provided under the fiscal 2022 budget reconciliation bill (PL 117-169), including \$7.8 billion for renewable energy projects and \$1.4 billion for environmental and climate justice projects. As amended, the bill would bar the use of funds provided by the bill for the American Climate Corps; prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to enforce any COVID-19 mask mandates; bar the use of funds provided by the bill to implement, administer, apply, enforce or carry out any plastic straw prohibitions; prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill for the cancellation or suspension of oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to reduce the number of oil and gas leases issued by the Interior Department, among other provisions. The motion passed the House on November 3, 2023 by a vote of 213-203, with 0 voting present and 17 not voting. 1 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted for the motion, while 200 Democrats and 3 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4821, [Vote #597](#), 11/3/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/3/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 1 To Require The EPA To Submit A Report To Congress On EPA Regulations During The 15-Year Period Prior To Enactment That Increased Regulatory Burdens Or Decreased Energy Output For Energy Producers.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Jackson, R-Texas, amendment no. 7 that would require the EPA, in consultation with the Energy Department and within 120 days of enactment, to submit a report to Congress on EPA regulations during the 15-year period prior to enactment that reduced energy independence and security, increased regulatory burdens or decreased energy output for energy producers, or increased energy costs for consumers in the United States.” The motion was agreed to by the House on March 29, 2023 by a vote of 245-189, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 21 Democrats and 224 Republicans voted for the motion, while 189 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #169](#), 3/29/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/29/23](#)]

## **ESG**

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Resolution To Disapprove Of The December 2022 Labor Department Rule Modifying Standards Under The Employee Retirement Income Security Act To Allow Retirement Plan Fiduciaries To Consider Environmental, Social And Governance Factors In Making Investment Decisions And Exercising Shareholder Rights.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the joint resolution that would provide for congressional disapproval of the December 2022 Labor Department rule modifying standards under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act to allow retirement plan fiduciaries to consider environmental, social and governance factors in making investment decisions and exercising shareholder





rights, including when voting on shareholder resolutions and board nominations. The December rule took effect on Jan. 30, 2023, and reversed a Trump-era rule stating that fiduciaries may only select investments based on “pecuniary factors.” Under the joint resolution, the December rule would have no force or effect. The motion passed the House on February 28, 2023 by a vote of 216-204, with 0 voting present and 13 not voting. 1 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted for the motion, while 204 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.J.Res. 30, [Vote #124](#), 2/28/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [2/28/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted For A Resolution To Disapprove, Over President Biden’s Veto, Of The December 2022 Labor Department Rule Modifying Standards Under The Employee Retirement Income Security Act To Allow Retirement Plan Fiduciaries To Consider Environmental, Social And Governance Factors.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage, over President Joe Biden’s March 20, 2023 veto, of the joint resolution that would provide for congressional disapproval of the December 2022 Labor Department rule modifying standards under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act to allow retirement plan fiduciaries to consider environmental, social and governance factors in making investment decisions and exercising shareholder rights, including when voting on shareholder resolutions and board nominations. The December rule took effect on Jan. 30, 2023, and reversed a Trump-era rule stating that fiduciaries may only select investments based on “pecuniary factors.” Under the joint resolution, the December rule would have no force or effect. The motion failed the House on March 23, 2023 by a vote of 219-200, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 1 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted for the motion, while 200 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.J.Res. 30, [Vote #149](#), 3/23/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/23/23](#)]

## **Forests**

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove Provisions To Bar Environmental Assessments For Forest Management.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Dingell, D-Mich., amendment that would remove the bill’s provisions that would bar environmental assessments for forest management activities related to insect infestations, increasing water yields or other purposes. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 170-256, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 169 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 15 Democrats and 241 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #428](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

## **Ozone**

**2016: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Ozone Standards Implementation Act Of 2016 With Instructions To Add An Amendment To Strike The Bill’s Delay Of EPA Ozone Standards If The EPA Administrator Found That The Delay Would Cause Serious Health Issues.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Rush, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would state that if the EPA administrator finds that the bill’s proposal to delay implementation of the EPA’s 2015 air quality standards for ozone could increase the incidence of cardiovascular or respiratory issues or other “serious harms to human health,” then the bill’s provisions that would delay implementation of standards would no longer apply. The motion failed the House on June 8, 2016 by a vote of 173-239, with 0 voting present and 21 not voting. 171 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4775, [Vote #281](#), 6/8/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/8/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 4775, A Bill To Delay Implementation Of The EPA’s 2015 Air Quality Ozone Standards Until 2025.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would delay implementation of the EPA’s 2015 air quality standards for ozone from 2017 until 2025. The measure also would modify the way the agency develops its National Ambient Air Quality Standards, such as by requiring reviews of the standards every ten years instead of every five years. As amended, no additional funds would be authorized to implement the bill. The motion passed the House on June 8, 2016 by a vote of 234-177, with 0 voting present and





22 not voting. 7 Democrats and 227 Republicans voted for the motion, while 167 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4775, [Vote #282](#), 6/8/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/8/16](#)]

## **Vehicles**

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Prohibit The EPA From Issuing A Waiver Allowing States To Enact Vehicle Emissions Requirements If They Limited The Sale Or Use Of Motor Vehicles With Internal Combustion Engines.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would prohibit the EPA from issuing a waiver allowing states to enact vehicle emissions requirements if they limit the sale or use of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines. The motion passed the House on September 14, 2023 by a vote of 222-190, with 0 voting present and 22 not voting. 8 Democrats and 214 Republicans voted for the motion, while 190 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1435, [Vote #391](#), 9/14/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/14/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Preserving Choice In Vehicle Purchases Act To The Energy And Commerce Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Levin, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the Energy and Commerce Committee. The motion failed the House on September 14, 2023 by a vote of 193-212, with 0 voting present and 28 not voting. 193 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1435, [Vote #390](#), 9/14/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/14/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4820 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Carry Out The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Hageman, R-Wyo., amendment no. 57 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to carry out the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program. The motion failed the House on November 7, 2023 by a vote of 191-238, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 1 Democrats and 190 Republicans voted for the motion, while 211 Democrats and 27 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #614](#), 11/7/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Prohibit The EPA From Enforcing A May 2023 Proposed Rule That Would Establish New Emissions Standards For Light- And Medium-Duty Vehicles.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would prohibit the EPA from finalizing, implementing or enforcing a May 2023 proposed rule that would establish new emissions standards for light- and medium-duty vehicles beginning in model year 2027. It would also amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the EPA from issuing any motor vehicle emission and pollution standards, effective on or after Jan. 1, 2021, that either mandate the use of a specific technology, or that would have the effect of limiting the availability of new motor vehicles based on their engine type. It would require the EPA, within 24 months of the bill’s enactment, to modify any existing motor vehicle emission standards in order to comply with the bill’s provisions. The motion passed the House on December 6, 2023 by a vote of 221-197, with 0 voting present and 15 not voting. 5 Democrats and 215 Republicans voted for the motion, while 196 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4468, [Vote #703](#), 12/6/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [12/6/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Choice In Automobile Retail Sales Act To The House Energy And Commerce Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Stevens, D-Mich., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The motion failed the House on December 6, 2023 by a vote of 201-214, with 0 voting present and 18 not voting. 200 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 213 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4468, [Vote #702](#), 12/6/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [12/6/23](#)]

## **Water**



**2016: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Sportsmen’s Heritage And Recreational Enhancement Act Of 2015 With Instructions To Add An Amendment To Require Manufacturers Of Chemicals That Could Contaminate Drinking Water To Submit Data On The Product’s Risks To Human Health To Federal Agencies.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Lawrence, D-Mich., motion to recommit the bill to the House Natural Resources Committee with instructions to report it back immediately with an amendment that would require any manufacturer of items that contain chemicals that could contaminate public drinking water to submit data to relevant state and federal agencies on the product’s risks to human health and the environment, including studies on neurotoxicity and cancer-causing effects. Exposing the public to such items without these studies would be considered prohibited under a federal toxic substances law. The motion failed the House on February 26, 2016 by a vote of 165-238, with 0 voting present and 30 not voting. 165 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 234 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 2406, [Vote #100](#), 2/26/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [2/26/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 897, A Bill To Temporarily Modify The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, And Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) To Prohibit The EPA Or A State Government From Requiring A Permit For The Use Of Registered Pesticides Near Navigable Waters.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Gibbs, R-Ohio, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would temporarily modify the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to prohibit the EPA or a state government from requiring a permit for the use of registered pesticides near navigable waters. The measure also would modify the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to prohibit the EPA and states from requiring permits for the point source use of a pesticide registered under FIFRA, with certain exceptions. The temporary prohibitions would end on Sept. 30, 2018. The motion failed the House on May 17, 2016 by a vote of 262-159, with 0 voting present and 12 not voting. 23 Democrats and 239 Republicans voted for the motion, while 159 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 897, [Vote #199](#), 5/17/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/17/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4768 To Exempt Rules From The EPA Pertaining To Lead Or Copper In Drinking Water From The Bill’s Requirements.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Johnson, D-Ga., for Conyers, D-Mich., amendment that would exempt rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency pertaining to regulation of lead or copper in drinking water from the bill’s requirements. The bill would end the requirement that federal courts defer to an agency’s interpretation of the underlying law or rule when considering challenges to agency rules and regulations. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 194-223, with 0 voting present and 16 not voting. 175 Democrats and 19 Republicans voted for the motion, while 2 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4768, [Vote #411](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Remove A Prohibition On Finalizing Interior Department Rules For A “Stream Buffer Zone” Between Bodies Of Water And Mining Operations.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Beyer, D-Va., amendment that would remove the bill’s prohibition on finalizing or implementing proposed Interior Department rules that would require a “stream buffer zone” between a mining operation and a surface body of water for the purposes of preventing river contamination. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 190-235, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 180 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 231 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #421](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Direct The EPA To Implement A Long-Term Monitoring Program For Water Quality Of The Animas And San Juan Rivers In Response To The Gold King Mine Spill.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Lujan, D-N.M., amendment that would decrease funding to state and tribal assistance grants by \$6 million and increase funding by the same amount for the purpose of directing the Environmental Protection Agency to implement a long-term monitoring program for water quality of the Animas and San Juan Rivers in response to the Gold King Mine spill. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies.”



The motion was agreed to by the House on July 12, 2016 by a vote of 219-207, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 184 Democrats and 35 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 207 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #427](#), 7/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/12/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 897, A Bill To Prohibit The EPA Or State Government From Requiring Permits For Registered Pesticide Use Near Waters.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would temporarily modify the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to prohibit the EPA or a state government from requiring a permit for the use of registered pesticides near navigable waters. The measure also would modify the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to prohibit the EPA and states from requiring permits for the point source use of a pesticide registered under FIFRA, with certain exceptions. The temporary prohibitions would end on Sept. 30, 2018. The motion passed the House on May 24, 2016 by a vote of 258-156, with 0 voting present and 19 not voting. 23 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted for the motion, while 156 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 897, [Vote #237](#), 5/24/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/24/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against Amendments To H.R. 5538 To Remove Provisions Permitting State Water Levels To Replace Federal Water Levels.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “McNerney, D-Calif., amendments no. 35 through 40, en bloc, that would remove the bill’s provisions prescribing pumping rates for California state water projects, permitting state water levels to replace certain federal levels, repealing the 2006 plan to restore salmon populations in the San Joaquin River, barring water purchases to supplement instream flow within a river basin that has suffered a drought within the last two years, and addressing water storage at New Melones Reservoir. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 181-248, with 0 voting present and 4 not voting. 181 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 4 Democrats and 244 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #436](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds To Implement The Obama Administration’s National Ocean Policy.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Byrne, R-Ala., amendment that would prohibit funds to implement, administer or enforce the Obama administration’s National Ocean Policy. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 237-189, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 1 Democrats and 236 Republicans voted for the motion, while 183 Democrats and 6 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #445](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit The EPA From Taking “Backstop” Actions Against Violators Of The EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Goodlatte, R-Va., amendment that would prohibit the EPA from using any funds to take EPA-described “backstop” actions against any of the six states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in the event that a state does not meet the goals mandated by the EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and other agencies.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 231-197, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 4 Democrats and 227 Republicans voted for the motion, while 181 Democrats and 16 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #446](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5538 To Prohibit Funds In The Act To Implement Provisions That Would Prevent The EPA From Developing Or Enforcing Regulations Related To Stream Buffers.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Beyer, D-Va., amendment that would prohibit funds made available by this act from being used to implement or enforce provisions that would prevent the EPA from developing or enforcing regulations related to stream buffers, fill material, or the “Waters of the United States” rule. The bill would provide \$32.1 billion for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the



Forest Service and other agencies. The motion failed the House on July 14, 2016 by a vote of 178-246, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 174 Democrats and 4 Republicans voted for the motion, while 9 Democrats and 237 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5538, [Vote #468](#), 7/14/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/14/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Resolution Disapproving Of The January 2023 Army Corps Of Engineers And EPA Rule Expanding Federal Jurisdiction Over Bodies Of Water Under The Clean Water Act, Effectively Restoring Jurisdiction That Was In Place Prior To A 2015 Obama Administration Rule.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the joint resolution that would provide for congressional disapproval of the January 2023 Army Corps of Engineers and EPA rule expanding federal jurisdiction over bodies of water under the Clean Water Act. It would effectively restore jurisdiction that was in place prior to a 2015 Obama administration rule. Under the measure, the January rule would have no force or effect, instead of taking effect on March 20, 2023. The motion passed the House on March 9, 2023 by a vote of 227-198, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 9 Democrats and 218 Republicans voted for the motion, while 197 Democrats and 1 Republican voted against the motion. [H.J.Res. 27, [Vote #142](#), 3/9/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/9/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted For A Resolution To Provide For Congressional Disapproval Of The January 2023 Army Corps Of Engineers And EPA Rule Expanding Federal Jurisdiction Over Bodies Of Water Under The Clean Water Act, Over A Veto By President Joe Biden.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage, over President Biden’s April 6, 2023, veto of the joint resolution that would provide for congressional disapproval of the January 2023 Army Corps of Engineers and EPA rule expanding federal jurisdiction over bodies of water under the Clean Water Act. The joint resolution would effectively restore jurisdiction that was in place prior to a 2015 Obama administration rule. Under the measure, the January rule, which took effect on March 20, 2023, would have no force or effect. The motion failed the House on April 18, 2023 by a vote of 227-196, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 10 Democrats and 217 Republicans voted for the motion, while 195 Democrats and 1 Republican voted against the motion. [H.J.Res. 27, [Vote #187](#), 4/18/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [4/18/23](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted Against A Bill To Modify The Process And Requirements For Issuing Permits Under The Clean Water Act, Including Permits Issued By EPA For The Discharge Of Pollutants And Those Issued By The Army Corps Of Engineers For The Discharge Of Dredge And Fill Materials And For Building Infrastructure Such As Oil And Gas Pipelines Over Waterways.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Passage of the bill (HR 7023), as amended, that would modify the process and requirements for issuing permits under the Clean Water Act, including permits issued by EPA for the discharge of pollutants and those issued by the Army Corps of Engineers for the discharge of dredge and fill materials and for building infrastructure such as oil and gas pipelines over waterways. It would provide greater liability protections for permit holders acting in good faith from enforcement actions and third-party lawsuits, codify certain requirements and practices for general permits and limit the ability of executive agencies or federal courts to revoke or block permits that have been issued. HR 7023 is the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act. The motion failed the House on March 21, 2024 by a vote of 99-323, with 0 voting present and 16 not voting. 0 Democrats and 99 Republicans voted for the motion, while 208 Democrats and 115 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 7023, [Vote #99](#), 3/21/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/2024](#); CQ, [3/21/24](#)]

## Foreign Policy

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### *China*

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To Prohibit The Chinese Communist Party From Acquiring Any Interest With Respect To U.S. Farmland Or Any Lands Used For Domestic Renewable Energy Production.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Westerman, R-Ark., for Feenstra, R-Iowa, amendment no. 20 that would add language to prohibit the Chinese Communist Party from acquiring any interest with respect to U.S. farmland or any lands used for domestic renewable energy production.” The motion was agreed to by the House on





March 30, 2023 by a vote of 407-26, with 0 voting present and 7 not voting. 184 Democrats and 223 Republicans voted for the motion, while 26 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #174](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 1 To Prohibit Any Entity Owned By Or Subject To The Jurisdiction Of The Chinese Government From Acquiring Any Interest With Respect To Lands Leased For Oil Or Gas Under Existing Mineral Leasing Law.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Ogles, R-Tenn., amendment no. 31 that would prohibit any entity owned by or subject to the jurisdiction of the Chinese government from acquiring any interest with respect to lands leased for oil or gas under existing mineral leasing law, or from acquiring any claims under existing mining claims law.” The motion was agreed to by the House on March 30, 2023 by a vote of 405-24, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 182 Democrats and 223 Republicans voted for the motion, while 24 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1, [Vote #177](#), 3/30/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [3/30/23](#)]

## Health Care

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### *Abortion*

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5485 To Strike Language Prohibiting Funds From Being Used For Abortion Services.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grayson, D-Fla., amendment that would strike a section of the bill that would prohibit funds from being used to pay for an abortion or administrative expenses in connection with any health plan under the federal employees health benefits program that provides benefits or coverage for abortions. The motion failed the House on July 6, 2016 by a vote of 177-245, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 176 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted for the motion, while 7 Democrats and 238 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5485, [Vote #364](#), 7/6/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/6/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 5485 To Prohibit Funding To Implement D.C.’s Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Palmer, R-Ala., amendment that would prohibit funds from being used to implement the District of Columbia’s Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act.” The motion was agreed to by the House on July 7, 2016 by a vote of 223-192, with 0 voting present and 18 not voting. 2 Democrats and 221 Republicans voted for the motion, while 178 Democrats and 14 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5485, [Vote #390](#), 7/7/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/7/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For S. 304, A Bill To Prohibit Federal, State, And Local Governments Receiving Federal Financial Assistance From Discriminating Against Health Care Providers That Did Not Provide Abortion Care.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would prohibit federal, state, and local governments that receive federal financial assistance from discriminating against a health care provider because the provider does not provide or sponsor abortion coverage, and would provide a complaint process and civil actions for violations through the Health and Human Services and Justice departments. The motion passed the House on July 13, 2016 by a vote of 245-182, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 3 Democrats and 242 Republicans voted for the motion, while 181 Democrats and 1 Republicans voted against the motion. [S. 304, [Vote #443](#), 7/13/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/13/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 277 To Expand The Bill’s Definition Of A “Major Rule” To Include Any Rule Likely To Increase Access To Abortion Services Or Abortion-Related Travel.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Good, R-Va., amendment no. 9 that would expand the bill’s definition of a “major rule” to include any rule likely to increase access to abortion services or abortion-related travel. The motion failed the House on June 14, 2023 by a vote of 211-223, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 0 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted for the motion, while 213 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 277, [Vote #258](#), 6/14/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/14/23](#)]



**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](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Bill That Would Require Medical Professionals To Provide Medical Care For Children Who Were Born Alive During An Attempted Abortion Procedure.** 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](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act To The House Judiciary Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “DeGette, D-Colo., motion to recommit the bill that would require medical professionals to provide medical care for children who are born alive during an attempted abortion procedure to the House Judiciary Committee. The motion failed the House on January 11, 2023 by a vote of 212-219, with 0 voting present and 3 not voting. 212 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 26, [Vote #28](#), 1/11/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Resolution That Would State That Congress Condemned Attacks Of Vandalism, Violence And Destruction Against Pro-Life Facilities, Groups And Churches And Recognized “The Sanctity Of Life And The Important Role That [Such Entities] Play In Supporting Pregnant Women, Infants And Families.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Agreement to the concurrent resolution that would state that Congress condemns attacks of vandalism, violence and destruction against pro-life facilities, groups and churches and recognizes “the sanctity of life and the important role that [such entities] play in supporting pregnant women, infants and families.” It would also call on the Biden administration to use all appropriate law enforcement authorities to protect the rights of such entities. The motion passed the House on January 11, 2023 by a vote of 222-209, with 0 voting present and 3 not voting. 3 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted for the motion, while 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.Con.Res. 3, [Vote #30](#), 1/11/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Prohibit Limitations On The Use Of Federal Temporary Assistance For Needy Families Funding For Pregnancy Centers.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would prohibit limitations on the use of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding for pregnancy centers. The bill would prevent the Health and Human Services secretary from finalizing, implementing or enforcing policies that discriminate against pregnancy centers seeking federal funding. It also would define a pregnancy center as any organization, such as a pregnancy resource center, pregnancy help center or organization, or pregnancy medical center that supports protecting the life of the mother and the unborn child, and offers resources and services to mothers, fathers and families including counseling, education, pregnancy testing, diapers, baby clothing or material supports. The motion passed the House on January 18, 2024 by a vote of 214-208, with 0 voting present and 11 not voting. 0 Democrats and 213 Republicans voted for the motion, while 207 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 6918, [Vote #17](#), 1/18/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/18/24](#)]

**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Require Each Higher Education Institution Participating In A Federal Education Program To Inform Prospective And Enrolled Students About Rights And Resources For Pregnant Students, Including Providing Information Claiming That Women Who Had Abortions Were At Risk Of Mental Health Issues.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would require each higher education institution participating in a federal education program to inform prospective and enrolled students about rights and resources for pregnant students and those who could become pregnant while enrolled at such an institution to carry a baby to term. It would specify that such information would include a list of relevant campus and community resources and how to file a complaint with the Education Department if a student believes there has been a Title IX violation due to the student's pregnancy. It would state that scientific evidence



and personal testimonies show that women who have abortions can be at risk of mental health issues. It would specify that nothing in the bill could be construed to authorize the DOE to require disseminating additional information or establishing additional rights beyond the specified information and rights. The motion passed the House on January 18, 2024 by a vote of 212-207, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 0 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted for the motion, while 206 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 6914, [Vote #19](#), 1/18/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/18/24](#)]

- **2024: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Pregnant Students’ Rights Act To The House Education And The Workforce Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Underwood, D-Ill., motion to recommit the bill to the House Education and the Workforce Committee. The motion failed the House on January 18, 2024 by a vote of 207-213, with 0 voting present and 13 not voting. 206 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 6914, [Vote #18](#), 1/18/24; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/18/24](#)]

## ***Affordable Care Act***

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 1270, A Bill To Repeal A Rule Under The ACA That Made Over-The-Counter Medications Ineligible For HSA Coverage.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that, as amended, would modify rules related to health savings accounts (HSAs) by doubling the maximum contribution limit, allowing couples to divide their combined catch-up contributions among either of their HSAs, creating a special rule for certain medical expenses incurred before the establishment of an HSA, and repealing a rule under the 2010 health care law that made over-the-counter medications ineligible for coverage under HSAs. The motion passed the House on July 6, 2016 by a vote of 243-164, with 0 voting present and 26 not voting. 10 Democrats and 233 Republicans voted for the motion, while 164 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 1270, [Vote #351](#), 7/6/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [7/6/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 954, A Bill To Temporarily Exempt Individuals Who Lost Health Care Coverage By The Closure Of A Consumer Operated And Oriented Plan From Penalties Set By The 2010 Health Care Law.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would temporarily exempt (through the end of a given year) individuals whose health care coverage is terminated by the closure of a Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan from penalties set by the 2010 health care law (PL 111-148, PL 111-152). The bill’s exemption would apply retroactively to any cancellation that occurred after Dec. 31, 2013, and would also apply to any future cancellations. The motion passed the House on September 27, 2016 by a vote of 258-165, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 16 Democrats and 242 Republicans voted for the motion, while 165 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 954, [Vote #563](#), 9/27/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/27/16](#)]

**2017: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Midnight Rules Relief Act Of 2017 With Instructions To Add An Amendment To Exempt Rules From The Bill That Prohibited Health Insurance Companies From Discriminating Based On Gender Or Preexisting Conditions And Prohibit Higher Premiums Or Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Seniors On Medicare Part D.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Castor, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would add an exemption to the bill for rules that prohibit health insurance companies from discriminating against individuals based on gender or preexisting conditions. The amendment also would exempt from the measure rules that prohibit higher premiums or out-of-pocket costs for seniors for medication under the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. The motion failed the House on January 4, 2017 by a vote of 183-236, with 0 voting present and 14 not voting. 183 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrat and 235 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 21, [Vote #7](#), 1/4/17; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/4/17](#)]

**2017: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Regulations From The Executive In Need Of Scrutiny Act Of 2017 With Instructions To Add An Exemption To The Bill For Any Rule That Barred Health Insurance**



**Issuers From Eliminating Health Coverage For Dependents Younger Than 26 Years Old.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Murphy, D-Fla., motion to recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment that would exempt from the bill any rule prohibiting an insurance issuer from eliminating health coverage for dependents younger than 26 years old. The motion failed the House on January 5, 2017 by a vote of 190-235, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 190 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 235 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 26, [Vote #22](#), 1/5/17; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/5/17](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 3799 To Express The Sense Of Congress That The “Future Of Healthcare Lies In Healthcare Freedom, Not In Socialized Medicine” And That Expanding Direct Access To Health Care Should Be Prioritized Over Expanding Access To Coverage.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Roy, R-Texas, amendment no. 3 that would express the sense of Congress that the “future of healthcare lies in healthcare freedom, not in socialized medicine” and that expanding direct access to health care should be prioritized over expanding access to coverage.” The motion was agreed to by the House on June 21, 2023 by a vote of 228-206, with 0 voting present and 6 not voting. 6 Democrats and 222 Republicans voted for the motion, while 206 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3799, [Vote #280](#), 6/21/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/21/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For H.R. 3799, A Bill To Create Additional Flexibilities For Employers Providing Health Insurance, Including Allowing Groups Of Employers To Establish And Maintain Group Health Plans For Employees And Declaring That Such Plans Were Not Illegal Under Existing Law.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would create additional flexibilities for employers providing health insurance. The bill would allow groups of employers to establish and maintain group health plans for employees. It would require such groups to provide coverage to at least 51 employees and to have been in existence for at least two years prior to establishing the health plan. It would allow self-employed individuals to establish a group for the purpose of maintaining a group health plan. The bill would also allow employer-financed health reimbursement arrangements (HRA) to be used by employees to purchase insurance plans on state exchanges. It would also deem such HRAs compliant with requirements under current law for employers to provide health insurance coverage. To be eligible, it would require employers to offer the same HRA plan to all employees of a certain class, as defined by the bill, including full- and part-time employees, employees under the same collective bargaining agreement, and non-resident alien employees. It would also require employers to give eligible employees 90 days’ written notice prior to the beginning of the plan year of their rights and obligations. Among other provisions, the bill would rescind \$245 million in fiscal 2024 from the Health and Human Services Department’s Prevention and Public Health Fund, specify that stop-loss policies obtained by a self-insured group health plan or plan sponsor do not qualify as health insurance coverage under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, and require the Treasury Department, within one year of enactment, to notify employers of the availability of tax-advantaged flexible health insurance benefits, with an initial focus on small businesses. HR 3799 also contains the text of the Small Business Flexibility Act (HR 3798), the Association Health Plans Act (HR 2868) and the Self-Insurance Protection Act (HR 2813). The motion passed the House on June 21, 2023 by a vote of 220-209, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 0 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted for the motion, while 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3799, [Vote #282](#), 6/21/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/21/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting A Bill That Would Create Additional Flexibilities For Employers Providing Health Insurance, Including Allowing Groups Of Employers To Establish And Maintain Group Health Plans For Employees.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Doggett, D-Texas, motion to recommit the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee. The motion failed the House on June 21, 2023 by a vote of 209-220, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting. 209 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3799, [Vote #281](#), 6/21/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [6/21/23](#)]





## ***Opioids***

**2016: Zinke Voted For H.R. 5052, A Bill To Require The Justice Department To Evaluate, Within Five Years Of The Bill's Enactment, The Effectiveness Of A Proposed Grant Program For Services Related To Opioid Abuse.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Goodlatte, R-Va., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the Justice Department to evaluate, within five years of the bill’s enactment, the effectiveness of a proposed grant program for services related to opioid abuse that would be created by a different bill. It also would require the Health and Human Services Department to evaluate its grant programs that target issues related to opioid abuse, and would reduce, from \$20 million to \$16 million, the existing authorization for fiscal 2022 for the Justice Department’s emergency federal law enforcement assistance grants program. The motion passed the House on May 10, 2016 by a vote of 410-1, with 0 voting present and 22 not voting. 173 Democrats and 237 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5052, [Vote #181](#), 5/10/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/10/16](#)]

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 5046 To Allow Justice Department Grants To State And Local Governments For Services Related To Opioid Abuse To Ensure The Security Of Opioids In Medical Facilities.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Lynch, D-Mass., amendment that would allow the Justice Department grants to state and local governments for services related to opioid abuse that would be authorized by the bill to be used for programs to ensure the security of opioids in medical facilities. The motion failed the House on May 12, 2016 by a vote of 190-225, with 0 voting present and 18 not voting. 177 Democrats and 13 Republicans voted for the motion, while 3 Democrats and 222 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 5046, [Vote #186](#), 5/12/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [5/12/16](#)]

## ***Seniors***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 3438 To Exempt Rules That Reduced Health Care Costs For People Over 65 From The Bill's Review.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Cicilline, D-R.I., amendment that would exempt rules related to the reduction of the cost of health care for people over the age of 65 from the bill’s requirement that federal rules that would have an economic impact of \$1 billion or more per year have implementation postponed until all related legal challenges would be completed. The motion failed the House on September 21, 2016 by a vote of 189-232, with 0 voting present and 10 not voting. 181 Democrats and 8 Republicans voted for the motion, while 1 Democrats and 231 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 3438, [Vote #532](#), 9/21/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/21/16](#)]

## ***Tobacco***

**2016: Zinke Voted Against H.R. 670, A Bill To Extend Medicaid Coverage For Tobacco Cessation Services For Mothers Through Their First Year Postpartum.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Guthrie, R-Ky., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would allow disabled individuals to set up their own special needs trusts for the purposes of Medicaid eligibility, and would extend Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation services to mothers through the first year following the birth of their child. The measure would eliminate federal Medicaid matching funds for prescription drugs used for cosmetic or hair growth purposes. The motion passed the House on September 20, 2016 by a vote of 383-22, with 0 voting present and 26 not voting. 171 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 22 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 670, [Vote #521](#), 9/20/16; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/20/16](#)]

## ***Vaccination***

**2023: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Prohibit The Health And Human Services Department From Implementing Or Enforcing The November 2021 Rule Requiring Vaccinations For Health Care Providers In Medicare-And Medicaid-Certified Facilities, As Well As Prohibit The Department From Promulgating Any “Substantially Similar” Rule.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Passage of the bill that would





prohibit the Health and Human Services Department from implementing or enforcing the November 2021 rule requiring vaccinations for health care providers in Medicare- and Medicaid-certified facilities. It would also prohibit the department from promulgating any “substantially similar” rule. The motion passed the House on January 31, 2023 by a vote of 227-203, with 0 voting present and 4 not voting, 7 Democrats and 220 Republicans voted for the motion, while 203 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 497, [Vote #98](#), 1/31/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/31/23](#)]

- **2023: Zinke Voted Against Recommitting The Freedom For Health Care Workers Act To The House Energy And Commerce Committee.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Jacobs, D-Calif., motion to recommit the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The motion failed the House on January 31, 2023 by a vote of 210-219, with 0 voting present and 5 not voting, 210 Democrats and 0 Republicans voted for the motion, while 0 Democrats and 219 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 497, [Vote #97](#), 1/31/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [1/31/23](#)]

## Housing

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### *Equity*

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4820 To Prohibit The Use Of Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement The Sept. 21, 2016, Department Of Housing And Urban Development Rule, “Equal Access In Accordance With An Individual’s Gender Identity In Community Planning And Development Programs.”** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Norman, R-S.C., amendment no. 66 that would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to implement the Sept. 21, 2016, Department of Housing and Urban Development rule, “Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual’s Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs.” The motion failed the House on November 7, 2023 by a vote of 212-217, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting, 0 Democrats and 212 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #619](#), 11/7/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

- **The Rule Ensured That The Housing And Urban Development Department Housing Programs Accommodated Transgender And Gender Non-Conforming Individuals.** “Through this final rule, HUD ensures equal access for individuals in accordance with their gender identity in programs and shelter funded under programs administered by HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD). This rule builds upon HUD’s February 2012 final rule entitled ‘Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity’ (2012 Equal Access Rule), which aimed to ensure that HUD’s housing programs would be open to all eligible individuals and families regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. The 2012 Equal Access Rule, however, did not address how transgender and gender non-conforming individuals should be accommodated in temporary, emergency shelters, and other buildings and facilities used for shelter, that have physical limitations or configurations that require and that are permitted to have shared sleeping quarters or shared bathing facilities.” [Federal Register, [9/21/16](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted For An Amendment To H.R. 4820 To Bar Funds Provided By The Bill To Implement, Administer Or Enforce The Housing And Urban Development Department’s Equity Action Plan.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted for “Self, R-Texas, amendment no. 74 that would bar funds provided by the bill to implement, administer or enforce the Housing and Urban Development Department’s equity action plan. The motion failed the House on November 7, 2023 by a vote of 211-219, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting, 0 Democrats and 211 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 7 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #621](#), 11/7/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

### *Affordable Housing*



**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4368 To Cut \$1.61 Billion In Funding For The Rural Housing Service Rental Assistance Program And Transfer The Savings To The Spending Reduction Account.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Brecheen, R-Okla., amendment no. 43 that would reduce by \$1.61 billion funding for the Rural Housing Service Rental Assistance Program and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account. The motion failed the House on September 27, 2023 by a vote of 89-341, with 0 voting present and 9 not voting. 0 Democrats and 89 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 129 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4368, [Vote #412](#), 9/27/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [9/27/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To H.R. 4820 To Decrease By \$1.65 Billion Funding For The Housing And Urban Development Department Community Development Block Grant Program.** According to the House Clerk, Zinke voted against “Grothman, R-Wis., amendment no. 37 that would decrease by \$1.65 billion funding for the Housing and Urban Development Department Community Development Block Grant Program. The motion failed the House on November 7, 2023 by a vote of 106-324, with 0 voting present and 8 not voting. 0 Democrats and 106 Republicans voted for the motion, while 212 Democrats and 112 Republicans voted against the motion. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #611](#), 11/7/23; Congress.gov, accessed [7/11/24](#); CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

**Zinke Voted For An Amendment To Decrease Funding For The Department Of Housing And Urban Development Office Of Fair Housing And Equal Opportunity By \$25.2 Million.** In November 2023, Zinke voted for: “Brecheen, R-Okla., Brecheen, R-Okla., amendment no. 30 that would decrease by \$25.2 million funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 174-252. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #607](#), 11/7/23; CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

**Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To Promote Removing Barriers To Affordable Housing Production And Preservation.** In November 2023, Zinke voted against: “Blunt Rochester, D-Del., that would increase by \$100 million, and decrease by the same amount, funding for the Housing and Urban Development Department's Community Development Fund, intended to promote identifying and removing barriers to affordable housing production and preservation.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 238-185. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #610](#), 11/7/23; CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

**Zinke Voted Against An Amendment To Decrease Funding For The Housing Opportunities For Persons With AIDS Program By \$505 Million.** In November 2023, Zinke voted against: “Davidson, R-Ohio, amendment no. 34 that would decrease by \$505 million funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 144-282. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #609](#), 11/7/23; CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

## ***Salaries***

**Zinke Voted For An Amendment To Reduce The Assistant Secretary For Housing And The Federal Housing Commissioner’s Salary To \$1.** In November 2023, Zinke voted for: “Norman, R-S.C., amendment no. 64 that would reduce Assistant Secretary for Housing and the Federal Housing Commissioner Julia Gordon’s salary to \$1.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 155-272. [H.R. 4820, [Vote #618](#), 11/7/23; CQ, [11/7/23](#)]

### Biography

### Career

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#### *Commentary*

**July 2017: Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership President Whit Fosburgh Criticized Zinke's Performance As Interior Secretary As "A Disappointment."** The New York Times reported, "To conservationists, the act is getting old. 'Zinke has been a disappointment,' said Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, which supported his nomination. 'His first meetings were with the sportsmen's community, and we were encouraged that he would be great — or at least someone we could work with. Since that time, it's been nothing but rolling back conservation.' The oil and gas lobby says it is delighted. 'All these guys have been in Interior before and they know a hell of a lot,' said Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist and adviser to the Trump transition. 'They're getting the band back together, and they're going back to the Bush administration.'" [New York Times, 7/25/17]

- **The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Had Supported Zinke's Nomination For Interior Secretary.** The New York Times reported, "To conservationists, the act is getting old. 'Zinke has been a disappointment,' said Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, which supported his nomination. 'His first meetings were with the sportsmen's community, and we were encouraged that he would be great — or at least someone we could work with. Since that time, it's been nothing but rolling back conservation.' The oil and gas lobby says it is delighted. 'All these guys have been in Interior before and they know a hell of a lot,' said Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist and adviser to the Trump transition. 'They're getting the band back together, and they're going back to the Bush administration.'" [New York Times, 7/25/17]
- **July 2017 – Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership President Whit Fosburgh: "Zinke Has Been A Disappointment."** The New York Times reported, "To conservationists, the act is getting old. 'Zinke has been a disappointment,' said Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, which supported his nomination. 'His first meetings were with the sportsmen's community, and we were encouraged that he would be great — or at least someone we could work with. Since that time, it's been nothing but rolling back conservation.' The oil and gas lobby says it is delighted. 'All these guys have been in Interior before and they know a hell of a lot,' said Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist and adviser to the Trump transition. 'They're getting the band back together, and they're going back to the Bush administration.'" [New York Times, 7/25/17]
- **July 2017 – Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership President Whit Fosburgh: "[Zinke's] First Meetings Were With The Sportsmen's Community, And We Were Encouraged That He Would Be Great – Or At Least Someone We Could Work With."** The New York Times reported, "To conservationists, the act is getting old. 'Zinke has been a disappointment,' said Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, which supported his nomination. 'His first meetings were with the sportsmen's community, and we were encouraged that he would be great — or at least someone we could work with. Since that time, it's been nothing but rolling back conservation.' The oil and gas lobby says it is delighted. 'All these guys have been in Interior before and they know a hell of a lot,' said Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist and adviser to the Trump transition. 'They're getting the band back together, and they're going back to the Bush administration.'" [New York Times, 7/25/17]
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**December 2017: Rep. Raul Grijalva Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For Attempting To Run Management Agencies Like Military Branches.** According to an op-ed by Rep. Raul Grijalva in the Denver Post, “Zinke insists on seeing our nation’s conservation and wildlife management agencies as military branches, which sometimes combine forces on particular missions, and himself as a general leading the fight. The fundamental difference in structures, purposes and operating cultures between Interior, which manages our national parks and natural resources, and the Pentagon, which fights terrorism and conducts military operations overseas, is lost on him. The National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies manage our federal lands for balanced use and public enjoyment, but they follow different laws and mandates. There’s a reason you can drill for oil on BLM land but not in a national park. To order agencies with different priorities to work together on some vaguely defined ‘operational’ basis is a recipe for confusion and inevitable staff attrition, though this might suit the Trump administration just fine. It is impossible to criticize this on the merits because not only are there no merits, there seems to be no real plan. Neither Zinke nor his assistants have opened the specifics of their proposed reorganization to public or congressional input. It shouldn’t be too much to ask for Zinke to explain his thinking before he starts making irreversible moves.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 12/24/17]

- **Grijalva: “Zinke Insists On Seeing Our Nation’s Conservation And Wildlife Management Agencies As Military Branches, Which Sometimes Combine Forces On Particular Missions, And Himself As A General Leading The Fight.”** According to an op-ed by Rep. Raul Grijalva in the Denver Post, “Zinke insists on seeing our nation’s conservation and wildlife management agencies as military branches, which sometimes combine forces on particular missions, and himself as a general leading the fight. The fundamental difference in structures, purposes and operating cultures between Interior, which manages our national parks and natural resources, and the Pentagon, which fights terrorism and conducts military operations overseas, is lost on him. The National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies manage our federal lands for balanced use and public enjoyment, but they follow different laws and mandates. There’s a reason you can drill for oil on BLM land but not in a national park. To order agencies with different priorities to work together on some vaguely defined ‘operational’ basis is a recipe for confusion and inevitable staff attrition, though this might suit the Trump administration just fine. It is impossible to criticize this on the merits because not only are there no merits, there seems to be no real plan. Neither Zinke nor his assistants have opened the specifics of their proposed reorganization to public or congressional input. It shouldn’t be too much to ask for Zinke to explain his thinking before he starts making irreversible moves.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 12/24/17]
- **Grijalva: “To Order Agencies With Different Priorities To Work Together On Some Vaguely Defined ‘Operational’ Basis Is A Recipe For Confusion And Inevitable Staff Attrition, Though This Might Suit The Trump Administration Just Fine.”** According to an op-ed by Rep. Raul Grijalva in the Denver Post, “Zinke insists on seeing our nation’s conservation and wildlife management agencies as military branches, which sometimes combine forces on particular missions, and himself as a general leading the fight. The fundamental difference in structures, purposes and operating cultures between Interior, which manages our national parks and natural resources, and the Pentagon, which fights terrorism and conducts military operations overseas, is lost on him. The National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies manage our federal lands for balanced use and public enjoyment, but they follow different laws and mandates. There’s a reason you can drill for oil on BLM land but not in a national park. To order agencies with different priorities to work together on some vaguely defined ‘operational’ basis is a recipe for confusion and inevitable staff attrition, though this might suit the Trump administration just fine. It

is impossible to criticize this on the merits because not only are there no merits, there seems to be no real plan. Neither Zinke nor his assistants have opened the specifics of their proposed reorganization to public or congressional input. It shouldn't be too much to ask for Zinke to explain his thinking before he starts making irreversible moves." [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 12/24/17]

- **Grijalva: “Neither Zinke Nor His Assistants Have Opened The Specifics Of Their Proposed Reorganization To Public Or Congressional Input. It Shouldn’t Be Too Much To Ask Zinke To Explain His Thinking Before He Starts Making Irreversible Moves.”** According to an op-ed by Rep. Raul Grijalva in the Denver Post, “Zinke insists on seeing our nation’s conservation and wildlife management agencies as military branches, which sometimes combine forces on particular missions, and himself as a general leading the fight. The fundamental difference in structures, purposes and operating cultures between Interior, which manages our national parks and natural resources, and the Pentagon, which fights terrorism and conducts military operations overseas, is lost on him. The National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies manage our federal lands for balanced use and public enjoyment, but they follow different laws and mandates. There’s a reason you can drill for oil on BLM land but not in a national park. To order agencies with different priorities to work together on some vaguely defined ‘operational’ basis is a recipe for confusion and inevitable staff attrition, though this might suit the Trump administration just fine. It is impossible to criticize this on the merits because not only are there no merits, there seems to be no real plan. Neither Zinke nor his assistants have opened the specifics of their proposed reorganization to public or congressional input. It shouldn't be too much to ask for Zinke to explain his thinking before he starts making irreversible moves.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 12/24/17]

**December 2018: Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer Called Zinke One Of Trump’s “Most Toxic Members Of The Cabinet.”** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke’s resignation, which comes after Trump replaced his attorney general and White House chief of staff, could be followed soon by other Cabinet departures. The positions of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross remain precarious, according to White House officials. For the moment, Democrats such as Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (N.Y.) seem eager to crow about the latest departure. ‘Ryan Zinke was one of the most toxic members of the cabinet in the way he treated our environment, our precious public lands, and the way he treated the government like it was his personal honey pot,’ Schumer said in a tweet. ‘The swamp cabinet will be a little less foul without him.’” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]

- **December 2018 – Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer: “Ryan Zinke Was One Of The Most Toxic Members Of The Cabinet In The Way He Treated Our Environment, Our Precious Public Lands, And The Way He Treated The Government Like It Was His Personal Honey Pot.”** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke’s resignation, which comes after Trump replaced his attorney general and White House chief of staff, could be followed soon by other Cabinet departures. The positions of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross remain precarious, according to White House officials. For the moment, Democrats such as Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (N.Y.) seem eager to crow about the latest departure. ‘Ryan Zinke was one of the most toxic members of the cabinet in the way he treated our environment, our precious public lands, and the way he treated the government like it was his personal honey pot,’ Schumer said in a tweet. ‘The swamp cabinet will be a little less foul without him.’” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]
- **December 2018 – Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer: “The Swamp Cabinet Will Be A Little Less Foul Without [Zinke].”** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke’s resignation, which comes after Trump replaced his attorney general and White House chief of staff, could be followed soon by other Cabinet departures. The positions of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross remain precarious, according to White House officials. For the moment, Democrats such as Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (N.Y.) seem eager to crow about the latest departure. ‘Ryan Zinke was one of the most toxic members of the cabinet in the way he treated our environment, our precious public lands,





and the way he treated the government like it was his personal honey pot,' Schumer said in a tweet. 'The swamp cabinet will be a little less foul without him.'" [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]

**December 2018: Zinke's Habit Of Overstepping The Limits Of Power At The Interior Department Worried Republicans And President Trump.** The Washington Post reported, "At that moment last year, Zinke sat tall in the saddle. He was a one-term congressman who had blazed a political trail in his home state. His star was so bright that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) lobbied against his Cabinet appointment, thinking Zinke was almost a sure bet to defeat Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), who was reelected this year. To some liberal conservationists, Zinke appeared to be a conservative who could bridge the partisan divide. The Senate confirmed him with 68 votes. But Zinke was anything but bipartisan. His zeal in carrying out President Trump's vision of 'American energy dominance' by boosting coal and gas production on public lands angered Democrats who supported him, and his tendency to overstep the limits of his power at Interior worried Republicans and the president." [Washington Post, [12/20/18](#)]

## ***Consulting***

**After Leaving The Trump Administration, Zinke Landed A \$100,000 Per Year Position As A Consultant And Board Member At U.S. Gold Corp., A Mining Company, Joined A D.C. Lobbying Firm Called Turnberry Solutions, And Became A Managing Director And Consultant For Artillery One, An Investment Company.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "SHORTLY AFTER leaving Trump's cabinet, Zinke moved to parlay his public service into a lucrative private career. He landed a more than \$100,000-a-year position as consultant and board member at a Nevada mining company, U.S. Gold Corp., became managing director and consultant for a North Carolina-based private investment company, Artillery One, and joined Washington lobbying firm Turnberry Solutions. He continues to serve on U.S. Gold's board of directors, according to the company's website and regulatory filings. His status with Turnberry and Artillery One could not be immediately determined." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

## ***Interior Secretary***

**December 2016: Zinke Was Offered The Position Of Interior Secretary By President-Elect Donald Trump.** The New York Times reported, "President-elect Donald J. Trump has offered the position of secretary of the interior to Montana's freshman representative, Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL commander, two officials familiar with Mr. Trump's decision confirmed on Tuesday. The appointment of Mr. Zinke would round out Mr. Trump's choices to lead the four agencies that will shape the future of the nation's energy and climate change policies. Last week, he named Scott Pruitt, the Oklahoma attorney general who has built a career out of suing the Environmental Protection Agency, to lead that office. On Tuesday, transition officials said he would name Rick Perry, the former Texas governor who vowed to eliminate the Energy Department, to run that agency." [New York Times, 12/13/16]

- **December 2016: Donald Trump, Jr. Had Handpicked Zinke To Lead The Interior Secretary As A Fellow Hunter.** The Washington Post reported, "The president-elect announced Wednesday a long-awaited plan explaining how he will wall off his business interests from his governing and hand the reins of his company to his sons. Even as Trump Jr. has been preparing to take on new business responsibilities, he has already had a significant imprint on the incoming administration. A dedicated hunter and angler who retreats with his wife and their five children to their Catskills cabin nearly every weekend, he helped handpick Ryan Zinke @, a fellow hunter, public lands advocate and Montana's lone House member, as nominee for interior secretary." [Washington Post, [1/10/17](#)]

**December 2016: National Parks Conservation Association President Theresa Pierno Criticized Zinke For Advocating For State Control Of Energy Development On Federal Lands, Which She Said Threatened National Parks.** The New York Times reported, "Though Mr. Zinke has expressed support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and opposes the sale of public lands, he has prioritized the development of oil, gas and



other resources over the protection of clean water and air, and wildlife,' said Theresa Pierno, president and chief executive of National Parks Conservation Association. 'Mr. Zinke has advocated for state control of energy development on federal lands, a move that threatens our national parks.' But his confirmation could help Democrats in the Senate. Senator Jon Tester of Montana is one of 10 Democrats up for re-election in 2018 in states carried by Mr. Trump. If the Interior post suits Mr. Zinke, Mr. Tester has lost a formidable challenger." [New York Times, 12/14/16]

- **December 2016 – National Parks Conservation Association President Theresa Pierno: “Mr. Zinke Has Advocated For State Control Of Energy Development On Federal Lands, A Move That Threatens Our National Parks.”** The New York Times reported, “‘Though Mr. Zinke has expressed support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and opposes the sale of public lands, he has prioritized the development of oil, gas and other resources over the protection of clean water and air, and wildlife,’ said Theresa Pierno, president and chief executive of National Parks Conservation Association. ‘Mr. Zinke has advocated for state control of energy development on federal lands, a move that threatens our national parks.’ But his confirmation could help Democrats in the Senate. Senator Jon Tester of Montana is one of 10 Democrats up for re-election in 2018 in states carried by Mr. Trump. If the Interior post suits Mr. Zinke, Mr. Tester has lost a formidable challenger.” [New York Times, 12/14/16]

**December 2016: Zinke Was Formally Nominated To Serve As Trump’s Interior Secretary.** The New York Times reported, “The Department of the Interior is one of the few agencies that the younger Mr. Trump has shown an interest in - he is an avid hunter - and he is said to have highlighted negative comments Ms. McMorris Rodgers made about the president-elect during the campaign. As the chairwoman of the House Republican Conference, she would have given the Trump cabinet a voice from congressional leadership - and another woman, currently in short supply.” [New York Times, 12/15/16]

**February 2017: Zinke Was Confirmed As Interior Secretary By A Vote Of 68 To 31.** The New York Times reported, “As a child in this town at the edge of the Continental Divide, Ryan Zinke cut his own trails through alpine forest, swam laps in Whitefish Lake and hiked the snow-packed paths of nearby Glacier National Park. Later, as an Eagle Scout, he traced how railroad oil spilled into the Whitefish River and watched as a single spark set that waterway on fire. ‘The project,’ he wrote in his 2016 book, ‘promoted a lifetime of conservation values.’ President Trump has tapped Mr. Zinke, 55, a House member and fifth-generation Montanan who grew up in this timber-and-tourism community, to be secretary of the interior. He was confirmed by the Senate on Wednesday by a vote of 68 to 31.” [New York Times, 3/1/17]

- **February 2017: Zinke Was The Interior Department’s Least Popular Nominee For Secretary With The Most Votes In Opposition To Date.** The Washington Post reported, “The 56-to-41 vote Thursday promoted Bernhardt from Interior’s acting secretary, a job he assumed after his predecessor, Ryan Zinke, resigned amid numerous investigations into his behavior and management of the agency. Bernhardt had served as Zinke’s deputy until his departure in December. The vote tally made Bernhardt the Interior Department’s least popular nominee for secretary in 40 years, according to the Center for American Progress, a liberal-leaning policy institute. Before Thursday, Zinke had the most votes in opposition, 31. Before President Trump’s two picks, every nominee over that time received fewer than 25 no votes, the group said.” [Washington Post, [4/11/19](#)]

## ***Navy SEAL***

**Zinke Spent 23 Years Working For The Navy SEALs, Earning A Bronze Star And Rising To The Rank Of Commander Before Retiring In 2008.** The Bigfork Eagle reported, “ZINKE SPENT 23 years with the Navy SEALs, earning a Bronze Star and rising to the rank of commander before retiring in 2008. Though the world is full of threats, the American public should feel confident in its armed forces, he said.” [Bigfork Eagle, 11/15/23]

**Zinke: “As A SEAL, If Someone Really Pissed Me Off, I Could Take Them Out.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Though Zinke didn’t reference a primary challenger in his own speech and like others focused on the



southern border, as well as the war in Ukraine and between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, he did take a jab against Rosendale when the Senate candidate offered up in interjection as Zinke spoke Friday night. ‘As a SEAL, if someone really pissed me off, I could take them out,’ Zinke quipped, to which Rosendale yelled back that the House essentially did that when ousting Kevin McCarthy as speaker last year. Zinke has previously thrashed Rosendale for his vote to dispatch the former speaker. ‘That’s a different discussion,’ Zinke answered. ‘Why (do) you go 15 rounds for a quarterback and fire him because he can’t score? Why can’t he score? He’s not scoring because you can’t block (for) him.’” [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]

**2020: Zinke Said Being A Navy SEAL Was Easier Than Being Secretary Of The Interior, Claiming, “At Least As A SEAL, When People Shoot At You They Normally Shoot At You From The Front... As Secretary ... They Shoot At You From The Rear And You Can’t Shoot Back.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Zinke said Saturday that Trump has no ‘inner monologue.’ ‘Whatever he is thinking comes straight out,’ adding some folks are offended and some like the transparency. ‘At the end of the day he’s our greatest patriot,’ he said, noting no other president has visited Montana more. Trump came to the Treasure State four times during the 2018 election cycle to campaign for Republican candidates. He also visited Montana in 2016 while running for president, where he won the general election here by 20 points. Zinke said it was easier to be a U.S. Navy SEAL commander than it was to be Secretary of the Interior. ‘At least as a SEAL, when people shoot at you they normally shoot at you from the front,’ he said. ‘As secretary ... they shoot at you from the rear and you can’t shoot back.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/3/20]

## ***Miscellaneous***

**March 2017: Zinke Rode An Irish Sport Horse Named Tonto To His First Day Of Work As Interior Department Secretary.** The New York Times reported, “On his first day on the job, the new Interior Department secretary, Ryan Zinke, proved he knows how to make an entrance: arriving high in the saddle on Tonto, an Irish sport horse. Mounted police escorted him a few blocks through Washington. Mr. Zinke, a fifth-generation Montanan who now oversees the country’s 500 million acres of public land, including 59 national parks, showed up to work to a grand reception. Officers from various agencies under the Interior Department lined the steps to the administration building. A drummer from his home state’s Northern Cheyenne tribe performed. The department is the liaison with federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native nations.” [New York Times, 3/2/17]

- **March 2017: Zinke Was Escorted By Mounted Police Escorts As He Rode The Horse Through Washington D.C. Streets.** The New York Times reported, “On his first day on the job, the new Interior Department secretary, Ryan Zinke, proved he knows how to make an entrance: arriving high in the saddle on Tonto, an Irish sport horse. Mounted police escorted him a few blocks through Washington. Mr. Zinke, a fifth-generation Montanan who now oversees the country’s 500 million acres of public land, including 59 national parks, showed up to work to a grand reception. Officers from various agencies under the Interior Department lined the steps to the administration building. A drummer from his home state’s Northern Cheyenne tribe performed. The department is the liaison with federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native nations.” [New York Times, 3/2/17]

**July 2017: Zinke Said He Met With The American Legislative Exchange Council In Colorado.** The Denver Post reported, “Zinke is in Colorado this weekend for the annual Western Conservative Summit, where he and other Republican figures spoke to supporters in Denver. The secretary said he spoke with the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a conservative free market policy group that influences policy agendas across the country, and told them that he does not support the transferring of public land to the private sector something ALEC has long lobbied for. ‘We kindly agree to disagree on this point,’ Zinke said. ‘But, I think America is behind me with a love of our public lands, and the president is as well.’” [Denver Post, 7/23/17]

## ***Nomination***

**2016: Zinke Was Picked As Secretary Of The Interior After Senator Steve Daines Used An Elk-Hunting Trip With Donald Trump Jr. To Lobby The Trump Administration To Nominate An Interior Secretary From The Western U.S.** The New York Times reported, “Senator Steve Daines, a Republican from Montana, used an elk-hunting trip with Trump Jr. in November 2016 to lobby the incoming administration to pick an interior secretary from the Mountain West. ‘I wanted a Westerner,’ Daines says, ‘and Westerner doesn’t mean West Virginia. It doesn’t mean Oklahoma.’ Trump Jr. recommended Ryan Zinke, then a Montana congressman and a friend of Daines’s, for the Department of Interior job. Zinke got the nod but resigned in December 2018 after a scandal-plagued tenure.” [New York Times, 8/24/20]

- **Trump Reportedly Selected Zinke As Interior Secretary As Part Of An “Action Plan” For “Getting America’s Coal Miners Back To Work.** The New York Times reported, “Just days earlier, Mr. Murray had sent the White House and a number of cabinet agencies a detailed ‘action plan’ for ‘getting America’s coal miners back to work.’ The members of the team Mr. Trump had assembled to carry out his plan — including Scott Pruitt, the E.P.A. administrator, and Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary — had been carefully selected.” [New York Times, 10/5/20]

## **Resignation**

**December 2018: Trump Announced Via Twitter That Zinke Resigned As Interior Secretary.** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a key figure in President Trump’s sweeping plan to reshape the nation’s environmental framework, resigned under pressure on Saturday as he faces numerous ethics investigations into his business dealings, travel and policy decisions. ‘Secretary of the Interior @RyanZinke will be leaving the Administration at the end of the year after having served for a period of almost two years,’ Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter. ‘Ryan has accomplished much during his tenure and I want to thank him for his service to our Nation.’ The president said he would name a replacement this coming week.” [New York Times, 12/15/18]

- **Zinke Allegedly Resigned Under Threat Of Being Fired.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke is the latest Trump official to exit an administration plagued by questions of ethical conflict. And his departure comes as Mr. Trump has begun a shake-up in his administration. In early November, the president fired Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and last weekend he announced that his chief of staff, John F. Kelly, was leaving. In one of the final acts of Mr. Kelly’s tenure, his team told Mr. Zinke that he should leave by year’s end or risk being fired in a potentially humiliating way, two people familiar with the discussion said.” [New York Times, 12/15/18]

**2020: Zinke Said He Was “Trying To Put D.C. Behind Me” And That He Was Unlikely To Return To Public Office.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke has moved back to Whitefish after resigning from the Interior Department in December 2018 as he faced several investigations into his actions while in office. ‘I’m trying to put D.C. behind me. I don’t miss it,’ Zinke said. Asked if he’d return to politics in the future, Zinke said ‘I’m enjoying where I’m at at the moment. We’ll see. You never say never, but as long as good candidates are running then I’m pretty happy.’” [Billings Gazette, 1/31/20]

**December 2018: Zinke Resigned As Interior Secretary.** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke submitted his resignation to the White House on Saturday, facing intense pressure to step down because of multiple probes tied to his real estate dealings in his home state of Montana and his conduct in office. President Trump announced Zinke’s exit via Twitter on Saturday morning and praised the departing Interior chief. ‘Secretary of the Interior @RyanZinke will be leaving the Administration at the end of the year after having served for a period of almost two years,’ the president tweeted. ‘Ryan has accomplished much during his tenure and I want to thank him for his service to our Nation.’ Behind the scenes, however, the White House had been pushing Zinke for weeks to resign, administration officials said. Last month, the officials said, Zinke was told he had until the end of the year to leave or be fired.” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]



- **December 2018: Trump Administration Officials Said That The White House Had Been Pushing Zinke To Resign For Weeks.** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke submitted his resignation to the White House on Saturday, facing intense pressure to step down because of multiple probes tied to his real estate dealings in his home state of Montana and his conduct in office. President Trump announced Zinke’s exit via Twitter on Saturday morning and praised the departing Interior chief. ‘Secretary of the Interior @RyanZinke will be leaving the Administration at the end of the year after having served for a period of almost two years,’ the president tweeted. ‘Ryan has accomplished much during his tenure and I want to thank him for his service to our Nation.’ Behind the scenes, however, the White House had been pushing Zinke for weeks to resign, administration officials said. Last month, the officials said, Zinke was told he had until the end of the year to leave or be fired.” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]
- **November 2018: Trump Administration Officials Told Zinke He Needed To Resign Before The End Of 2018 Or He Would Be Fired.** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke submitted his resignation to the White House on Saturday, facing intense pressure to step down because of multiple probes tied to his real estate dealings in his home state of Montana and his conduct in office. President Trump announced Zinke’s exit via Twitter on Saturday morning and praised the departing Interior chief. ‘Secretary of the Interior @RyanZinke will be leaving the Administration at the end of the year after having served for a period of almost two years,’ the president tweeted. ‘Ryan has accomplished much during his tenure and I want to thank him for his service to our Nation.’ Behind the scenes, however, the White House had been pushing Zinke for weeks to resign, administration officials said. Last month, the officials said, Zinke was told he had until the end of the year to leave or be fired.” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]

**December 2018: Two Senior Trump Administration Officials Said That The Decision For Zinke To Resign Happened After One Of The Inspector General Investigations Into Zinke Was Referred To The Justice Department.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke — 57 and the first Montanan to have served in a presidential Cabinet — is the fourth member of Trump’s Cabinet to resign under an ethics cloud in less than two years. Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt also relinquished their posts amid scrutiny on subjects including how they spent taxpayer money on their travel. For Zinke, the key moment in his loss of support at the White House came in October, when Interior’s inspector general referred one of its inquiries to the Justice Department, according to two senior administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter.” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]

## ***Resume Inflation***

**New York Times: “[Zinke] Has Been Criticized For Claiming On Dozens Of Occasions That He Is A Geologist, Though He Has Never Held A Job As One.”** The New York Times reported, “The federal investigations follow several other examinations of Mr. Zinke’s behavior. He has been criticized for claiming on dozens of occasions that he is a geologist, though he has never held a job as one.” [New York Times, 12/15/18]

**November 2016: Zinke Published An Autobiography Titled “American Commander,” Which Zinke’s Boss In Iraq Said “Might Be A Stretch.”** The New York Times reported, “But some former SEAL team members claim that Mr. Zinke has also exploited his past - he placed the SEALs’ insignia (with six stars, presumably for SEAL Team 6) on his campaign bus in violation of Defense Department guidelines against politicizing such symbols - and that he exaggerated what he did in his later military jobs to obscure that he never received commands of his own. He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled ‘American Commander.’ And his biography on his congressional website says that he was ‘deputy and acting commander’ of a task force ‘where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq’ in 2004.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017: Zinke’s Boss In Iraq, Retired Army Major General Michael S. Repass, Said That While Zinke Was Repass’s Deputy Commander For Four Months, He Was Only Named Acting Commander For A Week And A Half To Cover Repass On Travel To The United States.** The New York Times



reported, “He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled ‘American Commander.’ And his biography on his congressional website says that he was ‘deputy and acting commander’ of a task force ‘where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq’ in 2004. In an interview, Michael S. Repass, who retired from the Army as a major general and was Mr. Zinke’s boss in Iraq, chuckled and said, ‘That might be a stretch.’ General Repass said that while Mr. Zinke was his deputy commander for four months, he had named him acting commander for only about a week and a half, when the general traveled to the United States. General Repass said Mr. Zinke ‘did a good job’ as his deputy and was ‘a competent guy,’ and he had nominated Mr. Zinke for one of two Bronze Stars he received. Admiral Pybus said that Mr. Zinke was ‘embarrassed and humbled’ when he left SEAL Team 6 and ‘did quite well’ as his deputy at a command using less-elite SEAL units in Europe.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

**New York Times: “But Some Former SEAL Team Members Claim That Mr. Zinke... Exaggerated What He Did In His Later Military Jobs To Obscure That He Never Received Commands Of His Own.”** The New York Times reported, “But some former SEAL team members claim that Mr. Zinke has also exploited his past - he placed the SEALs’ insignia (with six stars, presumably for SEAL Team 6) on his campaign bus in violation of Defense Department guidelines against politicizing such symbols - and that he exaggerated what he did in his later military jobs to obscure that he never received commands of his own. He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled ‘American Commander.’ And his biography on his congressional website says that he was ‘deputy and acting commander’ of a task force ‘where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq’ in 2004.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

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## ***Veteran’s Peace Park***

**June 2016: Zinke Was The Park Developer Behind The Veterans Peace Park In Whitefish, Montana.** The Whitefish Pilot reported, “The city of Whitefish will continue leasing its property off Ramsey Avenue to be part of the Veterans Peace Park. City Council June 20 voted to renew a five-year lease with the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation. Park developer Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, began a mission several years ago to secure the open space for the public. The city first approved an initial five-year lease on the property in 2011, which meant it was set to expire this year. The sledding hills in the park are separated from Whitefish Cemetery by Ramsey Avenue. The topography and separation from the current cemetery leaves the land north and east of Ramsey unsuitable for use as a cemetery. Zinke obtained the old gravel pit near the Whitefish Cemetery from BNSF Railway Co. for use as a recreation area. In an email to the city, Zinke said the lease will allow him to assume noxious weed control and liability on the city property.” [Whitefish Pilot, 6/28/16]

## **Committee Assignments**

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**2023: Zinke Joined The House Appropriations Committee.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Western Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke will serve the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, making him the state’s first congressman to do so in nearly two decades. The Appropriations Committee regulates federal spending in the House. That power of the purse makes it one of four A-list committees whose membership was announced before B-list appointments this



session. The last Montanan selected for Appropriations was Republican Denny Rehberg in the 2000s. Rehberg's committee advancement preceded a U.S. Senate candidacy in 2012." [Billings Gazette, 1/11/23]

- **Zinke: “Quite Frankly, The Next Two Years, There’s Not Going To Be A Lot Of Policy. Most Of What Congress, A Republican Congress, Can Do Is Shed Light On Investigations, And Then Use The Power Of The Purse To Mitigate The Damage That The Biden Administration Is Doing.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘Quite frankly, the next two years, there’s not going to be a lot of policy. Most of what Congress, a Republican Congress, can do is shed light on investigations, and then use the power of the purse to mitigate the damage that the Biden administration is doing,’ Zinke said. [...] Zinke said he plans use the appropriations process to limit the government’s ability to enforce regulations viewed by conservatives as detrimental to Montana’s economy, specifically agriculture, energy and federal land management.” [Billings Gazette, 1/11/23]

## Education

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**Zinke Graduated From Whitefish High School.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “A GRADUATE of Whitefish High School and former Navy SEAL, Zinke served one term in the Montana Senate from 2009 to 2013, representing his hometown and chairing the chamber’s Education Committee. Initially regarded as a moderate, he focused on advancing technology in classrooms, rural access to education and local control over schools. In 2012, Zinke was the running mate to unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate Neil Livingstone.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

**1991: Zinke Received An M.B.A. From National University.** VOA News reported, “Ryan Zinke (President-elect Donald Trump’s choice for Interior secretary) was born and raised in Montana. He was a star athlete at Whitefish High School and accepted a football scholarship to the University of Oregon. He earned a B.S. in geology in 1984 and an M.B.A. from National University in 1991. He went on to receive an M.S. in global leadership from the University of San Diego in 2003.” [VOA News, [12/15/16](#)]

**2003: Zinke Received A Master’s Degree In Global Leadership From The University Of San Diego.** VOA News reported, “Ryan Zinke (President-elect Donald Trump’s choice for Interior secretary) was born and raised in Montana. He was a star athlete at Whitefish High School and accepted a football scholarship to the University of Oregon. He earned a B.S. in geology in 1984 and an M.B.A. from National University in 1991. He went on to receive an M.S. in global leadership from the University of San Diego in 2003.” [VOA News, [12/15/16](#)]

## Political Philosophy

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**Zinke Served In The Montana State Senate From 2009 To 2013 And Was Reportedly Regarded As A Moderate Early In His Political Career.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “A GRADUATE of Whitefish High School and former Navy SEAL, Zinke served one term in the Montana Senate from 2009 to 2013, representing his hometown and chairing the chamber’s Education Committee. Initially regarded as a moderate, he focused on advancing technology in classrooms, rural access to education and local control over schools. In 2012, Zinke was the running mate to unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate Neil Livingstone.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

**2023: Zinke Said That Being In Washington, D.C. Was Like Being “Dropped In Behind Enemy Lines Because Everyone Is In The Opposite Party.”** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “The panelists also talked about the structure of the federal government. Zinke compared going to the nation’s capital to being ‘dropped in behind enemy lines because everyone is in the opposite party.’ Zinke and Sheehy said more federal agencies should be located outside of the nation’s capital. ‘For me getting the power out of D.C. is one of the ways,’ Zinke said. ‘Moving the Bureau of Land Management, moving the U.S. Geological Survey, moving those decisions that primarily affect the West, let’s move them out of D.C. and put them where at least they can pick up a phone call and we can talk to them.’” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 8/4/23]

**2022: Zinke Called The United States A “Failed Nation” During A Campaign Stop.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Former Interior Secretary and U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke described the U.S. as a ‘failed nation’



during a speech to Bitterroot Valley Republicans gathered at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton on Wednesday. ‘What’s more important, likely, is we’re failing culturally,’ Zinke said. ‘I can fix energy in a matter of months. But culture, when boys play girls sports, when we have puberty-blocking in junior high, when CRT is openly promoted, when our founding fathers are racist ... the culture of our values is in peril.’” [Ravalli Republic, 10/21/22]

**Zinke: “We Need To Take Back Our Country... The Biggest Thing We Could Change Is The Deep State.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Zinke voiced a lack of trust in the federal government including the FBI, calling the investigation into collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign a ‘Clinton hoax’ and saying that ‘we need to take back our country.’ He also railed against the ‘deep state’ and said the first bill he would introduce would be his Federal Employee Accountability and Reduction Act. ‘There’s a lot of things to change,’ Zinke said. ‘And the biggest thing we could change is the deep state. People asked me, what’s the first bill? The acronym is FEAR because our federal government, the bureaucrats are like tenured professors on steroids. You can’t move them, can’t fire them. The bureaucrats should be accountable to the chain of command. And the president should be accountable to people. If we do not have accountability, then we do not have a country.’” [Ravalli Republic, 10/21/22]

**2023 – Zinke: “In God We Trust, Right? So In Government We Don’t Trust.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “On the eve of former President Donald Trump’s arraignment in federal court on charges related to the attempted overturning of the 2020 election, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke told attendees of a Whitefish forum that the government cannot be trusted. ‘In God we trust, right? So in government we don’t trust,’ Zinke said during the meeting hosted by the America First Policy Institute, a think tank founded to promote Trump’s policies. Zinke was joined by Chad Wolf, the former secretary of Homeland Security under Trump and the executive director of the American First Policy Institute, who acted as the discussion’s moderator. Matt Whitaker, former acting U.S. attorney general under Trump and the co-chair for the America First Policy Institute’s Center for Law and Justice, joined Zinke and Wolf on the stage. The U.S. is straying from the Constitution, Zinke said. And Americans aren’t paying enough attention to what the government is doing, he said. ‘Our government is untrustworthy and, well, we’re going to have to take it back,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/4/23]

- **Zinke: “Our Government Is Untrustworthy And, Well, We’re Going To Have To Take It Back.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “On the eve of former President Donald Trump’s arraignment in federal court on charges related to the attempted overturning of the 2020 election, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke told attendees of a Whitefish forum that the government cannot be trusted. ‘In God we trust, right? So in government we don’t trust,’ Zinke said during the meeting hosted by the America First Policy Institute, a think tank founded to promote Trump’s policies. Zinke was joined by Chad Wolf, the former secretary of Homeland Security under Trump and the executive director of the American First Policy Institute, who acted as the discussion’s moderator. Matt Whitaker, former acting U.S. attorney general under Trump and the co-chair for the America First Policy Institute’s Center for Law and Justice, joined Zinke and Wolf on the stage. The U.S. is straying from the Constitution, Zinke said. And Americans aren’t paying enough attention to what the government is doing, he said. ‘Our government is untrustworthy and, well, we’re going to have to take it back,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/4/23]
- **Zinke: “We Need To Start A Culture War.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “The three speakers argued that the investigations into the former president have been more intense than efforts to probe President Joe Biden’s conduct. Zinke warned the country has lost its sense of regular order. It is something that needs to be reinforced, he said. ‘We need to start a culture war,’ he said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/4/23]

**2024: Zinke Said, “We’ve Got Crazy On The Right And Communists On The Left... The Rest Of Us Are Just Trying To Figure It Out And Do The Right Thing.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Asked in April about his current assessment of Congress, where far-right Republicans continued to antagonize the House speaker, Zinke said he remained an optimist about sorting out the field. ‘We’ve got crazy on the right and communists on the left,’ he said in April. ‘The rest of us are just trying to figure it out and do the right thing. ... It’d be helpful if people

would push a little more on the wagon, rather than push against.’ More quietly, Zinke has gotten involved in Republican primaries this year with campaign contributions to moderate state legislative GOP candidates in his district.” [Ravalli Republic, 5/31/24]

## Residency

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### **May 2022: When Zinke Ran For Election, The Zinkes Used Their Santa Barbara Address As A Mailing Address And They Had A Homeowner Exemption Property Tax Deduction On Their California Home, Which California Law Stated Had To Be For The “Place At Which They Intend To Live Permanently.”**

Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former Trump Interior secretary now running for Congress again in Montana, has long faced questions about whether he lives in the state or in California. Now, new tax records uncovered by POLITICO show that Zinke’s wife has designated the home she inherited years ago from her parents in Santa Barbara as her primary residence, as he wages a comeback campaign a thousand-plus miles north and east. When Zinke filed his candidacy papers with the Federal Election Commission, he listed his family house in Whitefish, Montana, as his place of residence. But he and his wife have used Lola Zinke’s home in Santa Barbara as a mailing address for fundraising invitations, Lola’s own campaign contributions and a business contract his consulting firm filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Meanwhile, a tax filing submitted with the Santa Barbara county government shows a homeowner exemption for the California home for the fiscal year that started last July. The exemption, which offers a \$7,000 deduction on property value assessments, applies to homes that ‘must have been the principal place of residence of the owner’ at the beginning of the calendar year. ‘Where a husband and wife have more than one residence, their principal residence is the residence at the place at which they intend to live permanently,’ according to a California state statute.” [Politico, [5/13/22](#)]

- **Zinke Did Not Have A Homestead Declaration On His Home In Whitefish, Montana.** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former Trump Interior secretary now running for Congress again in Montana, has long faced questions about whether he lives in the state or in California. Now, new tax records uncovered by POLITICO show that Zinke’s wife has designated the home she inherited years ago from her parents in Santa Barbara as her primary residence, as he wages a comeback campaign a thousand-plus miles north and east. [...] But Zinke’s residence could be a big political issue as he tries to rejoin Congress. In Montana, there’s enough wariness of outsiders that Democrats in 2018 tagged then-GOP Senate candidate and now-Rep. Matt Rosendale as ‘Maryland Matt’ — even though he’d moved to Montana a decade-and-a-half earlier. The Zinkes have listed the California home as their mailing address several times since he decamped from Interior in January 2018. Examples include federal campaign donation forms and an SEC filing of his consulting business’ contract with mining company US Gold Corp. Ryan Zinke lists a home in Whitefish as his address on his campaign paperwork. County tax records show that Whitefish home as being the mailing address for Continental Divide International LLC, the consulting firm that Zinke operates, Great Northern Veterans Peace Park, the non-profit Zinke’s family runs, and other businesses. But a search through the recorder’s office at Flathead County, where Whitefish is located, shows no homestead declaration for a primary residence for Zinke.” [Politico, [5/13/22](#)]
- **A Law Professor At The University Of Virginia Said, “It Would Be A Hard Sell To Any Tax Authority That The Candidate And His Wife Do Not Have The Same Primary Residence (Assuming They Are Not Separated).”** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former Trump Interior secretary now running for Congress again in Montana, has long faced questions about whether he lives in the state or in California. Now, new tax records uncovered by POLITICO show that Zinke’s wife has designated the home she inherited years ago from her parents in Santa Barbara as her primary residence, as he wages a comeback campaign a thousand-plus miles north and east. [...] A home being considered the primary residence for one spouse would normally indicate that it is the primary residence of both spouses, said Andrew Hayashi, director of the Virginia Center for Tax Law at the University of Virginia Law School. ‘The details for determining residency will depend on the state or local laws, but I would think that it would be a hard sell to any tax authority that the candidate and his wife do not have the same primary residence (assuming they are not separated),’ Hayashi said via email. The issue has become one of the main political weapons some of Zinke’s competitors in the Republican primary have used against him. ‘This is just another example of Ryan not being fully honest and transparent with the people of



Montana about where exactly he lives,’ said Montana state Sen. Albert Olszewski, who is Zinke’s main rival in the June 7 primary. ‘What I’ve heard across the state is people just saying “look, Ryan doesn’t even live here, Ryan lives in California,”’ said Olszewski, who frequently mentions the residency issue in campaign stump speeches.” [Politico, [5/13/22](#)]

- **Zinke’s Primary Opponent, Albert Olszewski: “This Is Just Another Example Of Ryan Not Being Fully Honest And Transparent With The People Of Montana About Where Exactly He Lives... What I’ve Heard Across The State Is People Just Saying ‘Look, Ryan Doesn’t Even Live Here, Ryan Lives In California.’”** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former Trump Interior secretary now running for Congress again in Montana, has long faced questions about whether he lives in the state or in California. Now, new tax records uncovered by POLITICO show that Zinke’s wife has designated the home she inherited years ago from her parents in Santa Barbara as her primary residence, as he wages a comeback campaign a thousand-plus miles north and east. [...] A home being considered the primary residence for one spouse would normally indicate that it is the primary residence of both spouses, said Andrew Hayashi, director of the Virginia Center for Tax Law at the University of Virginia Law School. ‘The details for determining residency will depend on the state or local laws, but I would think that it would be a hard sell to any tax authority that the candidate and his wife do not have the same primary residence (assuming they are not separated),’ Hayashi said via email. The issue has become one of the main political weapons some of Zinke’s competitors in the Republican primary have used against him. ‘This is just another example of Ryan not being fully honest and transparent with the people of Montana about where exactly he lives,’ said Montana state Sen. Albert Olszewski, who is Zinke’s main rival in the June 7 primary. ‘What I’ve heard across the state is people just saying “look, Ryan doesn’t even live here, Ryan lives in California,”’ said Olszewski, who frequently mentions the residency issue in campaign stump speeches.” [Politico, [5/13/22](#)]

**October 2021: Most Of Zinke’s Campaign Donations Came From Non-Montanans, And A Republican Who Supported Zinke’s Primary Opponent Said, “I Don’t Think Ryan Has Been A True Montanan For A Very Long Time.”** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke likes to tout his fifth-generation Montana roots. [...] But his opponents have seized on a weak point for a politician running as a son of Montana. ‘We really haven’t seen him in Montana,’ said Cora Neumann, a Democrat from Bozeman who is one of four candidates running against Zinke so far. [...] The most recently available FEC data shows Zinke has received campaign donations — about \$181,000, as of July — largely from non-Montanans, as well. Zinke’s political opponents are clearly trying to emphasize the point — ‘I think it’s pretty obvious when you show up in March with a really killer tan that you haven’t been here for a long time,’ said Jennifer Fielder, a Republican former state senator who supports Zinke’s GOP primary challenger — and his wife’s social media has only added fuel to their critique. From late 2018 until spring of this year, when Zinke’s campaign launched, Lolita Zinke’s Instagram feed has featured considerably more photos of her and her husband in Santa Barbara than in Montana. Perhaps more telling is when the photos were posted: Her account documents the Zinkes spending holidays in Santa Barbara and quarantining there during the early days of the pandemic. They appear in Montana mostly during the summer months. ‘I don’t think Ryan has been a true Montanan for a very long time,’ said Fielder, now a member of the Montana Public Service Commission, a state regulatory agency.” [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

**October 2021: Zinke’s Son’s Girlfriend Said That She Lived In Zinke’s Montana Home But That Zinke Did Not, And A Former Tenant Of Zinke Said That The Zinkes Did Not Live In Their Snowfrog Building Full-Time.** Politico reported, “Ryan Zinke likes to tout his fifth-generation Montana roots. [...] But his opponents have seized on a weak point for a politician running as a son of Montana. Instagram photos of the Zinkes in Montana. ‘We really haven’t seen him in Montana,’ said Cora Neumann, a Democrat from Bozeman who is one of four candidates running against Zinke so far. [...] In 2013, Zinke petitioned the city of Whitefish to let him convert the home he and his wife had built into a bed-and-breakfast; that didn’t happen, but a sign outside still advertises the building as The Snowfrog Inn. On a 98-degree day over the summer, there were several cars and trucks parked in the driveway of the building. Exiting the property, Nikita Packard identified herself as Zinke’s son’s 22-year-old girlfriend and told a POLITICO photographer that she lived in the house, but that Zinke did not. Packard did not say where the former secretary resides permanently, and she did not respond to later attempts to confirm details. A





former tenant of Zinke's, who until 2019 lived at a rental property of his next door and who asked not to be named for privacy reasons, described interacting with the Zinkes but said they did not appear to live in the Snowfrog building full-time." [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

**July 2021: Zinke Was On A Vacation In Turkey While Montana Was Suffering From Air Pollution Due To Fires In Idaho And Oregon.** Politico reported, "Ryan Zinke likes to tout his fifth-generation Montana roots. [...] But his opponents have seized on a weak point for a politician running as a son of Montana. Instagram photos of the Zinkes in Montana. 'We really haven't seen him in Montana,' said Cora Neumann, a Democrat from Bozeman who is one of four candidates running against Zinke so far. [...] Montana also is a state with a strong independent streak, a sense of pride and a growing skepticism toward the outsiders who have flocked here in recent years, or who only parachute in for the summer months — a category some locals say includes Ryan Zinke. 'That thing of getting on the horse and riding into the Interior Department — give me a break. What is this, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, for God's sake?' said Carol Williams, the former state Democratic majority leader who served with Zinke in the legislature. 'Montanans don't do that.' When I visited Whitefish in July, the towering Mission Mountains, famous for surrounding the Flathead Valley with their snowy peaks and as the gateway to Glacier National Park, were invisible through the screen of brown, ashy air blown in from the wildfires raging in Idaho and Oregon. It's the type of weather Zinke seized on as Interior secretary to explain how the lack of logging in mismanaged national forests fuels fires. But Zinke wasn't in town. [...] I eventually learned from his wife's Instagram account that the Zinkes were on a beach vacation in Bodrum, Turkey." [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

**October 2021: Locals Said That Zinke Did Not Have A Noticeable Presence In Whitefish, And Zinke's Wife Made An Instagram Post Calling Zinke Her "Quarenteammate" In Santa Barbara.** Politico reported, "Ryan Zinke likes to tout his fifth-generation Montana roots. [...] But his opponents have seized on a weak point for a politician running as a son of Montana. Instagram photos of the Zinkes in Montana. 'We really haven't seen him in Montana,' said Cora Neumann, a Democrat from Bozeman who is one of four candidates running against Zinke so far. [...] Since then, several locals I spoke with said he has not been a noticeable presence in Whitefish. Lolita Zinke's photos on Instagram show that in recent years she and her family have bought Christmas trees, celebrated Easter, worked on backyard renovations and gone horseback riding in and around the beachside enclave of Santa Barbara, which is two hours north of Los Angeles and home to celebrities including Ellen DeGeneres and Meghan Markle. The Zinkes also appear to have quarantined together in Santa Barbara, with Lolita posting a photo of a shirtless Zinke on Memorial Day 2020, alongside a caption referring to him as 'my quarenteammate' and the hashtags #godblessamerica #workoutmotivation and, puzzlingly, #bengazi. (The Instagram account is private, but Lolita accepted my request to follow her from an account where I identify myself as a journalist.) Lolita was born and raised in Santa Barbara. Property records show she owns two parcels on more than 10 acres in a community locals call The Mesa because of the table-like formation the hill makes as it juts out over the Pacific Ocean." [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

**October 2021: Nearly Half Of All Of Zinke's Campaign Donations Came From Texas, And Zinke's Primary Opponent Complained That "Ryan Didn't Show Up Until There Was An Announcement For An Open Seat."** Politico reported, "Ryan Zinke likes to tout his fifth-generation Montana roots. [...] But his opponents have seized on a weak point for a politician running as a son of Montana. Instagram photos of the Zinkes in Montana. 'We really haven't seen him in Montana,' said Cora Neumann, a Democrat from Bozeman who is one of four candidates running against Zinke so far. [...] Al Olszewski, a former Montana state senator and Zinke's sole Republican challenger For Zinke's opponents, the residency matter is fuel for their argument that he cares more about his own interests than Montanans'. They hope to stoke a growing cultural tension: There's a sharp distinction here between the hardened locals who can withstand the winters and the summer part-timers, many of them from the West Coast, who have bought up homes here and helped drive Montana toward the worst housing crisis in its history. Locals have taken to calling Bozeman, where the price of homes is up 25 percent from the previous year, 'Boz Angeles.' But there's more than cultural animus to the argument that Zinke has become, effectively, an outsider to his own state. Based on his most recent fundraising totals, nearly half of his campaign donations have come from donors in Texas. His largest single donation came from an oil company CEO in Dallas. 'Maybe if he had come back after he resigned as Interior secretary and moved back to Whitefish and came back to the community, that would be something. But Ryan didn't show up until there was an announcement for an open seat,'



said Al Olszewski, a former Montana state senator who is Zinke’s sole declared Republican challenger.” [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

**2022: Al Olszewski, One Of Zinke’s Republican Primary Opponents, Criticized Zinke For Spending Significant Time Out Of State And For Travel Violations While In The Navy.** The Independent Record reported, “Olszewski has also attacked Zinke on his resignation from Interior, as well as raised issues about the amount of time Zinke spends out of state and travel violations while in the Navy. Following the release of the inspector general’s report earlier this year, Olszewski released a statement calling Zinke ‘one of the most corrupt persons in Washington’ and ‘a dishonest man.’ ‘What the inspector general, who was appointed by Trump, stated was he lied, lack of candor,’ Olszewski said. ‘... That is an integrity issue.’” [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

**2022: A Democratic Super PAC Ran An Ad Claiming That Zinke Was “From California,” Citing A Home Owned By His Wife In Santa Barbara.** The Independent Record reported, “Two of the Democrats running in the primary for the newly created western Montana U.S. House district had a sharp exchange during a forum here Wednesday night over an ad paid for by a political action committee and running on TV stations in the district. The race is between Cora Neumann, a Bozeman nonprofit executive who has focused on public health issues; Monica Tranel, a Missoula lawyer who has experience in the energy and natural resources sectors; and Tom Winter, a former state lawmaker from Missoula who works to expand access to broadband. The ad says two of the candidates running for the seat ‘are from California’ and cites a home owned by Republican candidate Ryan Zinke’s wife in Santa Barbara and a California house Neumann sold in 2020.” [Independent Record, 5/12/22]

**May 2022: Politico Reported That Zinke’s Wife, Lola Zinke, Had Claimed A Home In California As Her Primary Residence To Obtain A \$7,000 Deduction On Property Value Assessments For Tax Purposes.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Lola Zinke, the wife of Montana congressional candidate Ryan Zinke, designated a home in California as her primary residence for tax purposes, according to a new report from Politico, that is sure to provide fodder for political opponents. In an interview Friday with the Montana State News Bureau, Ryan Zinke said the residence is her legal primary residence but that his legal residence is and has been in Montana. Lola Zinke has a long family history at the California property and currently operates a business there. A tax filing obtained by Politico shows that last August Lola Zinke received a homeowner tax exemption for the home in Santa Barbara County. The exemption offers a \$7,000 deduction on property value assessments, with regulations stating that homes ‘must have been the principal place of residence of the owner’ at the beginning of the calendar year.” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]

- **In Response, Zinke Claimed That His Legal Residence Was In Montana, But His Wife’s Was In California, As She Operated A Business In California And Had A Long Family History In The State.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Lola Zinke, the wife of Montana congressional candidate Ryan Zinke, designated a home in California as her primary residence for tax purposes, according to a new report from Politico, that is sure to provide fodder for political opponents. In an interview Friday with the Montana State News Bureau, Ryan Zinke said the residence is her legal primary residence but that his legal residence is and has been in Montana. Lola Zinke has a long family history at the California property and currently operates a business there. A tax filing obtained by Politico shows that last August Lola Zinke received a homeowner tax exemption for the home in Santa Barbara County. The exemption offers a \$7,000 deduction on property value assessments, with regulations stating that homes ‘must have been the principal place of residence of the owner’ at the beginning of the calendar year.” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]
- **The Zinkes Reportedly Had Listed The California Home As Their Mailing Address On Multiple Legal Forms.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Politico further reports that the Zinkes had listed the California home as their mailing address on various legal forms. [...] The issue of how strong Ryan Zinke’s ties are to Montana has been a long-simmering political issue in the state, with political opponents questioning how much time he spends in California compared to Whitefish. [...] Lola Zinke inherited the Santa Barbara property years ago following the death of her mother. Ryan Zinke said his wife is the sole owner of the property, while the couple owns properties in Whitefish that have been in Ryan Zinke’s family for years. The former Secretary of the

Interior also owns property as part of a family partnership in Whitefish. ‘Lola pays California taxes, so we operate exactly under the law within the guidelines of the Homestead Act,’ Ryan Zinke said Friday, adding that the property became her legal primary residence when she took over the title. ‘It wasn’t mine, it was Lola’s.’” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]

- **Zinke: “Lola Pays California Taxes, So We Operate Exactly Under The Law Within The Guidelines Of The Homestead Act... It Wasn’t Mine, It Was Lola’s.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Politico further reports that the Zinkes had listed the California home as their mailing address on various legal forms. [...] The issue of how strong Ryan Zinke’s ties are to Montana has been a long-simmering political issue in the state, with political opponents questioning how much time he spends in California compared to Whitefish. [...] Lola Zinke inherited the Santa Barbara property years ago following the death of her mother. Ryan Zinke said his wife is the sole owner of the property, while the couple owns properties in Whitefish that have been in Ryan Zinke’s family for years. The former Secretary of the Interior also owns property as part of a family partnership in Whitefish. ‘Lola pays California taxes, so we operate exactly under the law within the guidelines of the Homestead Act,’ Ryan Zinke said Friday, adding that the property became her legal primary residence when she took over the title. ‘It wasn’t mine, it was Lola’s.’” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]
- **Zinke Said He Did Spend Time At The California Property Working On Wildfire Mitigation And That He And His Wife Went Back And Forth Between Montana And California, Calling His Wife “A Person In Her Own Right.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Ryan Zinke does go to the property, where he says he has done a lot of work on things like wildfire mitigation. Ryan Zinke said the couple has been supportive of each other, going back and forth between Montana and California, or meeting in other places to allow them both to pursue career goals and maintain ties to both their families’ properties. ‘I don’t think a husband worth his merit would do anything less,’ he said. ‘... She loves me and I’m her husband but she loves that property too.’ While publicly Lola Zinke often thought of as only his wife, Ryan Zinke said she is an accomplished attorney and business woman. ‘Lola’s a person in her own right,’ he said. ‘... She’s a force of nature.’ The Zinkes’ main property in Whitefish is his grandmother’s former home, which was remodeled as a bed and breakfast. Ryan Zinke said it took several years working through city zoning and the couple had planned to open the business before he was nominated as Interior secretary. ‘That has been our residence,’ he said. The Zinkes also own adjacent property in Whitefish and Ryan Zinke owns property with his sister as well, he said.” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]
- **Zinke Claimed That His Personal Residence In Montana Was His Grandmother’s Former Home, Which He Had Attempted To Remodel As A Bed And Breakfast Before Abandoning The Plan After Years Of Working Through City Zoning.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Ryan Zinke does go to the property, where he says he has done a lot of work on things like wildfire mitigation. Ryan Zinke said the couple has been supportive of each other, going back and forth between Montana and California, or meeting in other places to allow them both to pursue career goals and maintain ties to both their families’ properties. ‘I don’t think a husband worth his merit would do anything less,’ he said. ‘... She loves me and I’m her husband but she loves that property too.’ While publicly Lola Zinke often thought of as only his wife, Ryan Zinke said she is an accomplished attorney and business woman. ‘Lola’s a person in her own right,’ he said. ‘... She’s a force of nature.’ The Zinkes’ main property in Whitefish is his grandmother’s former home, which was remodeled as a bed and breakfast. Ryan Zinke said it took several years working through city zoning and the couple had planned to open the business before he was nominated as Interior secretary. ‘That has been our residence,’ he said. The Zinkes also own adjacent property in Whitefish and Ryan Zinke owns property with his sister as well, he said.” [Billings Gazette, 5/14/22]

**Zinke: “The Idea That I’m Not A Montanan, That’s Absurd. ... What Became, I Think, Inappropriate, Is ... My Wife Has Her Property In Santa Barbara, Which She Inherited, And My Wife Has Also Has A Right To Work.”** The Independent Record reported, “It was clear in a post-election interview that dings over his residency were top of mind for Zinke. ‘The idea that I’m not a Montanan, that’s absurd. ... What became, I think, inappropriate, is ... my wife has her property in Santa Barbara, which she inherited, and my wife has also has a

right to work,' Zinke said. 'We've been married almost 30 years, we've raised children in our house in Montana. ... I've been a congressman, a state (representative), same house, you know, all the all the way through. But my wife and I are both passionate about her ability to keep her family's property intact. And it's not easy.' On his poor performance in Flathead County, Zinke cited low voter turnout working in concert with the ads against him. Turnout statewide was 39.2%, while it was 35.65% in the Flathead. That's down from 41% there in the 2018 midterm and up from 29% in 2014. 'You throw enough mud, sure, it began to stick,' Zinke said." [Independent Record, 6/12/22]

- **Zinke: "We've Been Married Almost 30 Years, We've Raised Children In Our House In Montana. ... I've Been A Congressman, A State (Representative), Same House, You Know, All The All The Way Through. But My Wife And I Are Both Passionate About Her Ability To Keep Her Family's Property Intact."** The Independent Record reported, "It was clear in a post-election interview that dings over his residency were top of mind for Zinke. 'The idea that I'm not a Montanan, that's absurd. ... What became, I think, inappropriate, is ... my wife has her property in Santa Barbara, which she inherited, and my wife has also has a right to work,' Zinke said. 'We've been married almost 30 years, we've raised children in our house in Montana. ... I've been a congressman, a state (representative), same house, you know, all the all the way through. But my wife and I are both passionate about her ability to keep her family's property intact. And it's not easy.' On his poor performance in Flathead County, Zinke cited low voter turnout working in concert with the ads against him. Turnout statewide was 39.2%, while it was 35.65% in the Flathead. That's down from 41% there in the 2018 midterm and up from 29% in 2014. 'You throw enough mud, sure, it began to stick,' Zinke said." [Independent Record, 6/12/22]
- **Zinke: "You Throw Enough Mud, Sure, It Began To Stick."** The Independent Record reported, "It was clear in a post-election interview that dings over his residency were top of mind for Zinke. 'The idea that I'm not a Montanan, that's absurd. ... What became, I think, inappropriate, is ... my wife has her property in Santa Barbara, which she inherited, and my wife has also has a right to work,' Zinke said. 'We've been married almost 30 years, we've raised children in our house in Montana. ... I've been a congressman, a state (representative), same house, you know, all the all the way through. But my wife and I are both passionate about her ability to keep her family's property intact. And it's not easy.' On his poor performance in Flathead County, Zinke cited low voter turnout working in concert with the ads against him. Turnout statewide was 39.2%, while it was 35.65% in the Flathead. That's down from 41% there in the 2018 midterm and up from 29% in 2014. 'You throw enough mud, sure, it began to stick,' Zinke said." [Independent Record, 6/12/22]

**2022: Zinke's Campaign Was Concerned Enough By The Carpetbagger Attack In The Republican Primary That It Ran An Ad To Respond Directly To The Claims.** The Independent Record reported, "Being tied to California likely hurt Zinke in the primary and proved enough of an attack that his campaign cut an ad to respond directly to the claims. And while Tranel's campaign has raised the carpetbagger label, it's now working to portray Zinke as a sell-out by using her work as a lawyer to contrast with his consulting for oil companies and multiple ethics investigations while Secretary of the Interior." [Independent Record, 6/12/22]

**Ravalli Republic: "Zinke's Opponents Have Honed In On His Family's Out-Of-State Property Holdings To Suggest He Isn't Actually A Montana Resident. The Whitefish Native Has Maintained That His Primary Residence Remains In The Flathead Despite His Wife Claiming California Residency For Tax Purposes."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "The value of Zinke's assets increased slightly from his prior report, and amount to between \$8.7 million and \$35.6 million. Most of that is in the form of rental properties in Santa Barbara and Whitefish. Zinke's opponents have honed in on his family's out-of-state property holdings to suggest he isn't actually a Montana resident. The Whitefish native has maintained that his primary residence remains in the Flathead despite his wife claiming California residency for tax purposes." [Ravalli Republic, 6/22/22]

## **Stolen Valor Accusation**

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**2021 – Letter To The Editor By David Herbert: “Before I Retired From The Military... I... Learned That Some Of The Military Ribbons And Medals That I Was Awarded For Flying In Combat Could Also Be Awarded... [To] People... Who Had Not Been In Combat... The Way You Can Tell Why An Award Was Earned Is To Read The Citation That Accompanies It. It Will Tell You What Type Of Combat Was Involved And Where.”** According to a letter to the editor by David Herbert in the Billings Gazette, “Before I retired from the military as a doctor, I spent a year flying in combat in Vietnam as a company grade officer. I later learned that some of the military ribbons and medals that I was awarded for flying in combat could also be awarded for other reasons. I remember an awards and decorations officer telling me that people who were awarded things like air medals, distinguished flying crosses and bronze stars who had not been in combat were those who were the commanders favorite for some reason. He referred to them as boot lickers and butt kissers. The way you can tell why an award was earned is to read the citation that accompanies it. It will tell you what type of combat was involved and where. The name and rank of the person that proposed the citation could tell you a lot.” [Billings Gazette, Letter to the Editor, 6/16/21]

- **Letter To The Editor: “I Had Heard That [Zinke] Had Won The Bronze Star... I Asked Him If He Would Make Public The Citations That Accompanied His Awards Of The Bronze Star. To Me His Facial Expression Could Indicate A ‘You Got Me’ Type Response.”** According to a letter to the editor by David Herbert in the Billings Gazette, “Before I retired from the military as a doctor, I spent a year flying in combat in Vietnam as a company grade officer. [...] The way you can tell why an award was earned is to read the citation that accompanies it. It will tell you what type of combat was involved and where. The name and rank of the person that proposed the citation could tell you a lot. I am supplying all of this so that I could relate an incident I was involved in with Ryan Zinke. I met him a few years back at a Republican get together in Billings. I had heard that he had won the bronze star. There were ads running in the media the first time he ran for congress. I asked him if he would make public the citations that accompanied his awards of the bronze star. To me his facial expression could indicate a ‘you got me’ type response. As a trial lawyer I have seen the same expression several times over the years. To my knowledge Mr. Zinke has never released those citations and who authored them. The real question is, do we have a boot licking, butt kissing opportunist on our hands or a man of true valor running for congress next year?” [Billings Gazette, Letter to the Editor, 6/16/21]
- **Letter To The Editor: “As A Trial Lawyer I Have Seen The Same Expression Several Times Over The Years. To My Knowledge Mr. Zinke Has Never Released Those Citations And Who Authored Them. The Real Question Is, Do We Have A Boot Licking, Butt Kissing Opportunist On Our Hands Or A Man Of True Valor.”** According to a letter to the editor by David Herbert in the Billings Gazette, “Before I retired from the military as a doctor, I spent a year flying in combat in Vietnam as a company grade officer. [...] The way you can tell why an award was earned is to read the citation that accompanies it. It will tell you what type of combat was involved and where. The name and rank of the person that proposed the citation could tell you a lot. I am supplying all of this so that I could relate an incident I was involved in with Ryan Zinke. I met him a few years back at a Republican get together in Billings. I had heard that he had won the bronze star. There were ads running in the media the first time he ran for congress. I asked him if he would make public the citations that accompanied his awards of the bronze star. To me his facial expression could indicate a ‘you got me’ type response. As a trial lawyer I have seen the same expression several times over the years. To my knowledge Mr. Zinke has never released those citations and who authored them. The real question is, do we have a boot licking, butt kissing opportunist on our hands or a man of true valor running for congress next year?” [Billings Gazette, Letter to the Editor, 6/16/21]
- **Zinke Responded In A Letter To The Editor With His Citation, Which Indicated That He Had Combat Experience In Iraq.** According to a letter to the editor by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “While others did much more, the citation for the awarding my Bronze Star reads as follows: ‘Citation: For meritorious achievement in connection with combat operations as Deputy Commander, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force- Arabian Peninsula (CJSOTF-AP), in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM from 12 February to 15 May 2004. Commander Zinke provided unmatched leadership and proven combat execution to establish a secure and safe environment in Iraq. He twice surged forward to provide critical leadership in support of





Operations RESOLUTE SWORD and VIGILENT RESOLVE. His initiative assisted Coalition Forces in re-establishing civilian control and stability in Fallujah through the surgical use of interdiction operations, counter-ambush patrols, Direct Action (DA) missions, and other missions. During his tenure as Acting Commander, CJSOTF-AP forces conducted 411 personal meets with sources, contacts, and leads, 360 combat patrols to develop and confirm actionable information, 180 Coalition Force coordination meetings, 110 Coalition Support Team operations with Civil Defense Corps, 48 DA missions, and killed or captured 72 anti-coalition force personnel. Commander Zinke's total effectiveness, forceful leadership, and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of Naval Service.' Enough said." [Billings Gazette, Letter to the Editor, 6/25/21]

## Taxidermy

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**Zinke Was A Hunter Who Decorated His Office With Taxidermized Animals, Including A Grizzly Bear.** The Boston Globe reported, "An avid hunter who adorned his Washington office with animals preserved through taxidermy, including a snarling grizzly bear, Zinke created the council to represent a 'strong partnership' between federal wildlife officials and those who hunt or profit from hunting." [Boston Globe, 2/11/20]

## Agriculture & Food Safety

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### Agriculture

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**2022: Zinke Reportedly Argued That Agriculture Should Be A Bipartisan Issue, Arguing That It Was A Foundational Part Of The Economy.** The Independent Record reported, "Water shortages, predation, lack of workforce and high prices topped the list of concerns from organizations while Zinke talked process and coalition building for the next Farm Bill. Zinke believes that Republicans will take the House this fall and then will need to unify around a message and learn how to lead, adding that agriculture should be a bipartisan issue. 'When you're in the minority as the Republicans are today in the House, it's probably pretty easy to vote no ... but when you get in the majority you have to actually lead and get to yes,' he said. 'That means you have to convince other members that issue is as important to them as it is to you, and you have to unify a message and you have to pass bills because that's what is the expectation.' Zinke and Thompson praised agriculture as foundational in the United States and said livestock grazers are important land management partners with the federal government. Both agreed that ag programs could use more flexibility with the Farm Bill as the vehicle to deliver those services." [Independent Record, 5/23/22]

**2022: Zinke Reportedly Argued That Livestock Grazers Were Important Land Management Partners With The Federal Government.** The Independent Record reported, "Water shortages, predation, lack of workforce and high prices topped the list of concerns from organizations while Zinke talked process and coalition building for the next Farm Bill. Zinke believes that Republicans will take the House this fall and then will need to unify around a message and learn how to lead, adding that agriculture should be a bipartisan issue. 'When you're in the minority as the Republicans are today in the House, it's probably pretty easy to vote no ... but when you get in the majority you have to actually lead and get to yes,' he said. 'That means you have to convince other members that issue is as important to them as it is to you, and you have to unify a message and you have to pass bills because that's what is the expectation.' Zinke and Thompson praised agriculture as foundational in the United States and said livestock grazers are important land management partners with the federal government. Both agreed that ag programs could use more flexibility with the Farm Bill as the vehicle to deliver those services." [Independent Record, 5/23/22]

**2022: Zinke Reportedly Argued That Agriculture Programs Would Benefit From More Flexibility Than Was Allowed Under The Farm Bill.** The Independent Record reported, "Water shortages, predation, lack of workforce and high prices topped the list of concerns from organizations while Zinke talked process and coalition building for the next Farm Bill. Zinke believes that Republicans will take the House this fall and then will need to unify around a message and learn how to lead, adding that agriculture should be a bipartisan issue. 'When you're



in the minority as the Republicans are today in the House, it's probably pretty easy to vote no ... but when you get in the majority you have to actually lead and get to yes,' he said. 'That means you have to convince other members that issue is as important to them as it is to you, and you have to unify a message and you have to pass bills because that's what is the expectation.' Zinke and Thompson praised agriculture as foundational in the United States and said livestock grazers are important land management partners with the federal government. Both agreed that ag programs could use more flexibility with the Farm Bill as the vehicle to deliver those services." [Independent Record, 5/23/22]

**2022: Zinke Said “When You Start Building The Farm Bill, You Want To Be Included In The House And Foundation In The Beginning.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “With the days winding down to the June 7 primary, Republican congressional candidate Ryan Zinke made a stop in Belgrade recently to discuss forest management, wildfire and Montana’s place in the upcoming federal farm bill. Zinke, the former congressman and interior secretary, brought Rep. Glenn Thompson, a Republican from Pennsylvania, to discuss the bill the last version became law in 2018 under the Trump administration. A new one could appear in 2023. The pair made a previous stop in Great Falls for a similar discussion focusing on agriculture. ‘This is important because when you start building the farm bill, you want to be included in the House and foundation in the beginning,’ Zinke said.” [Ravalli Republic, 5/24/22]

## Country Of Origin

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**June 2015: Zinke Released A Press Release Touting That He Had Voted To Repeal Country Of Origin Labeling, Saying, “Repealing COOL Regulations While Still Allowing Beef, Pork And Lamb Producers To Maintain ‘Made In The U.S.A.’ Labels Will Return Certainty To Our Agriculture Industry And Allow Montana Farmers, Ranchers And Related Trades To Compete Globally For Years To Come.”** “According to a press release from the Representative Ryan Zinke, Today Montana agriculture leaders applauded Congressman Ryan Zinke for voting in favor of repealing mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) for agriculture products by voting YES on H.R. 2393, the Country of Origin Labeling Amendments Act of 2015. The measure passed with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 300-131. Montana Stockgrowers, Wool Growers and Pork Producers applauded Zinke’s vote. COOL regulations were implemented on beef, pork and lamb in 2002; however earlier this year the World Trade Organization ruled in favor of a Canadian complaint that the U.S. labeling law was in violation of WTO code. This prompted the House of Representatives to act in order to prevent retaliatory tariffs against U.S. producers. Under H.R. 2393, producers are still allowed to label their meat as made in the U.S.A., however it is not required. ‘I’ve listened to Montana farmers and ranchers, and it’s clear: Maintaining strong trade relationships with our top trade partner Canada, and our other allies, is critical to the success of Montana’s entire agriculture community,’ said Rep. Zinke. ‘In Montana we export more agriculture goods globally than every other industry combined. Repealing COOL regulations while still allowing beef, pork and lamb producers to maintain “Made in the U.S.A.” labels will return certainty to our agriculture industry and allow Montana farmers, ranchers and related trades to compete globally for years to come.’” [Representative Ryan Zinke, Press Release, 6/11/15]

**October 2016: Grass Range Resident Gilles Stockton Criticized Zinke’s 2015 Vote To Rescind Country-Of-Origin Labeling Of Retail Beef For Allegedly Crashing The Cattle Market.** According to a letter to the editor submitted by Gilles Stockton of Grass Range to the Great Falls Tribune, “Most voters are unaware that, in 2015, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke voted to rescind country-of-origin labeling of retail beef. This action resulted in a surge of beef imports, contributing to a crash in the cattle market. Prices for feeder calves this fall are 42 percent lower than last year. This amounts to an average of \$600 less per calf for the 1.2 million feeder calves Montana ranchers sell annually. In terms of Montana’s economy, about three-quarters of a billion dollars is not available to ranch families to purchase Christmas presents for their kids, a newer car, upgrades on worn-out machinery or a night out on the town with the spouse. This is money that is not flowing through Montana’s economy and affects everyone. To put this in perspective, this fall there are a lot of political attack ads accusing Democratic candidates of somehow causing the closure of coal mines even though it is not plausible that these candidates had any influence or effect on low international coal prices, the actual reason why coal companies have declared bankruptcy. We should understand that coal mining contributes less to Montana’s economy than does ranching. I don’t know how any



other single congressional vote could have had a greater negative consequence to Montana as did Zinke's rescinding of country-of-origin labeling. - Gilles Stockton, Grass Range." [Great Falls Tribune, Letter to the Editor, 10/24/16]

- **Stockton: "Most Voters Are Unaware That, In 2015, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Voted To Rescind Country-Of-Origin Labeling Of Retail Beef. This Action Resulted In A Surge Of Beef Imports, Contributing To A Crash In The Cattle Market."** According to a letter to the editor submitted by Gilles Stockton of Grass Range to the Great Falls Tribune, "Most voters are unaware that, in 2015, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke voted to rescind country-of-origin labeling of retail beef. This action resulted in a surge of beef imports, contributing to a crash in the cattle market. Prices for feeder calves this fall are 42 percent lower than last year. This amounts to an average of \$600 less per calf for the 1.2 million feeder calves Montana ranchers sell annually. In terms of Montana's economy, about three-quarters of a billion dollars is not available to ranch families to purchase Christmas presents for their kids, a newer car, upgrades on worn-out machinery or a night out on the town with the spouse. This is money that is not flowing through Montana's economy and affects everyone. To put this in perspective, this fall there are a lot of political attack ads accusing Democratic candidates of somehow causing the closure of coal mines even though it is not plausible that these candidates had any influence or effect on low international coal prices, the actual reason why coal companies have declared bankruptcy. We should understand that coal mining contributes less to Montana's economy than does ranching. I don't know how any other single congressional vote could have had a greater negative consequence to Montana as did Zinke's rescinding of country-of-origin labeling. - Gilles Stockton, Grass Range." [Great Falls Tribune, Letter to the Editor, 10/24/16]
- **Stockton: "I Don't Know How Any Other Single Congressional Vote Could Have Had A Greater Negative Consequence To Montana As Did Zinke's Rescinding Of Country-Of-Origin Labeling."** According to a letter to the editor submitted by Gilles Stockton of Grass Range to the Great Falls Tribune, "Most voters are unaware that, in 2015, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke voted to rescind country-of-origin labeling of retail beef. This action resulted in a surge of beef imports, contributing to a crash in the cattle market. Prices for feeder calves this fall are 42 percent lower than last year. This amounts to an average of \$600 less per calf for the 1.2 million feeder calves Montana ranchers sell annually. In terms of Montana's economy, about three-quarters of a billion dollars is not available to ranch families to purchase Christmas presents for their kids, a newer car, upgrades on worn-out machinery or a night out on the town with the spouse. This is money that is not flowing through Montana's economy and affects everyone. To put this in perspective, this fall there are a lot of political attack ads accusing Democratic candidates of somehow causing the closure of coal mines even though it is not plausible that these candidates had any influence or effect on low international coal prices, the actual reason why coal companies have declared bankruptcy. We should understand that coal mining contributes less to Montana's economy than does ranching. I don't know how any other single congressional vote could have had a greater negative consequence to Montana as did Zinke's rescinding of country-of-origin labeling. - Gilles Stockton, Grass Range." [Great Falls Tribune, Letter to the Editor, 10/24/16]

**Ravalli Republic: "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."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "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, 10/1/22]

- **Ravalli Republic: "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."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "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, 10/1/22]

**June 2015: A Columnist Criticized Zinke For Repealing COOL For Imported Meats.** According to a column by Mike Jopek in the Flathead Beacon, “ In a disappointment for eaters across America, the House passed a bill repealing a previous U.S. law mandating that meat imported from other countries contain a label delineating the origin. Congressman Ryan Zinke voted to repeal country of origin labeling or COOL for imported meat products like cuts of beef, ground pork or beef, and poultry. Meat labels indicate to consumers in which country the animal was born, raised and slaughtered. With meat processed and imported from all over the world, consumers may soon have no right to know this morsel of food information. House Speaker John Boehner said that unless Congress repeals our COOL laws, American exporters might be faced with billions in retaliatory tariffs. National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson said that Canada and Mexico have yet to prove any monetary losses from U.S. meat labeling laws. That’s a forthcoming international dispute process. Supporters of meat labeling contend that over 60 countries have their own versions of COOL. Referring to the stalled Trans-Pacific Partnership international trade agreement being fast-tracked through Congress, President Barak Obama earlier said that no trade agreement is going to force us to change our laws. Zinke voted to give Obama fast-track authorization to negotiate the TPP. Zinke supported a companion customs bill, which prohibits things like climate change initiatives in trade but also adds six additional people to oversee negotiations. On the same day, Zinke opposed the bill to provide aid to any displaced U.S. workers.” [Flathead Beacon, Column, [6/24/15](#)]

**May 2022: Zinke Claimed That He Supported Country-Of-Origin Labeling Requirements For Beef.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Republicans vying in the primary for Montana’s new western U.S. House district from left: Mitch Heuer, Al Olszewski, Mary Todd, Matt Jette and Ryan Zinke. Montana’s primary election is June 7. All four agreed that country-of-origin labeling should be required for beef, a policy that has recently found bipartisan support from Montana’s congressional delegation. Congress repealed country-of-origin labeling for beef and pork in 2015 after pressure from the World Trade Organization. Olszewski used the opportunity, as he did repeatedly during the debate, to point to his status as the only candidate on the stage with prior legislative experience. He carried a bill related to the issue during the 2019 legislative session, although it failed to pass.” [Billings Gazette, [5/23/22](#)]

## Budget

### Government Shutdown

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**2023: Zinke Said He Would Support A Short-Term Continuing Resolution To Avert A Government Shutdown, But Only If The House Passed Its Appropriations Bill And Created A Budget Based On Its Appropriations Work.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The federal government shutdown at the end of September is becoming increasingly more likely as a minority of House Republicans, including Montana’s Matt Rosendale, object to short-term funding proposals. The remainder of Montana’s congressional delegation say they will support a continuing resolution to keep the government running as the House and Senate reconcile budget differences. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, Montana’s Western District Republican, said Monday he would vote for a very short continuing resolution only if the House passed its appropriations bill and proceeded after Sept. 30 to craft a budget based on appropriations work. Zinke is a member of the House Appropriations Committee. He cautioned that most government funding was on autopilot and wouldn’t be affected. The power of the House is the power of the purse, and Zinke said representatives surrender that power to post-September funding maneuvers.” [Billings Gazette, [9/12/23](#)]

- **Zinke: “I’m Both Senior Enough, And A Constitutionalist That Fully Supports Article I, Section VI, That No Money Be Withdrawn From The Treasury, Unless By Appropriations.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “I’m both senior enough, and a constitutionalist that fully supports Article I, Section VI, that no money be withdrawn from the Treasury, unless by appropriations,” Zinke said. ‘I think appropriations are



incredibly important, for two reasons. One, is the House, I'd say, has been negligent for years on inventing these, what I call tricks. And these tricks and conveniences are the continuing resolutions, the omnibuses, mandated spending, and non-discretionary, discretionary spending. All these vehicles had the effect that Congress can punt and take the easy way out, and they have. But appropriations is hard. And I think Congress should do the hard work and appropriate everything.” [Billings Gazette, 9/12/23]

- **Zinke: “The House... Has Been Negligent For Years On Inventing These, What I Call Tricks. And These Tricks And Conveniences Are The Continuing Resolutions, The Omnibuses, Mandated Spending, And Non-Discretionary, Discretionary Spending. All These Vehicles Had The Effect That Congress Can Punt And Take The Easy Way Out, And They Have.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “I’m both senior enough, and a constitutionalist that fully supports Article I, Section VI, that no money be withdrawn from the Treasury, unless by appropriations,’ Zinke said. ‘I think appropriations are incredibly important, for two reasons. One, is the House, I’d say, has been negligent for years on inventing these, what I call tricks. And these tricks and conveniences are the continuing resolutions, the omnibuses, mandated spending, and non-discretionary, discretionary spending. All these vehicles had the effect that Congress can punt and take the easy way out, and they have. But appropriations is hard. And I think Congress should do the hard work and appropriate everything.” [Billings Gazette, 9/12/23]

**2023: Zinke Said It Was Pointless To Deny Pay To Armed Forces Members And Border Patrol Agents Through A Government Shutdown, With Zinke Blaming Republican Holdouts Including Montana’s Matt Rosendale For Delaying The Passage Of A Budget.** The Independent Record reported, “After weeks of shutdown rhetoric from Montana Rep. Matt Rosendale, the state’s other two congressional Republicans are pushing back. U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and the Rep. Ryan Zinke are cautioning against a government shutdown, saying it’s pointless to deny pay to people serving in the armed forces, patrolling the U.S. border with Mexico, as well as other federal employees. Zinke, on Tuesday, said that it’s a handful of the Republican lawmakers, Rosendale included, that have burned weeks off the Congressional calendar quarreling with their own majority rather than advancing Republican bills.” [Independent Record, 9/26/23]

- **Zinke: “We Wasted About A Month On 16 Rounds Of Votes For A Speaker. Then We Wasted Another Month Over The Debt Ceiling... Then, We Got 10 Of The 12 Bills... The Hold-Up? When You Can’t Pass Defense And You Can’t Pass Homeland Security, Then Houston, We’ve Got A Problem.”** The Independent Record reported, “How did we get here?’ Zinke said. ‘Well, we wasted about a month on 16 rounds of votes for a speaker. Then we wasted another month over the debt ceiling,’ Zinke said. ‘Then, we got 10 of the 12 bills out’ of Appropriations Committee. ‘By far the preponderance of spending is out of committee. And the hold-up? When you can’t pass Defense and you can’t pass Homeland Security, then Houston, we’ve got a problem.’ Wednesday, Zinke sparred on social media with Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz over hard-right lawmaker’s claim that the insurgents were responsible for a return to budget making through the appropriations process.” [Independent Record, 9/26/23]
- **Independent Record: “But Zinke Is Also Uncomfortable With A Stop-Gap Bill To Keep The Government Running Beyond Sept. 30. He Said He Would Support A Bill That Kept Things Running For A Few Weeks So Congress Can Pass An Actual Budget.”** The Independent Record reported, “But Zinke is also uncomfortable with a stop-gap bill to keep the government running beyond Sept. 30. He said he would support a bill that kept things running for a few weeks so Congress can pass an actual budget based on the appropriations bills that have all received hearings, 10 of which should be ready for consideration by the House as a whole. What Zinke opposes is dragging the big budget decisions into December when typically, an omnibus spending bill, brokered outside of the normal appropriations process, is passed in take-it-or-leave-it fashion without hearings, or amendments by rank-and-file members of Congress.” [Independent Record, 9/26/23]
- **Independent Record: “What Zinke Opposes Is Dragging The Big Budget Decisions Into December When Typically, An Omnibus Spending Bill, Brokered Outside Of The Normal Appropriations Process, Is**



**Passed In Take-It-Or-Leave-It Fashion Without Hearings, Or Amendments By Rank-And-File Members Of Congress.”** The Independent Record reported, “But Zinke is also uncomfortable with a stop-gap bill to keep the government running beyond Sept. 30. He said he would support a bill that kept things running for a few weeks so Congress can pass an actual budget based on the appropriations bills that have all received hearings, 10 of which should be ready for consideration by the House as a whole. What Zinke opposes is dragging the big budget decisions into December when typically, an omnibus spending bill, brokered outside of the normal appropriations process, is passed in take-it-or-leave-it fashion without hearings, or amendments by rank-and-file members of Congress.” [Independent Record, 9/26/23]

**2023: Zinke Reportedly Voted For Stopgap Funding Bills To Keep The Government Funded And Avoid A Shutdown.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Montana’s congressional delegation further split this week on whether to prevent a major shutdown of government services slated to begin at midnight Sunday. U.S. Sen Jon Tester, a Montana Democrat and Western District U.S. Rep Ryan Zinke, a Republican, ended the week voting for the stop-gap bills to keep the government running while lawmakers continue cobbling a budget for the 2024 federal fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. Though the Senate and House bills are dramatically different and don’t stand a chance of passage in the opposite chamber, they do represent the only votes taken to the keep the government fully open.” [Billings Gazette, 9/29/23]

- **Zinke: “What Happens, Unfortunately, If We Go To A Shutdown Our Military Is Not Going To Be Paid... And These Are The Corporals, The Young Petty Officers. That Means They’re Likely To Miss A Rent Payment, Maybe A Car Payment. Their Credit Score Is Going To Be Affected.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘What happens, unfortunately, if we go to a shutdown our military is not going to be paid,’ Zinke said earlier in the week. ‘And these are the corporals, the young petty officers. That means they’re likely to miss a rent payment, maybe a car payment. Their credit score is going to be affected,’ said Zinke, a former Navy SEAL. ‘And quite frankly, when you sign up for the military, it’s a contract. And we’re going to break that contract over a political point? I don’t think we should ever take the paychecks of our service members as a political pawn.’” [Billings Gazette, 9/29/23]
- **Zinke Also Argued That A Government Shutdown Would Force Border Patrol Agents To Work Without Pay.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Included in the 680,000 federal employees showing up for work without pay were Border Patrol Agents, Zinke said. It makes no sense, he said, for lawmakers to make demands for increased security along the U.S. border with Mexico, as Republicans are demanding, while also setting up the Border Patrol to go without paychecks.” [Billings Gazette, 9/29/23]

**2023: Zinke Reportedly Voted Against A 45-Day Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Fully Funded, Despite Criticizing Republican Holdouts For Saying “That They Will Vote Against Everything. There Is Not A Continuing Resolution They Would Actually Vote For.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Dissenting Republicans didn’t think the bills did enough, while Democrats thought the bills went too far. In the case of the Republican stop-gap bill, for example, Democrats were opposed to the agency funding cuts of nearly 30% in some cases. The bill also included a fat fiscal carrot of U.S.-Mexico border funding that Republican dissenters wouldn’t follow. ‘At the end of the day, they’ve said that they will vote against everything. There is not a continuing resolution they would actually vote for,’ Zinke said. ‘So, when you come from the position that “there is nothing I will vote for. And I will always vote against,” At that point in time why are you here? Are you in Washington DC to fix it? Or are you here to burn it down?’ It should be noted that Zinke and Rosendale both voted against the 45-day continuing resolution that in the end kept the federal government fully operating through Nov. 17.” [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

- **Zinke: “So, When You Come From The Position That ‘There Is Nothing I Will Vote For...’ Why Are You Here? Are You In Washington Dc To Fix It? Or Are You Here To Burn It Down?”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Dissenting Republicans didn’t think the bills did enough, while Democrats thought the bills went too far. In the case of the Republican stop-gap bill, for example, Democrats were opposed to the agency funding cuts of nearly 30% in some cases. The bill also included a fat fiscal carrot of U.S.-Mexico border

funding that Republican dissenters wouldn't follow. 'At the end of the day, they've said that they will vote against everything. There is not a continuing resolution they would actually vote for,' Zinke said. 'So, when you come from the position that "there is nothing I will vote for. And I will always vote against," At that point in time why are you here? Are you in Washington DC to fix it? Or are you here to burn it down?' It should be noted that Zinke and Rosendale both voted against the 45-day continuing resolution that in the end kept the federal government fully operating through Nov. 17." [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

- **2023: Zinke Voted For A Partisan Continuing Resolution With 30 Percent Funding Cuts To Certain Agencies But Voted Against A Bipartisan Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Funding, Arguing That Doing So Kept The Government Fully Operating Catered To President Biden's Preferences.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Challengers to the Montana Reps. Matt Rosendale and Ryan Zinke are calling their government shutdown votes a reckless disservice to constituents. Both lawmakers voted against the final bipartisan resolution passed Saturday to keep the government running at 2023 funding levels through Nov. 17 as work on budget appropriations bills goes into overtime. Rosendale had vowed in mid-September not to support a continuing resolution to fund the budget-less government beyond the end of the federal fiscal year Sept. 30. But Zinke had voted for a shorter, partisan bill to fund the government for 30 days with spending cuts of nearly 30% for some agencies. Both said Saturday that by rolling forward 2023 spending levels for 45 days, the bill that now keeps the government fully operating catered to President Joe Biden." [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

**Monica Tranel, Zinke's Democratic Opponent: "I Think They're Playing With People's Lives And Only For Political Gain. And When Zinke Says He Doesn't Want A Government Shutdown, What Is He Doing About It To Stop It?"** The Billings Gazette reported, "'I think they're playing with people's lives and only for political gain. And when Zinke says he doesn't want a government shutdown, what is he doing about it to stop it?" said Monica Tranel, Democratic Western District candidate. 'He's in the majority. He's only ever been in the majority his entire career in politics, and he needs to do his damn job and make government work.'" [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

- **Tranel: "He's In The Majority. He's Only Ever Been In The Majority His Entire Career In Politics, And He Needs To Do His Damn Job And Make Government Work."** The Billings Gazette reported, "'I think they're playing with people's lives and only for political gain. And when Zinke says he doesn't want a government shutdown, what is he doing about it to stop it?" said Monica Tranel, Democratic Western District candidate. 'He's in the majority. He's only ever been in the majority his entire career in politics, and he needs to do his damn job and make government work.'" [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]
- **Tranel Slammed Zinke's Vote For The Partisan 30-Day Continuing Resolution, Which Would Have Cut Home Heating Subsidies, Funding For Food Stamps And Baby Formula For Low-Income Mothers, Calling His Vote "Mean-Spirited. People Live Paycheck To Paycheck, And They Don't Know Next Week If It's Coming Or Not? That's Wrong."** The Billings Gazette reported, "But Zinke had voted for a shorter, partisan bill to fund the government for 30 days with spending cuts of nearly 30% for some agencies. [...] Heading into an uncertain weekend about whether the government would be shutting down — and 8,600 Montanans employed by the federal government either facing work without pay, or furlough — Tranel talked about proposed cuts to services, like supplemental food and baby formula for low-income mothers, infants and children. Montana has more than 12,000 people who receive the aid. Home heating subsidies were also proposed for a cut in the 30-day stop-gap bill, Tranel said. Listen now and subscribe: Apple Podcasts | Google Podcasts | Spotify | Stitcher | RSS Feed | Omny Studio 'It's completely ridiculous. It's mean. It's mean-spirited. People live paycheck to paycheck, and they don't know next week if it's coming or not? That's wrong. That's what Zinke and Rosendale don't understand that this is going to hurt people right here in Montana.'" [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

**November 2023: Zinke Said That Despite The Upcoming Deadline For Another Government Shutdown, "The Wagon's Moving Forward."** The Billings Gazette reported, "It's unlikely a Nov. 17 deadline to avoid a

shutdown will be met. A stopgap funding measure brokered by House and Senate leadership outside the public process to keep the government fully open is probable. So is an intraparty fight over straying from ‘regular order,’ that is to say, the practice of budgeting through subcommittees and committees. Sound familiar? Having blown through the month of October selecting a new speaker — the last one was lost in a coup staged by Republican hardliners, Montana’s Matt Rosendale among them — House lawmakers are back to where they were in September. It hasn’t been pretty, but the wagons are rolling again, said Ryan Zinke, Western Montana’s Republican representative. The House passed two more appropriations bills before heading home for the weekend. It needs to pass a few more to cycle out of agency budget bills. Zinke is a House Appropriations Committee member. [...] ‘I was concerned that we didn’t put the lug nuts on it all, but it seems like the wagon’s moving forward,’ Zinke said, recognizing last month’s speaker chaos as an unpleasant distraction. ‘I said in conference this morning, “We all agreed that we would go through the appropriations. And appropriations do two things, they curb spending using the power of the purse and they remove the woke, through policy. Those are our greatest powers,”’ he said.” [Billings Gazette, 11/6/23]

- **Zinke: “We All Agreed That We Would Go Through The Appropriations. And Appropriations Do Two Things, They Curb Spending Using The Power Of The Purse And They Remove The Woke, Through Policy. Those Are Our Greatest Powers.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “It’s unlikely a Nov. 17 deadline to avoid a shutdown will be met. A stopgap funding measure brokered by House and Senate leadership outside the public process to keep the government fully open is probable. So is an intraparty fight over straying from ‘regular order,’ that is to say, the practice of budgeting through subcommittees and committees. Sound familiar? Having blown through the month of October selecting a new speaker — the last one was lost in a coup staged by Republican hardliners, Montana’s Matt Rosendale among them — House lawmakers are back to where they were in September. It hasn’t been pretty, but the wagons are rolling again, said Ryan Zinke, Western Montana’s Republican representative. The House passed two more appropriations bills before heading home for the weekend. It needs to pass a few more to cycle out of agency budget bills. Zinke is a House Appropriations Committee member. [...] ‘I was concerned that we didn’t put the lug nuts on it all, but it seems like the wagon’s moving forward,’ Zinke said, recognizing last month’s speaker chaos as an unpleasant distraction. ‘I said in conference this morning, “We all agreed that we would go through the appropriations. And appropriations do two things, they curb spending using the power of the purse and they remove the woke, through policy. Those are our greatest powers,”’ he said.” [Billings Gazette, 11/6/23]
- **Zinke Touted The EPA And Interior Department Appropriations Bill For Boosting Funding For The Bureau Of Indian Affairs, Despite The Bill Including A Nearly 39 Percent Cut To Epa Funding, A 13 Percent Cut To National Parks, And Provisions To Eliminate Programs To Cut Carbon Emissions.** The Billings Gazette reported, “This week, the budget for the EPA was cut 39%, making the \$6.2 billion approved the smallest appropriation for the agency in 32 years. EPA programs to curb carbon emissions, passed a year ago by Democrats were undone. The bill prohibits government agencies from using the social cost of carbon cost-benefit analysis in place since the George W. Bush administration. A Montana judge in August ordered state agencies to begin doing similar analysis, though none have. The same bill included a 4.5% cut to The Department of Interior budget and a 13% cut to national parks. Zinke pointed out that the bill blocks Glacier National Park from spending money on a vehicle rationing system, but funds the Bureau of Indian Affairs at levels higher than in 2023.” [Billings Gazette, 11/6/23]

**November 2023: Zinke Voted Against A Continuing Resolution To Keep The Government Funded Into January And Avoid A Government Shutdown; The Bill Passed With Near Unanimous Support From House Democrats And 93 Republicans Voting Against It.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Montana’s U.S. House members are a hard no on passing a bill to keep the government fully operating into January. Both Republican Reps. Ryan Zinke and Matt Rosendale voted against a continuing resolution to keep the government funded into next year. Wyoming Rep. Harriet Hageman was a no vote as well. The bill passed anyway on a bipartisan 336-95 tally, even with 93 Republicans voting against it. Without the resolution the federal government would have started shutting down at midnight Saturday, sending thousands of federal workers into the Thanksgiving holiday without pay. House votes to prevent a government shutdown as GOP Speaker Johnson relies on Democrats for help The

Western state representatives weren't alone, as 42% of Republicans voted against the plan, which passed with nearly unanimous support from House Democrats. The opposition voting block attracted a handful of Republicans who had voted Sept. 30 to keep the government fully funded." [Billings Gazette, 11/15/23]

- **Zinke: "No Spending Cuts? No Policy Changes? No CR. I Can't Justify A Yes Vote When It's Just Prolonging The Status Quo To Punt Again."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Rosendale and Hageman and Zinke voted no on raising the debt ceiling. At the heart of the debate over whether to keep the government operational and solvent is spending. Both in the debt ceiling stand-off and the two votes to avert government shutdowns this fall, the representatives said spending levels made the bills intolerable. 'No spending cuts? No policy changes? No CR. I can't justify a yes vote when it's just prolonging the status quo to punt again,' Western District Rep. Zinke told followers on X." [Billings Gazette, 11/15/23]

**2024: Zinke Voted For The \$1.2 Trillion Budget Bill Which Combined Six Annual Appropriations Bills Into One.** The Billings Gazette reported, "With spending set to expire for several key federal agencies at midnight Friday, the House and Senate are expected to take up to spare a \$1.2 trillion measure that combines six annual spending bills into one package. [...] 'It's hard for me to take people seriously when they complain about the train being late to the station, the locomotive showing up bent, when they're blowing up the tracks,' Zinke said. He had offered the metaphor on several platforms in the days leading up to the vote. [...] The number of Republicans in the House has decreased from 222 to 218, a difference that means all Republicans need to be present and voting as a block to rule the day, which they haven't been able to do on budgetary matters. Zinke faced his own challenges, as right-wing commenters on social media called him a turncoat for being one of 101 Republicans voting to the keep the government fully operating. There were 112 Republicans who voted against the bill and six who didn't vote." [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

- **Zinke Criticized Right-Wing Republicans Who Voted Against The Bill, Saying, "It's Hard For Me To Take People Seriously When They Complain About The Train Being Late To The Station, The Locomotive Showing Up Bent, When They're Blowing Up The Tracks."** The Billings Gazette reported, "With spending set to expire for several key federal agencies at midnight Friday, the House and Senate are expected to take up to spare a \$1.2 trillion measure that combines six annual spending bills into one package. [...] 'It's hard for me to take people seriously when they complain about the train being late to the station, the locomotive showing up bent, when they're blowing up the tracks,' Zinke said. He had offered the metaphor on several platforms in the days leading up to the vote. [...] The number of Republicans in the House has decreased from 222 to 218, a difference that means all Republicans need to be present and voting as a block to rule the day, which they haven't been able to do on budgetary matters. Zinke faced his own challenges, as right-wing commenters on social media called him a turncoat for being one of 101 Republicans voting to the keep the government fully operating. There were 112 Republicans who voted against the bill and six who didn't vote." [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]
- **HEADLINE: "Budget House Vote, Divides Zinke And Rosendale."** [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

## Interior Department Cuts

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**2017: Zinke Swore To Fight Trump's Plan To Cut A Large Portion Of The Interior Department's Budget, But Quickly Reversed Course And Supported Trump's Plan To Eliminate 4,000 Interior Jobs.** The Washington Post reported, "Zinke's approach to running the department alienated employees. At first, Zinke said he would fight Trump's proposal to cut a hefty percent of Interior's budget, but he reversed himself within weeks and wholeheartedly supported the president's plan to eliminate 4,000 jobs. 'This is what a balanced budget looks like,' he told lawmakers, who ultimately voted against it. In a speech last year to a federal advisory board dominated by oil and gas industry executives, he described Interior's 70,000-person workforce by saying, 'I got 30 percent of the crew that's not loyal to the flag,' meaning they didn't support Trump or his policies." [Washington Post, [12/20/18](#)]



## Campaigns

### 2022 House

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**2021: Zinke Formed A Campaign Committee To Run For Montana's Newly Formed House Seat.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "Ryan Zinke, the former Montana congressman who served as Interior secretary during the Trump administration before stepping down under a cloud of ethics investigations, is poised to run for the second U.S. House seat awarded to the state this week. Zinke, who hails from Whitefish, had not formally declared his candidacy as of Thursday, but a filing was submitted to the Federal Election Commission organizing a new campaign committee on his behalf. The filing lists the same treasurer and bank he used to mount previous congressional bids. Phone calls seeking comment were not immediately returned." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

**June 2021: Zinke Announced He Would Run For Congress Again.** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Former congressman and U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is running again for the U.S. House of Representatives. Zinke, the 59-year-old Republican from Whitefish, said he chose to return to politics — having left it draped in scandals during his time in former Republican President Donald Trump's cabinet to avoid being a 'distraction' — to bridge the fraught political divide." [Ravalli Republic, 6/3/21]

**2022: Zinke Was Endorsed By Donald Trump, Who Called Zinke "A Great Friend Of Mine... He Was My Interior Secretary As You Know And He Did An Incredible Job In Terms Of Energy Dominance, And Also Energy Independence, But We Actually Became Dominant."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Former President Donald Trump praised his former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on a recent call-in 'tele-rally,' offering his endorsement for Zinke's run at Montana's new western congressional district. 'He's a great friend of mine,' Trump said. 'He was my Interior Secretary as you know and he did an incredible job in terms of energy dominance, and also energy independence, but we actually became dominant.' Trump also mentioned Zinke's work in public access and national parks, and teased a possible visit to Montana." [Billings Gazette, 5/21/22]

**2022: Zinke Held A Narrow Lead In The Republican Primary For Montana's Western U.S. House Seat.** The Ravalli Republic reported, "With a narrow 1,181-vote lead for Republican Ryan Zinke, the former Interior secretary thought to be the favored candidate in a five-way GOP primary for Montana's western U.S. House seat, campaigns are anxiously awaiting the results. It's the only county in the race not yet reporting results. With at least 4,084 absentee ballots returned there and 14,802 registered voters, the race hinges on those results. Those numbers come from the Secretary of State's Office. Zinke held 41% of the vote in the western district Wednesday evening, with 33,203 ballots cast for him. Former state Sen. Al Olszewski, an orthopedic surgeon from Kalispell, had 40%, or 32,022 votes." [Ravalli Republic, 6/8/22]

- **2022: Zinke Sent A Fundraising Email Raising The Threat Of A Possible Recount Reading In Part, "Wouldn't Be Asking You This If Our Situation Wasn't Absolutely Dire... We Need This To Expose The Fraudulent Election Tactics That Democrats Used In This Race."** The Sidney Herald reported, "Earlier today, before Lincoln County began publishing its results, Zinke's campaign sought to raise more money for a possible recount. 'I wouldn't be asking you this if our situation wasn't absolutely dire,' the fundraising email read. 'We need this to expose the fraudulent election tactics that Democrats used in this race.'" [Sidney Herald, 6/10/22]

**2022: Zinke Won The Republican Primary For Montana's Western U.S. House Seat, Taking 42 Percent Of The Vote To His Main Opponent's 40 Percent.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Ryan Zinke, former Interior secretary and past Montana congressman, has emerged the winner of a tight Republican primary for Montana's new western congressional seat. Zinke held a 1,608-vote lead statewide over former state Sen. Al Olszewski of Kalispell following a hand-count in Lincoln County that did not wrap up until late Thursday afternoon. That put Zinke at 42% to Olszewski's 40% in unofficial totals." [Billings Gazette, 6/9/22]





**August 2022: Zinke's Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Criticized Zinke For Only Having Six Percent Of His Campaign Contributions Coming From Montanans, Writing, "Zinke Has Proven Himself To Be A Shill For Those Who Are Buying Him."** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, "Third, corporate and out-of-state interests pour millions into campaigns. I'm honored to represent those who live in our new district. But, now, a seat in Congress can be purchased by the highest bidder. Since the primary, 70% of my campaign donations are from people living and working in Montana. For Zinke, only 6% of his campaign donations were from Montanans. Zinke has proven himself to be a shill for those who are buying him. You know that I will work for you." [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 8/5/22]

**A.J. Otjen Column: "In Montana, East Or West, The Republicans Give Us Horrible Choices To Send To Washington. In The West We Have The Affable Ambitious Empty Brain That Is Ryan Zinke."** According to a column by A.J. Otjen in the Independent Record, "In Montana, east or west, the Republicans give us horrible choices to send to Washington. In the west we have the affable ambitious empty brain that is Ryan Zinke. So ambitious that he is not immune to corruption to achieve power. So affable that his exaggerations of his resume become outright lies. So empty that his plan is nothing but dog whistles and old headlines. He associates himself with heroes like firefighters and medal of honor winners, trying to deflect us from the albatross that he hung around his neck named Donald Trump." [Independent Record, Column, 8/25/22]

- **Otjen: "So Ambitious That He Is Not Immune To Corruption To Achieve Power. So Affable That His Exaggerations Of His Resume Become Outright Lies. So Empty That His Plan Is Nothing But Dog Whistles And Old Headlines."** According to a column by A.J. Otjen in the Independent Record, "In Montana, east or west, the Republicans give us horrible choices to send to Washington. In the west we have the affable ambitious empty brain that is Ryan Zinke. So ambitious that he is not immune to corruption to achieve power. So affable that his exaggerations of his resume become outright lies. So empty that his plan is nothing but dog whistles and old headlines. He associates himself with heroes like firefighters and medal of honor winners, trying to deflect us from the albatross that he hung around his neck named Donald Trump." [Independent Record, Column, 8/25/22]
- **Otjen: "It Would Be Montana's Shame And Embarrassment To Send Zinke, A Man Who Has Failed Us Twice To Washington. The Rest Of The Country Would Think We Are Dumb Hayseeds That Have Been Conned Again By A Lying But Affable, Failure."** According to a column by A.J. Otjen in the Independent Record, "It would be Montana's shame and embarrassment to send Zinke, a man who has failed us twice to Washington. The rest of the country would think we are dumb hayseeds that have been conned again by a lying but affable, failure." [Independent Record, Column, 8/25/22]

**2022: Zinke Vowed Revenge On His Critics If Elected To Congress, Saying, "You Think They Hated Me Before In Washington, Stand By... Because I'm Not Pissed, I'm Going Back With Vengeance And I'm Going To Get 'Em, Every One Of Them.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "He said he would work to roll back the Biden administration's plan to bring on more IRS workers, and that he'd push to eliminate the Environmental Justice department of the EPA. 'You think they hated me before in Washington, stand by,' he said. 'Because I'm not pissed, I'm going back with vengeance and I'm going to get 'em, every one of them.' Zinke had two more rallies planned over the weekend in Missoula and Bozeman." [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]

**September 2022: Zinke Had Skipped Seven Debates In A Row With His Democratic And Libertarian Opponents.** The Whitefish Pilot reported, "Two of the three Montana western district congressional candidates participated in a debate Friday evening at Whitefish City Hall. Democrat Monica Tranel and Libertarian John Lamb met for the eighth time to discuss the issues and meet the public, while Republican Ryan Zinke chose to not take part in the event held in his hometown. Approximately 30 citizens attended the event which was organized by Whitefish City Councilor Rebecca Norton. Zinke has skipped seven debates in a row and, reportedly, refused to respond to multiple requests to attend another debate that was scheduled for Monday, Sept. 26 in Philipsburg." [Whitefish Pilot, 9/28/22]



**October 2022: Former Republican Montana Governor Marc Racicot And Former Republican Secretary Of State Bob Brown Said They Would Vote For Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Citing Zinke’s Resignation Following “A Withering Series Of Reports And Allegations Of Poor Judgment, Violations Of Ethics Rules And Accusations Of Dishonesty.”**

According to a letter to the editor by former Montana Governor Marc Racicot and former Montana Secretary of State Bob Brown in the Sidney Herald, “We have been involved in the political life of Montana and the nation for many decades, as Republican candidates, officeholders and citizens. [...] We have known Ryan Zinke for a long time. After having served one term the Montana Legislature and one term in Congress, Zinke was appointed by Donald Trump to the office of Secretary of the Interior in January, 2017. His time as Secretary was, however, short-lived. In less than two years at Interior, a withering series of reports and allegations of poor judgment, violations of ethics rules and accusations of dishonesty were leveled at Secretary Zinke. In the aftermath of those accusations, it was reported that Zinke faced intense pressure from the White House to resign from his position and he thereafter submitted his resignation effective in January, 2019. [...] With these things in mind, we will be voting for Monica Tranel.” [Sidney Herald, Letter to the Editor, 10/10/22]

**2022: Zinke Raised More Than \$500,000 From Business Executives With Occupations Like CEO, Board Member, Business Owner, And More.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Retirees, unsurprisingly, have played a major part in the money race. They accounted for more than a third of itemized contributions from individuals for both Zinke’s and Tranel’s campaigns. Business owners and executives have also given big to both campaigns. Donors with occupations like CEO, executive board member, vice president or business owner have pumped more than \$500,000 into Zinke’s campaign, while about half that much has gone to Tranel.” [Billings Gazette, 10/21/22]

**2022: Zinke Raised Only 32 Percent Of Its Itemized Contributions From Montana Residents.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke’s campaign has reported \$860,000 of its itemized contributions coming from Montana residents, which amounts to 32%. Donors from Texas and California have also helped to significantly pad Zinke’s campaign coffers, providing 14% and 9.9%, respectively. Tranel’s campaign has touted its high share of in-state contributors since the primary, which it won easily against the deeper-pocketed campaign of Democrat Cora Neumann. On Thursday, Tranel campaign manager Sam Sterling said this shows ‘that Montanans want Monica.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/21/22]

**November 2022: Zinke Declared Victory In The General Election, Holding A Lead Of More Than 9,000 Votes Over Democrat Monica Tranel.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “By Wednesday evening 9,348 votes gave Republican Ryan Zinke the lead over Democrat Monica Tranel in the race to represent Montana’s newly drawn western U.S. House seat, with few votes left to count and leaving Zinke with what looked late Wednesday like a path to victory. Zinke held 117,611 votes to Tranel’s 108,263 and Libertarian John Lamb had 9,056. The Secretary of State reported 95% of votes had been counted. The results put Zinke at 50% of the vote, Tranel at 46% and Lamb at 4%.” [Ravalli Republic, 11/9/22]

- **November 2022: The Associated Press Called The Race For Zinke.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Republican Ryan Zinke will represent the newly drawn western congressional seat in Montana, according to a race call from the Associated Press. Zinke beat Democratic challenger Monica Tranel, a Missoula lawyer, with 50% of the vote to Tranel’s 46%. Libertarian John Lamb, who saw an elevated role in the race, took 4% of the vote.” [Ravalli Republic, 11/10/22]

## **2024 House**

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**February 2024: Zinke Filed To Run For Reelection To The House Of Representatives.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke on Friday filed for re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives, describing Congress’ problems as inward-facing and America’s outside threats as myriad. ‘The problem is this Congress itself has learned to punt,’ he told a crowd at the Montana GOP event Friday, using a sports metaphor or two to illustrate the Republican-led chamber’s stumbles in the last year and particularly in recent weeks.” [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]

**2024: Zinke's Reelection Campaign As Endorsed By The Montana State Republican Party.** The Billings Gazette reported, "The state GOP's executive board voted Friday to endorse U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke's re-election bid for the state's western congressional district. He's expected to see a rematch against Democrat Monica Tranel. If the state party thought this House race would be free of any of the conflict seen in the Senate primary, news of accusations of violence that followed were a disappointment." [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]

**2024: Zinke's Campaign Was Slammed By His Republican Challenger, Mary Todd, After It Posted Copies Of A Check Written By Todd's Husband To Zinke's 2022 Campaign After Zinke Bested Todd In The 2022 Primary, With The Todds Arguing That Zinke Had Disclosed Their Personal Banking Information.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Reached by phone Monday, Mary and Rick Todd said the campaign material was actually an enlarged image of a check the Todd's wrote to support Zinke's 2022 general election campaign after Mary Todd lost to him in that primary. Rick Todd said he grew angry that the Zinke campaign had posted their personal banking information (albeit the banking and routing numbers redacted on the big check) around the hotel as campaign fodder. 'I didn't punch anybody,' Rick Todd said. 'It was more tugging on the check, I felt it was my personal property.' While the Zinke campaign said it was declining to press charges, the Todds said Monday they have filed a complaint with Helena Police Department alleging the Zinke campaign illegally disclosed their banking information. Through that complaint, Mary Todd hopes law enforcement will also recover video surveillance from the incident at Saturday's event clearing her husband of any allegation that he punched a Zinke staffer. 'Our personal information was put out there,' Mary Todd said of her call to law enforcement. 'I will never give (a campaign contribution) again if our information isn't protected. We give a lot of money to help causes and this is wrong on so many levels.'" [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]

- **The Todds Filed A Complaint With The Helena Police Department Accusing Zinke's Campaign Of Illegally Disclosing Their Banking Information.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Reached by phone Monday, Mary and Rick Todd said the campaign material was actually an enlarged image of a check the Todd's wrote to support Zinke's 2022 general election campaign after Mary Todd lost to him in that primary. Rick Todd said he grew angry that the Zinke campaign had posted their personal banking information (albeit the banking and routing numbers redacted on the big check) around the hotel as campaign fodder. 'I didn't punch anybody,' Rick Todd said. 'It was more tugging on the check, I felt it was my personal property.' While the Zinke campaign said it was declining to press charges, the Todds said Monday they have filed a complaint with Helena Police Department alleging the Zinke campaign illegally disclosed their banking information. Through that complaint, Mary Todd hopes law enforcement will also recover video surveillance from the incident at Saturday's event clearing her husband of any allegation that he punched a Zinke staffer. 'Our personal information was put out there,' Mary Todd said of her call to law enforcement. 'I will never give (a campaign contribution) again if our information isn't protected. We give a lot of money to help causes and this is wrong on so many levels.'" [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]
- **The Zinke Campaign Claimed That Rick Todd Punched A Zinke Campaign Staffer And Yelled At Other Event Staff After He Was Asked Not To Destroy Zinke's Campaign Material From The Event Space; The Campaign Material Was The Enlarged Check Written By Todd To Zinke's Campaign.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke's team accused Republican primary challenger Mary Todd's husband of assaulting a staffer over campaign materials posted at the convention. The materials: a check the Todds had contributed to Zinke's 2022 general election, enlarged and posted outside the luncheon area. 'Mr. Todd was observed destroying/removing Zinke for Congress campaign material from the event space,' the Zinke campaign said in a post on social media Monday. 'When informed that he was destroying Zinke campaign property and instructed to leave, he grew aggressive with my staff. ... Mr. Todd then punched a member of my staff, who promptly left the situation with witnesses as Mr. Todd yelled at event staff and other witnesses who were attempting to get him to walk away.'" [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]
- **Rick Todd: "I Didn't Punch Anybody... It Was More Tugging On The Check, I Felt It Was My Personal Property."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Reached by phone Monday, Mary and Rick Todd said the campaign material was actually an enlarged image of a check the Todd's wrote to support Zinke's 2022 general



election campaign after Mary Todd lost to him in that primary. Rick Todd said he grew angry that the Zinke campaign had posted their personal banking information (albeit the banking and routing numbers redacted on the big check) around the hotel as campaign fodder. ‘I didn’t punch anybody,’ Rick Todd said. ‘It was more tugging on the check, I felt it was my personal property.’ While the Zinke campaign said it was declining to press charges, the Todds said Monday they have filed a complaint with Helena Police Department alleging the Zinke campaign illegally disclosed their banking information. Through that complaint, Mary Todd hopes law enforcement will also recover video surveillance from the incident at Saturday’s event clearing her husband of any allegation that he punched a Zinke staffer.” [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]

**2024: Zinke’s Reelection Campaign Was Endorsed By Donald Trump.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Friday afternoon as hardline Republicans displeased by the budget’s passage swarmed, former President Donald Trump issued a timely endorsement of Zinke, saying his former Interior Secretary ‘is doing a terrific job representing the incredible people of Montana’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.” [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

**2024: Zinke Won The Republican Primary For Montana’s Western House District.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Montana’s western congressional district is set for a rematch of the 2022 contest between GOP U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Democratic challenger Monica Tranel. An early tally by the Montana Secretary of State’s Office had Zinke with 75% of the primary vote on Tuesday night against Flathead Republican Mary Todd. That figure included 15% of registered voters and no precincts fully reported. The Associated Press called the race for Zinke 40 minutes after the polls closed. Tranel did not face a primary.” [Billings Gazette, 6/4/24]

## Comments On Other Public Figures

### Alejandro Mayorkas

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**2024: Zinke Said The Republican House Would Attempt Another Impeachment Ovté Of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In recent weeks, Congress failed to muster an impeachment vote of Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas or engineer legislation focused at the southern border that the GOP can support as a caucus. Over the last year, two major malfunctions in elevating a Republican to the Speaker of the House have further illustrated the chaos Zinke spoke about Friday. Zinke said at the state GOP event the House will take another swing at the Mayorkas impeachment vote, and that the border bill proposed in the Senate should deal in fewer incentives for immigrants and instead construct more fencing at the southern border.” [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]

### Donald Trump

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**June 2016: Zinke Endorsed Donald Trump For President And Claimed His Name Had Been “Thrown Around” On The List Of Running Mates.** The Missoula Independent reported, “Two days earlier Zinke had waded into a different fight, not only endorsing presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump for president but claiming his name had been ‘thrown around’ as a possible pick for vice president. The news appeared to have legs when Zinke made an introductory speech at Trump’s May 26 rally in Billings, a visit Zinke later said Trump arranged ‘because I asked him to.’ Zinke’s endorsement also reopened debate on one of Trump’s previous campaign scandals—specifically his July 2015 assertion that Sen. John McCain, a Vietnam vet and former POW, is ‘not a war hero.’ Zinke couldn’t comment on campaign-related matters during his trip to Missoula, given he was here on official congressional business. But the Indy did ask what his reaction, as a veteran, was to Trump’s statement about McCain. ‘This is where a leadership team is helpful,’ he said, and he reiterated his desire to see a list of Trump’s intended presidential advisors. In a follow-up interview’ this week, Zinke elaborated on whether he found the McCain comment offensive.” [Missoula Independent, 6/2/16]

**July 2016: Zinke Was Slated To Speak At The Republican National Convention In Cleveland.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Rep. Ryan Zinke will speak Monday at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, the



GOP said Thursday. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, will talk about national security during his prime-time speech Monday night. The Montana Republican was approached a few weeks ago to gauge his interest in speaking during the four-day convention, according to his office. It was made official in the last week and a half and announced publicly Thursday. ‘National security and keeping our people safe is priority No. 1. I’ll speak to the importance of a commander in chief our troops can count on and the failures of the Clinton/Obama foreign policy,’ Zinke said. ‘I’m honored to have been asked and to represent the great state of Montana on the stage in Cleveland.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 7/15/16]

**August 2016 – Missoula Independent Columnist Dan Brooks: Zinke Called On Both Donald Trump And Hillary Clinton To “Swallow Their Pride And Apologize To The Families And Service Members They Have Offended” Because “Politics Has No Role In The Military.”** According to Missoula Independent columnist Dan Brooks, “This donnybrook put Montana’s sole delegate to the U/S. House in a tough spot. Trump was obviously in the wrong, and the unimpeachable dignity of military service is kind of Zinke’s whole thing. He could not tacitly endorse Trump’s remarks. But Zinke is also a team player. As a freshman representative, he has to be careful when and how he bucks his party. Encouraged to unreasonable behavior by these reasonable concerns, he released on his campaign website a baffling statement: ‘Both of our candidates for president have picked fights with and said extremely regrettable things to the families of service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great nation. As a grateful nation, we cannot allow this to become the norm, and we cannot allow it to go without notice, Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton should swallow their pride and apologize to the families and service members they have offended. Politics has no role in the military.’ That last sentence should provoke some snickering from the back. Politics has no role in the military, sure, but we’re talking about the role of the military in politics-the basis for Zinke’s career. Fortunately, that mild hypocrisy was overshadowed by a startling false equivalence. What did Clinton do to offend military families for which she should also apologize?” [Missoula Independent, Column, 8/11/16]

- **Brooks: “That Last Sentence Should Provoke Some Snickering From The Back. Politics Has No Role In The Military, Sure, But We’re Talking About The Role Of The Military In Politics-The Basis For Zinke’s Career.”** According to Missoula Independent columnist Dan Brooks, “This donnybrook put Montana’s sole delegate to the U/S. House in a tough spot. Trump was obviously in the wrong, and the unimpeachable dignity of military service is kind of Zinke’s whole thing. He could not tacitly endorse Trump’s remarks. But Zinke is also a team player. As a freshman representative, he has to be careful when and how he bucks his party. Encouraged to unreasonable behavior by these reasonable concerns, he released on his campaign website a baffling statement: ‘Both of our candidates for president have picked fights with and said extremely regrettable things to the families of service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great nation. As a grateful nation, we cannot allow this to become the norm, and we cannot allow it to go without notice, Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton should swallow their pride and apologize to the families and service members they have offended. Politics has no role in the military.’ That last sentence should provoke some snickering from the back. Politics has no role in the military, sure, but we’re talking about the role of the military in politics-the basis for Zinke’s career. Fortunately, that mild hypocrisy was overshadowed by a startling false equivalence. What did Clinton do to offend military families for which she should also apologize?” [Missoula Independent, Column, 8/11/16]

**August 2016: Four Veterans Called For Zinke To Break From Trump Over Comments By Trump That They Characterized As Disrespectful To Veterans.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Four veterans called Thursday for Rep. Ryan Zinke to break from fellow Republican Donald Trump, saying the billionaire had made offensive comments that were anti-veterans and disrespectful to those who served. Staff Sgt. Josh Manning, who served in Iraq with Capt. Humayun Khan, a Muslim American who died in combat and whose father, Khizr, criticized Trump at the Democratic National Convention, said the hateful remarks by Trump toward veterans and Zinke’s ‘blind allegiance’ prompted the news conference on the state Capitol steps. Zinke’s staff said the claim by the Montana Democratic Party that the former Navy SEAL has been silent is untrue. They said Zinke called on Donald Trump two weeks ago to apologize for comments made offending military families. And he called on





Clinton to apologize due to her relentless campaign to discredit the families of the Benghazi victims.” [Great Falls Tribune, 8/19/16]

**August 2016: Former Combat Nurse Diane Carlson-Evans Criticized Zinke At A Montana Democratic Party Press Conference For Supporting Trump After Trump Disrespected Gold-Star Families.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “While the event was organized by the Montana Democratic Party, participants said their comments were not to be taken as an endorsement of Denise Juneau, Zinke’s Democratic challenger in the Nov. 8 election. Diane Carlson-Evans, a former combat nurse, said she saw every day how men and women won their purple hearts, the military decoration for those wounded or killed in action. ‘I question why Ryan Zinke, a brother veteran, would support Donald Trump,’ she said, calling Trump a ‘malicious, vindictive coward.’ The Trump campaign did not return a query seeking comment. [Great Falls Tribune, 8/19/16]

- **August 2016 – Former Combat Nurse Diane Carlson-Evans: “I Question Why Ryan Zinke, A Brother Veteran, Would Support Donald Trump.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “While the event was organized by the Montana Democratic Party, participants said their comments were not to be taken as an endorsement of Denise Juneau, Zinke’s Democratic challenger in the Nov. 8 election. Diane Carlson-Evans, a former combat nurse, said she saw every day how men and women won their purple hearts, the military decoration for those wounded or killed in action. ‘I question why Ryan Zinke, a brother veteran, would support Donald Trump,’ she said, calling Trump a ‘malicious, vindictive coward.’ The Trump campaign did not return a query seeking comment. [Great Falls Tribune, 8/19/16]

**August 2016: Retired Lt. Col. Jim Gillison Criticized Zinke At A Montana Democratic Party Press Conference For Supporting Trump After Trump Disrespected Gold-Star Families.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “While the event was organized by the Montana Democratic Party, participants said their comments were not to be taken as an endorsement of Denise Juneau, Zinke’s Democratic challenger in the Nov. 8 election. [...] Many mentioned not only Trump’s criticism of the Khan family, but also his criticism of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was held as a prisoner-of-war during the Vietnam war and for taking a Purple Heart as a gift from a veteran and saying he always wanted one and it much easier than serving in combat. Also speaking at the event were Retired Lt. Col. Jim Gillison and former Navy SEAL John Hollow. Both expressed anger and emotion. ‘I can almost cry thinking of his (McCain’s) sacrifice and for the congressman to not confront an idiot who says he is not a hero disturbs me,’ Hollow said. ‘I have a Purple Heart and believe it, I wouldn’t give it to Trump,’ he said. Gillison, who has several generations of family who served in the military, said he was shocked when Trump responded to challenges by Khizr Khan, who lost a son, that he had sacrificed. ‘To have some TV reality show real estate mogul say ‘I sacrificed, too’ drove me crazy,’ he said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 8/19/16]

- **August 2016 – Retired Lt. Col. Jim Gillison: “To Have Some TV Reality Show Real Estate Mogul Say, ‘I Sacrificed, Too’ Drove Me Crazy.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “While the event was organized by the Montana Democratic Party, participants said their comments were not to be taken as an endorsement of Denise Juneau, Zinke’s Democratic challenger in the Nov. 8 election. [...] Many mentioned not only Trump’s criticism of the Khan family, but also his criticism of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was held as a prisoner-of-war during the Vietnam war and for taking a Purple Heart as a gift from a veteran and saying he always wanted one and it much easier than serving in combat. Also speaking at the event were Retired Lt. Col. Jim Gillison and former Navy SEAL John Hollow. Both expressed anger and emotion. ‘I can almost cry thinking of his (McCain’s) sacrifice and for the congressman to not confront an idiot who says he is not a hero disturbs me,’ Hollow said. ‘I have a Purple Heart and believe it, I wouldn’t give it to Trump,’ he said. Gillison, who has several generations of family who served in the military, said he was shocked when Trump responded to challenges by Khizr Khan, who lost a son, that he had sacrificed. ‘To have some TV reality show real estate mogul say ‘I sacrificed, too’ drove me crazy,’ he said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 8/19/16]

**August 2016: Former Navy SEAL John Hollow Criticized Zinke At A Montana Democratic Party Press Conference For Supporting Trump After Trump Disrespected Gold-Star Families.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “While the event was organized by the Montana Democratic Party, participants said their comments were

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- **August 2016 – Former NAVY Seal John Hollow: “I Can Almost Cry Thinking Of [McCain’s] Sacrifice And For The Congressman Not To Confront An Idiot Who Says He Is Not A Hero Disturbs Me.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “While the event was organized by the Montana Democratic Party, participants said their comments were not to be taken as an endorsement of Denise Juneau, Zinke’s Democratic challenger in the Nov. 8 election. [...] Many mentioned not only Trump’s criticism of the Khan family, but also his criticism of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was held as a prisoner-of-war during the Vietnam war and for taking a Purple Heart as a gift from a veteran and saying he always wanted one and it much easier than serving in combat. Also speaking at the event were Retired Lt. Col. Jim Gillison and former Navy SEAL John Hollow. Both expressed anger and emotion. ‘I can almost cry thinking of his (McCain’s) sacrifice and for the congressman to not confront an idiot who says he is not a hero disturbs me,’ Hollow said. ‘I have a Purple Heart and believe it, I wouldn’t give it to Trump,’ he said. Gillison, who has several generations of family who served in the military, said he was shocked when Trump responded to challenges by Khizr Khan, who lost a son, that he had sacrificed. ‘To have some TV reality show real estate mogul say ‘I sacrificed, too’ drove me crazy,’ he said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 8/19/16]

**June 2016: Zinke Defended Trump After Trump Made Racially Charged Statements Against A Judge Overseeing A Fraud Case Against Trump University.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Republicans Rep. Ryan Zinke and Sen. Steve Daines say they’ll continue to support Donald Trump, despite the presumptive GOP presidential nominee’s recent, racially charged comments about the judge overseeing the fraud case against the former Trump University. Trump said U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel may be biased against him because of Curiel’s ‘Mexican heritage,’ comments that drew accusations of racism from across the political spectrum. Trump said his own previous characterizations of Mexican immigrants as rapists and criminals, along with his pledge to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, may make it impossible for Curiel to be impartial in the fraud case. Trump easily won Montana’s primary Tuesday, picking up another 27 delegates. Daines said Tuesday he ‘completely disagreed’ with Trump’s remarks about Curiel, and added that they ‘should not be part of our political discourse.’ The first-term senator said he would continue to be ‘vocal’ on issues where he agrees or disagrees with Trump. ‘That’s true of anyone running for elected office,’ Daines said. Zinke said Wednesday he’ll continue to support his party’s presumptive nominee even if he doesn’t ‘agree with Donald Trump on 100 percent of the issues.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 6/9/16]

- **June 2016: Zinke Said That He Continued To Support Donald Trump Even If He Did Not “Agree With Donald Trump On 100 Percent Of The Issues.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Republicans Rep. Ryan Zinke and Sen. Steve Daines say they’ll continue to support Donald Trump, despite the presumptive GOP presidential nominee’s recent, racially charged comments about the judge overseeing the fraud case against the former Trump University. Trump said U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel may be biased against him because of Curiel’s ‘Mexican heritage,’ comments that drew accusations of racism from across the political spectrum. Trump said his own previous characterizations of Mexican immigrants as rapists and criminals, along with his pledge to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, may make it impossible for Curiel to be impartial in the fraud case. Trump easily won Montana’s primary Tuesday, picking up another 27 delegates. Daines said Tuesday he ‘completely disagreed’ with Trump’s remarks about Curiel, and added that they ‘should not be part of our political discourse.’ The first-term senator said he would continue to be ‘vocal’ on issues where he

agrees or disagrees with Trump. ‘That’s true of anyone running for elected office,’ Daines said. Zinke said Wednesday he’ll continue to support his party’s presumptive nominee even if he doesn’t ‘agree with Donald Trump on 100 percent of the issues.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 6/9/16]

**2020: Zinke Said Trump Had No “Inner Monologue... Whatever He Is Thinking Comes Straight Out... At The End Of The Day He’s Our Greatest Patriot.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Zinke said Saturday that Trump has no ‘inner monologue.’ ‘Whatever he is thinking comes straight out,’ adding some folks are offended and some like the transparency. ‘At the end of the day he’s our greatest patriot,’ he said, noting no other president has visited Montana more. Trump came to the Treasure State four times during the 2018 election cycle to campaign for Republican candidates. He also visited Montana in 2016 while running for president, where he won the general election here by 20 points.” [Great Falls Tribune, 2/3/20]

**2021 – Zinke: “There Are A Lot Of People Who Hated Trump More Than They Loved Their Country... I Have Zero Doubt That Trump Had Great Policies.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Zinke remains mum on the Jan. 6 insurrection in Washington, D.C., the results of the 2020 election and even Trump’s leadership within the Republican Party, saying he’ll be listening on the river - a reference to Montana-by-boat campaign. ‘There are a lot of people who hated Trump more than they loved their country,’ Zinke said, noting that working for the 45<sup>th</sup> President brought death threats to him, his family, even his dog. ‘I have zero doubt that Trump had great policies.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

**2022: Following The Raid Of Mar-A-Lago Concerning The Classified Documents Case, Zinke Said, “As Of Today, We Are In A Police State Where The FBI And The IRS Can Do Whatever They Want Without Cause. If They Can Do This To A Former President, Think What They Can Do To An Average Citizen.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In a statement posted on Twitter on Tuesday, Zinke said ‘as of today, we are in a police state where the FBI and the IRS can do whatever they want without cause. If they can do this to a former president, think what they can do to an average citizen.’ He also said the IRS and FBI were ‘being used for political witch hunts.’ Zinke The Washington Post reported Tuesday the search was authorized by a court and part of an investigation into if Trump took documents that should have been sent to the National Archives instead to his Florida estate. Under the Presidential Records Act, documents related to the president’s official duties must be preserved.” [Billings Gazette, 8/10/22]

- **Zinke: “People Don’t Trust The FBI, Don’t Trust The DOJ, They Don’t Trust The AG. We Need To Restore Trust. We Should Be Able To Trust Our Government... We Need To Return To Accountability To Make Sure That Our Public Officials Are Held Accountable, And Our Federal Employees Are Also Held Accountable.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke was also asked in an interview Monday, before news of the raid broke, about investigations into his actions while he was secretary of the Interior. As a part of his answer, Zinke said ‘people don’t trust the FBI, don’t trust the DOJ, they don’t trust the AG. We need to restore trust. We should be able to trust our government. ‘... We need to return to accountability to make sure that our public officials are held accountable, and our federal employees are also held accountable,’ Zinke continued.” [Billings Gazette, 8/10/22]

**November 2022: Zinke Declined To Say Whether He Would Support Trump’s 2024 Presidential Run.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Trump has attempted to be a king maker in Montana politics since being elected in 2016. The former president endorsed Daines in 2020, flew to Montana multiple times to campaign for Matt Rosendale in 2018 when Rosendale challenged Tester unsuccessfully. Trump also nominated Ryan Zinke to be secretary of the Interior in late 2017, making the Whitefish Republican the only Montanan to serve in a presidential cabinet. Similarly, neither Rosendale nor Zinke would answer the question Wednesday whether or not they supported the latest presidential run by Trump, who endorsed both men for the U.S. House in the election ended Nov. 8. Trump won 56.9% of the Montana vote in the 2020 presidential election.” [Billings Gazette, 11/16/22]

**2023: Zinke Endorsed Donald Trump’s 2024 Campaign For President, Saying Trump “Has My Endorsement! There Is No Doubt That President Trump Is Our Nation’s Best Hope To Restore Our Global**

**Leadership, Secure Our Borders, And Improve The Quality Of Life Of Every American.”** The Belgrade News reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, is endorsing former President Donald Trump in the 2024 White House race. Zinke announced Nov. 28 on his campaign social media site that he was backing Trump, who is making a third run for the U.S. presidency. ‘(Donald Trump) has my endorsement! There is no doubt that President Trump is our nation’s best hope to restore our global leadership, secure our borders, and improve the quality of life of every American. His proven track record of peace in the Middle East, energy independence, and putting America First are unparalleled. I look forward to working hard everyday to defeat Biden and the liberal radicals who empower him to weaken America,’ Zinke said in a statement posted on social media platform X.” [Belgrade News, 11/30/23]

- **Zinke: “I Look Forward To Working Hard Everyday To Defeat Biden And The Liberal Radicals Who Empower Him To Weaken America.”** The Belgrade News reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, is endorsing former President Donald Trump in the 2024 White House race. Zinke announced Nov. 28 on his campaign social media site that he was backing Trump, who is making a third run for the U.S. presidency. ‘(Donald Trump) has my endorsement! There is no doubt that President Trump is our nation’s best hope to restore our global leadership, secure our borders, and improve the quality of life of every American. His proven track record of peace in the Middle East, energy independence, and putting America First are unparalleled. I look forward to working hard everyday to defeat Biden and the liberal radicals who empower him to weaken America,’ Zinke said in a statement posted on social media platform X.” [Belgrade News, 11/30/23]

**2024: Zinke Slammed Trump’s Criminal Conviction On Social Media, Saying It Was Politically Motivated And Writing, “May God Save Our Republic.”** The Belgrade News reported, “Trump also cut a campaign video Thursday voicing support for Republican U.S. Senate candidate Tim Sheehy and U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, in Tuesday’s Montana primaries. Sheehy is CEO of Belgrade-based Bridger Aerospace and is challenging U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, in November. Zinke previously served as U.S. Interior Secretary during Trump’s term in office. Like other pro-Trump Republicans, Zinke and Sheehy criticized the prosecution and conviction as politically motivated. Tester has thus far been quiet about the Trump conviction. Trump carried Montana in the 2016 and 2020 presidential races. ‘May God save our republic,’ Zinke said in a social media post, after previous statements slamming Trump’s conviction.” [Belgrade News, 5/31/24]

- **Zinke: “An Absolute Stain On The American Justice System... Joe Biden Has Weaponized The Law Against His Political Opponent And Voters Will Serve Crooked Joe The Justice He And His Minions Deserve At The Polls In November.”** The Bozeman Daily Chronicles reported, “Republican U.S. Congressman Ryan Zinke from Montana’s western district was unambiguous about his backing for the former president on social media. ‘An absolute stain on the American justice system,’ Zinke said in a post. ‘Joe Biden has weaponized the law against his political opponent and voters will serve crooked Joe the justice he and his minions deserve at the polls in November. I STAND WITH TRUMP and stand with the American people who see through this garbage.’ The New York case was brought by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg. Zinke was in Trump’s cabinet as Secretary of the Interior from 2017 to 2018 and, like many Republicans running this cycle, was endorsed by Trump in March. Asked whether the conviction makes any difference to the campaign or how it wields the former President’s endorsement, a campaign spokesperson said, ‘Was there some ambiguity in ‘I STAND WITH TRUMP’?’” [Bozeman Daily Chronicles, 6/2/24]
- **Zinke: “I STAND WITH TRUMP And Stand With The American People Who See Through This Garbage.”** The Bozeman Daily Chronicles reported, “Republican U.S. Congressman Ryan Zinke from Montana’s western district was unambiguous about his backing for the former president on social media. ‘An absolute stain on the American justice system,’ Zinke said in a post. ‘Joe Biden has weaponized the law against his political opponent and voters will serve crooked Joe the justice he and his minions deserve at the polls in November. I STAND WITH TRUMP and stand with the American people who see through this garbage.’ The New York case was brought by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg. Zinke was in Trump’s cabinet as Secretary of the Interior from 2017 to 2018 and, like many Republicans running this cycle, was endorsed by Trump in March. Asked whether the conviction makes any difference to the campaign or how it wields the





former President's endorsement, a campaign spokesperson said, 'Was there some ambiguity in 'I STAND WITH TRUMP'?'” [Bozeman Daily Chronicles, 6/2/24]

## Freedom Caucus

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**2024: Zinke Criticized The House Freedom Caucus, Saying, “Some People Come To Town To Fix It. Some People Come To Town To Burn It Down.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “A push to punish a handful of the most conservative lawmakers in the House reignited in a closed-door meeting as some Republicans lashed out over their colleagues' disruption of leaders' agenda. Rep. Max Miller, R-Ohio, called out the House Freedom Caucus in a standing weekly Republican meeting Wednesday. [...] ‘Some people come to town to fix it. Some people come to town to burn it down,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., told USA TODAY. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, said hard-right members need to get realistic in their demands. ‘We don’t have command of the field. We don’t have the Senate. We don’t have the administration. We have power, but we can only wield it if we work together,’ Zinke said. When asked whether disruptive members should face consequences, he said being part of the conference ‘is a privilege, not a right.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 1/19/24]

- **Zinke: “We Don’t Have Command Of The Field. We Don’t Have The Senate. We Don’t Have The Administration. We Have Power, But We Can Only Wield It If We Work Together.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “A push to punish a handful of the most conservative lawmakers in the House reignited in a closed-door meeting as some Republicans lashed out over their colleagues' disruption of leaders' agenda. Rep. Max Miller, R-Ohio, called out the House Freedom Caucus in a standing weekly Republican meeting Wednesday. [...] ‘Some people come to town to fix it. Some people come to town to burn it down,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., told USA TODAY. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, said hard-right members need to get realistic in their demands. ‘We don’t have command of the field. We don’t have the Senate. We don’t have the administration. We have power, but we can only wield it if we work together,’ Zinke said. When asked whether disruptive members should face consequences, he said being part of the conference ‘is a privilege, not a right.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 1/19/24]

**January 2024: Zinke Supported Punishing Recalcitrant Members Of The House Freedom Caucus, Stating That Being Part Of The GOP Conference Was “A Privilege, Not A Right.”** The Cincinnati Enquirer reported, “Now, GOP members not aligned with the Freedom Caucus say their colleagues should stop wasting time and get in line with the vast majority of the conference and the leaders they elected as a group. ‘Some people come to town to fix it. Some people come to town to burn it down,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., told USA TODAY. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, said hard-right members need to get realistic in their demands. ‘We don’t have command of the field. We don’t have the Senate. We don’t have the administration. We have power, but we can only wield it if we work together,’ Zinke said. When asked whether disruptive members should face consequences, he said being part of the conference ‘is a privilege, not a right.’” [Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/19/24]

## Jim Jordan

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**October 2023: Zinke Supported Electing Rep. Jim Jordan As Speaker Of The House.** USA Today reported, “On the 16<sup>th</sup> day without a speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, whiplash ensued as Republican lawmakers tried to make progress toward electing a new, permanent leader. Until they do, the House cannot act on substantive matters - such as an aid package for Israel and any solutions for the looming government shutdown next month. On Thursday, Republicans first postponed a third vote on the potential speakership of beleaguered Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio. And Jordan supported a plan empowering Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., as speaker up until January to get the House moving again. McHenry has been serving as an interim speaker with limited powers. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., told reporters he expected half of the House Republican conference to oppose the measure granting McHenry temporary powers. Zinke himself did not say whether he would support the resolution, noting that he thought the House should elect a speaker and reiterating his support for Jordan.” [USA Today, 10/20/23]



## Kevin McCarthy

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**2023: Zinke Supported Kevin McCarthy's Bid To Become House Speaker And Voted Against Ousting Him As Speaker.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Western Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke cast the second to last vote on the motion, one ahead of McCarthy's own vote. 'No. Never,' he said. Tuesday afternoon, Zinke posted a photo on Twitter of himself shaking hands with McCarthy after casting the deciding vote that elected the Bakersfield, California, Republican speaker in January, saying he will do so again. Back then, the Republican outliers to electing McCarthy were known as the 'never Kevins.' Zinke, after Tuesday's vote, said the hardliners' opposition went beyond the speaker. As Republicans scrambled in September to pass the appropriations bills necessary to craft a federal budget, hardliners twice voted with Democrats to prevent the defense appropriations from proceeding to vote." [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

- **Zinke: "I Cast The Deciding Vote For @SpeakerMcCarthy In January And Will Proudly Vote For Him To Lead Our Majority Again."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke, after Tuesday's vote, said the hardliners' opposition went beyond the speaker. As Republicans scrambled in September to pass the appropriations bills necessary to craft a federal budget, hardliners twice voted with Democrats to prevent the defense appropriations from proceeding to vote. I cast the deciding vote for @SpeakerMcCarthy in January and will proudly vote for him to lead our majority again. Let's go. pic.twitter.com/dTenuqNNsk — Rep Ryan Zinke (@RepRyanZinke) October 3, 2023." [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

## Matt Rosendale

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**2023: Zinke Slammed Matt Rosendale For Praying For A Small Republican Majority, Saying, "How Could You Be On The Republican Side Of The Aisle And Pray For Republicans To Get Beat?"** The Billings Gazette reported, "Rosendale wasn't immune from accusations of politically profiting from the division among House Republicans. A reporter for the Messenger, a conservative non-profit news outlet, had produced a video in which Rosendale, during a fundraising event last week, said he had prayed against the 'red wave' that Republicans had hoped would produce a large House majority, as well as Senate control in the 2022 general elections. 'A lot of people unfortunately were voting to have a 270, 280 Republican House. I was praying each evening for a small majority because I recognized that a small majority was the only way that we were going to advance a conservative agenda,' Rosendale said in the video event with Rep. Gaetz and former Trump advisor Steve Bannon.[...] Zinke was also not amused. 'This is the same group that prayed, evidently, for a majority that was thin. How could you be on the Republican side of the aisle and pray for Republicans to get beat?' Zinke said." [Billings Gazette, 10/3/23]

**Zinke, On Rosendale's Vote To Oust McCarthy: "This Political Theater Moves The Needle In The Opposite Direction And Prolongs Biden's Awful Policies Across The Board. You Can't Complain About Smoke From The Fire When You're The One Holding The Matches."** The Belgrade News reported, "U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, voted to keep McCarthy as speaker and faulted Rosendale and other dissident Republicans who voted for removal. 'You can't say you're for something when you've been voting against it,' Zinke said in a statement. 'If you're pushing for individual spending bills, this political theater moves the needle in the opposite direction and prolongs Biden's awful policies across the board. You can't complain about smoke from the fire when you're the one holding the matches,' Zinke said. 'Vacating the chair is a waste of time all due to personal disagreements when we should be doing our jobs and funding the government, defending our country and securing our border. We're here to build, not burn.'" [Belgrade News, 10/4/23]

**2024: When Rosendale Yelled At Zinke About The Ouster Of Kevin McCarthy, Zinke Said, "Why (Do) You Go 15 Rounds For A Quarterback And Fire Him Because He Can't Score? Why Can't He Score? He's Not Scoring Because You Can't Block (For) Him."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Though Zinke didn't reference a primary challenger in his own speech and like others focused on the southern border, as well as the war in Ukraine and between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, he did take a jab against Rosendale when the Senate candidate offered up an interjection as Zinke spoke Friday night. 'As a SEAL, if someone really pissed me off, I could take them out,' Zinke quipped, to which Rosendale yelled back that the House essentially did that when ousting Kevin McCarthy



as speaker last year. Zinke has previously thrashed Rosendale for his vote to dispatch the former speaker. ‘That’s a different discussion,’ Zinke answered. ‘Why (do) you go 15 rounds for a quarterback and fire him because he can’t score? Why can’t he score? He’s not scoring because you can’t block (for) him.’” [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]

## Mike Johnson

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**May 2024: Zinke Described A Potential Motion To Vacate Against House Speaker Mike Johnson Was A “Distraction” And That The Conference Should Instead “Focus On Getting Things Done.”** The Columbus Dispatch reported, “When Marjorie Taylor Greene announced her plans to oust Mike Johnson from the speakership, the conservative agitator committed to follow through on her threats and call a vote on the speaker’s future. [...] Not only that, but Donald Trump has defended the speaker and has attempted to tell Greene to back off, according to Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., a former Interior secretary during the Trump administration. Zinke said the former president ‘was in communication with Marjorie and advised her to focus on getting things done and not a distraction, removing the speaker.’” [Columbus Dispatch, 5/9/24]

## Paul Ryan

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**October 2016: House Speaker Paul Ryan Was Scheduled To Campaign For Zinke In Montana.** The Billings Gazette reported, “House Speaker Paul Ryan will stop in Billings Sunday morning to campaign for U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, according to a campaign spokesperson. The GOP leader from Wisconsin will speak to the public at a private hangar owned by Corporate Air. Doors open at 9 a.m. Zinke is campaigning for a second term as Montana’s lone congressman. He is being challenged by Democrat Denise Juneau.” [Billings Gazette, 10/25/16]

## Ron DeSantis

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**2022: Zinke Said “Ron DeSantis Knocked It Out Of The Park In Florida” Following The 2022 Midterm Election.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “‘It was certainly being touted as a great red wave, and we all kind of saw that, and it wasn’t as large as a wave as what was expected,’ he said. ‘I think abortion did play a role in it and you know, President Trump also had a role in it. He certainly played a significant role in the primary and I don’t think it can be overlooked that Ron DeSantis knocked it out of the park in Florida.’ Zinke believes that Republicans need to reflect on where their message was successful.” [Ravalli Republic, 11/13/22]

## Tim Sheehy

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**2023: Zinke Endorsed Tim Sheehy In Montana’s Senate Race.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke on Wednesday threw his support behind Navy SEAL veteran and businessman turned U.S. Senate candidate Tim Sheehy, joining other prominent Montana conservatives in endorsing the Bridger Aerospace CEO. Republicans U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, who heads up the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and Gov. Greg Gianforte have also announced their support of the businessman. By coming out behind Sheehy, Zinke also put an end to speculation that the former secretary of the Interior would run for the seat. The Senate seat is held by Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat, who announced earlier this year he would seek a fourth term in the upper chamber.” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/6/23]

- **Zinke: “In 2015 I Had The Honor Of Pinning His Bronze Star And Purple Heart, And Today I Have The Honor Of Endorsing Tim Sheehy To Be Montana’s Next U.S. Senator.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “The Senate seat is held by Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat, who announced earlier this year he would seek a fourth term in the upper chamber. ‘In 2015 I had the honor of pinning his Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and today I have the honor of endorsing Tim Sheehy to be Montana’s next U.S. Senator,’ said Zinke, who is also a Navy SEAL veteran, in a statement.” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/6/23]

## Consumer Protections And Regulations

### Deregulation

**2023: Zinke Said He Would Use The Appropriations Process To Limit The Enforcement Of Regulations On Agriculture, Energy, Federal Land Management, Water, And The Cattle Industry.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke said he plans use the appropriations process to limit the government’s ability to enforce regulations viewed by conservatives as detrimental to Montana’s economy, specifically agriculture, energy and federal land management. The goal will be to produce a budget within the federal fiscal year, by way of deliberative committee work in order to avoid the last-second late-December omnibus spending bills that have become the norm for funding the government, Zinke said. Passing a budget on deadline is a tall order, the federal fiscal year ends in September. The last time Congress passed a budget on time was September 1996. ‘For Montana, the power of the purse is, I think, important because we’ve witnessed some recent rules, Waters of the U.S., a lot of rules punishing the energy industry, the cattle industry . . . What Congress can do is defund those rules. When I say defund, I mean so they can’t enforce, can’t collect the data. It puts them at a stop,’ Zinke said.” [Billings Gazette, 1/11/23]

- **Zinke: “For Montana, The Power Of The Purse Is, I Think, Important Because We’ve Witnessed Some Recent Rules, Waters Of The U.S., A Lot Of Rules Punishing The Energy Industry, The Cattle Industry . . . What Congress Can Do Is Defund Those Rules. When I Say Defund, I Mean So They Can’t Enforce, Can’t Collect The Data. It Puts Them At A Stop.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke said he plans use the appropriations process to limit the government’s ability to enforce regulations viewed by conservatives as detrimental to Montana’s economy, specifically agriculture, energy and federal land management. The goal will be to produce a budget within the federal fiscal year, by way of deliberative committee work in order to avoid the last-second late-December omnibus spending bills that have become the norm for funding the government, Zinke said. Passing a budget on deadline is a tall order, the federal fiscal year ends in September. The last time Congress passed a budget on time was September 1996. ‘For Montana, the power of the purse is, I think, important because we’ve witnessed some recent rules, Waters of the U.S., a lot of rules punishing the energy industry, the cattle industry . . . What Congress can do is defund those rules. When I say defund, I mean so they can’t enforce, can’t collect the data. It puts them at a stop,’ Zinke said.” [Billings Gazette, 1/11/23]

## Crime & Public Safety

### FBI

**2022: A Letter To The Editor Criticized Zinke For Attacking His Democratic Opponent For Allegedly Supporting Defunding The Police While Standing With The Trump Wing Of The Republican Party, Which Wanted To Defund The FBI And Stop It From Enforcing Criminal Law Concerning Public Corruption.** According to a letter to the editor by Wanda LaCroix in the Ravalli Republic, “Ryan Zinke accused Monica Tranel of supporting the so-called ‘defund the police’ slogan (August 8, City Club Forum). When Tranel reached for the microphone to rebut this absurdity, he pulled the mic back creating an iconic image of a strong woman standing up to a bully. Tranel is very much in support of law enforcement, from local to federal. But is Zinke? The Trump wing of the former GOP is calling to defund the FBI, to stop enforcing major crimes like terrorism, national security threats, cybercrime, public corruption, etc. I can see where that would appeal to anyone guilty of those crimes. Zinke himself has an intimate relationship with public corruption.” [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 9/4/22]

### Marijuana

**2022: Zinke Said He “Respected The Voice Of Montanans” In Legalizing Marijuana But Added That “Big Pot And Big Money Doesn’t Belong In Big Sky.”** Hungry Horse News reported, “‘I stand for freedom,’ Zinke, a former Navy SEAL added. He also spoke to a question on recreational marijuana, which has been an issue in



Columbia Falls. Because of federal law, recreational marijuana businesses, which are now legal in Flathead County, cannot have bank accounts, because marijuana is still illegal on the federal level. So if a bank does business with a marijuana dealer, they could be charged with aiding and abetting a federal crime or money laundering. As such, pot businesses pay taxes, like the Columbia Falls 3% city resort tax, in cash. Zinke said he ‘respected the voice of Montanans’ on the legalization of marijuana. But he also noted that ‘big pot and big money doesn’t belong in Big Sky.’” [Hungry Horse News, 3/16/22]

## Economy & Business

### Bed & Breakfast

**Independent Record: “Some [Of Zinke’s] Properties Are Tied To DoubleTap LLC And Snowfrog LLC, Which Are Associated With A Brewery And Bed And Breakfast Zinke Once Tried To Open But Ended Up Abandoning Plans For After Neighbors Raised Concerns.”** The Independent Record reported, “After previously saying he wasn’t required to file a financial disclosure, Republican U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke did so Monday, showing assets between \$8 million and \$34.39 million. [...] Zinke’s report shows he and his wife, Lolita, own property worth between \$7.1 million and \$32.2 million. That includes between \$1.1 million and \$1.75 million in Whitefish and the Flathead Valley. Some properties are tied to DoubleTap LLC and Snowfrog LLC, which are associated with a brewery and bed and breakfast Zinke once tried to open but ended up abandoning plans for after neighbors raised concerns. Zinke reported his wife owning property worth between \$6 million and \$30 million in Santa Barbara, California. One property was transferred to Lolita Zinke in 2021 and is worth between \$5 million and \$25 million. This year the property has generated between \$50,000 to \$100,000 in income and a previous form filed by Zinke in 2016 said his wife was the ‘day-to-day manager of the rental property.’” [Independent Record, 11/30/21]

### Big Tech

**Zinke: “Most Of America, Day To Day, Gets The Drumbeat Of Socialism... The Conservative Message Is Banned.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “The Biden administration and news media were among Zinke’s targets, which he believes are a part of the ‘deep state.’ ‘Most of America, day to day, gets the drumbeat of socialism,’ he said of so-called Big Tech companies. ‘The conservative message is banned.’ He only mentioned former President Trump once, in reference to Trump being banned on Twitter, and made a passing remark about the recent FBI search for classified documents at Trump’s Mar-a-lago estate.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]

### Debt Ceiling

**2023: Zinke Voted Against The Bipartisan Deal Between President Biden And Kevin McCarthy To Raise The Debt Ceiling And Prevent The Federal Government From Defaulting On Its Debt.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Both of Montana’s Republican U.S. representatives voted against a deal to raise the federal government’s borrowing limit for the next two years, putting them outside a bipartisan coalition that advanced the bill to the Senate late Wednesday. A total of 314 representatives voted for the bill. Opposition was also bipartisan, with 117 opposed a mix of 71 Republicans and 46 Democrats. Democratic President Biden and Republican Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy reached the deal earlier this week to raise the debt ceiling and make some spending reductions, among other changes like alterations to work requirements for those covered by some federal programs. Congress needed to increase the debt ceiling to keep the federal government from defaulting on its bills. The threshold has been altered 78 times since 1960, according to the Washington Post, though in recent years the issue has become more politically charged.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/1/23]

- **Zinke Said The Bill Did Not Go Far Enough, Arguing, “The Bill Was Not All Bad. It Contained Modest But Needed Work On Permit Reforms And Negotiated Spending Reductions. The Problem Is That It Is Just Not Enough For Montana. We Are Faced With Adding \$4 Trillion In Debt. More Has To Be Done**

**To Cut The Budget And Grow The Economy.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “In a statement emailed Wednesday night, Montana U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said he voted against the bill because it did not go far enough, though he did support some components. ‘The bill was not all bad. It contained modest but needed work on permit reforms and negotiated spending reductions. The problem is that it is just not enough for Montana. We are faced with adding \$4 trillion in debt. More has to be done to cut the budget and grow the economy,’ Zinke said. ‘Article I of the Constitution is clear no money shall be withdrawn from the treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law. I strongly believe we need to get back to that fundamental constitutional power.’ Zinke also posted a video saying while he respected the people who brokered the deal, ‘at the end of the day it doesn’t meet the bell’ because it added \$4 trillion to the debt and he felt it did not comply with the U.S. Constitution.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/1/23]

- **Billings Gazette: “Zinke Voted No On Raising The Debt Ceiling.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Rosendale and Hageman and Zinke voted no on raising the debt ceiling. At the heart of the debate over whether to keep the government operational and solvent is spending. Both in the debt ceiling stand-off and the two votes to avert government shutdowns this fall, the representatives said spending levels made the bills intolerable. ‘No spending cuts? No policy changes? No CR. I can’t justify a yes vote when it’s just prolonging the status quo to punt again,’ Western District Rep. Zinke told followers on X.” [Billings Gazette, 11/15/23]

## Glacier Range Riders

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**2024: Zinke Questioned Interior Secretary Deb Haaland Over The Department’s Request To The Glacier Range Riders’ Baseball Team To Change Its Logo, Which The Department Claimed Violated The Trademark Rights Held By The National Park Service.** The Bigfork Eagle reported, “The U.S. Department of the Interior is calling foul on the Glacier Range Riders’ logo, arguing it violates trademark rights held by the National Park Service. The federal agency is asking the Pioneer League team a family-owned business to drop its arrowhead-shaped emblem as it ‘is an infringement of its registered and common law trademark rights associated with the NPS Marks, and dilutes the NPS Marks,’ according to a written complaint sent to the baseball team in March 2023. [...] The issue rose to the level of Congress last week when U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., pressed Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on the disagreement. Zinke asked Haaland if she was aware of the complaint against the Range Riders, to which Haaland stated that she was ‘not aware of anything with the Range Riders.’ ‘This is a big deal and it’s a big deal because it’s an example of big government, their actions, having an effect locally,’ said Zinke, an Interior secretary in the Trump administration who resigned in 2018 amid multiple ethics investigations. He described it as ‘trademark bullying.’” [Bigfork Eagle, 4/23/24]

- **Zinke Called The Incident “Trademark Bullying” And Said, “This Is A Big Deal And It’s A Big Deal Because It’s An Example Of Big Government, Their Actions, Having An Effect Locally.”** The Bigfork Eagle reported, “The U.S. Department of the Interior is calling foul on the Glacier Range Riders’ logo, arguing it violates trademark rights held by the National Park Service. The federal agency is asking the Pioneer League team a family-owned business to drop its arrowhead-shaped emblem as it ‘is an infringement of its registered and common law trademark rights associated with the NPS Marks, and dilutes the NPS Marks,’ according to a written complaint sent to the baseball team in March 2023. [...] The issue rose to the level of Congress last week when U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., pressed Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on the disagreement. Zinke asked Haaland if she was aware of the complaint against the Range Riders, to which Haaland stated that she was ‘not aware of anything with the Range Riders.’ ‘This is a big deal and it’s a big deal because it’s an example of big government, their actions, having an effect locally,’ said Zinke, an Interior secretary in the Trump administration who resigned in 2018 amid multiple ethics investigations. He described it as ‘trademark bullying.’” [Bigfork Eagle, 4/23/24]
- **Zinke: “I Can Tell You That If I Was Secretary And This Came Across My Desk, I’d Fire The Lawyer Who Thought It Was A Good Use Of Tax Dollars. Now A Small Business Is Forced To Spend Half A Million Dollars Defending Themselves.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “The suit was brought to public light by U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., who on April 17 questioned Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland about



the dispute during a hearing before the House Appropriations Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee, calling it ‘frivolous and predatory.’ ‘This is the problem as a Secretary, because sometimes a large department does harm to local entities, like the local baseball team,’ Zinke, a former Interior Secretary under Donald Trump, said during the hearing. Secretary Haaland stated she had no knowledge of a trademark dispute, which is handled by the department’s solicitor’s office. ‘This is why people outside the beltway don’t trust the bureaucrats inside the beltway,’ Zinke said in a subsequent press release distributed to Montana news organizations. ‘I can tell you that if I was Secretary and this came across my desk, I’d fire the lawyer who thought it was a good use of tax dollars. Now a small business is forced to spend half a million dollars defending themselves.’ [Ravalli Republic, 4/25/24]

- **Ravalli Republic: “Similar Trademark Disputes Have Been Filed Against Businesses That Have Had Loose Associations, Via Business, Logo Or Name, With The National Park Service Or Individual Parks, Including Under Zinke’s Tenure As Interior Secretary.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Similar trademark disputes have been filed against businesses that have had loose associations, via business, logo or name, with the National Park Service or individual parks, including under Zinke’s tenure as Interior Secretary, a position which he held starting in 2017 until he resigned in December 2018 amid ethics investigations. In 2016, the DOI filed a petition to cancel three trademarks registered to Glacier Park Inc. (GPI), now part of the brand Pursuit, a former concessionaire with lodging properties and businesses in and around Glacier National Park. That action before the USPTO continued until 2019, extending through the period which Zinke served as Secretary of the Interior. The trademark trial and appeal board ultimately sided with Pursuit, allowing their trademarks to remain active.” [Ravalli Republic, 4/25/24]
- **Ravalli Republic: “In 2016, The DOI Filed A Petition To Cancel Three Trademarks Registered To Glacier Park Inc. (GPI)... A Former Concessionaire With Lodging Properties And Businesses In And Around Glacier National Park. That Action Before The USPTO Continued Until 2019, Extending Through The Period Which Zinke Served As Secretary Of The Interior.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Similar trademark disputes have been filed against businesses that have had loose associations, via business, logo or name, with the National Park Service or individual parks, including under Zinke’s tenure as Interior Secretary, a position which he held starting in 2017 until he resigned in December 2018 amid ethics investigations. In 2016, the DOI filed a petition to cancel three trademarks registered to Glacier Park Inc. (GPI), now part of the brand Pursuit, a former concessionaire with lodging properties and businesses in and around Glacier National Park. That action before the USPTO continued until 2019, extending through the period which Zinke served as Secretary of the Interior. The trademark trial and appeal board ultimately sided with Pursuit, allowing their trademarks to remain active.” [Ravalli Republic, 4/25/24]

## **Inflation**

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**2022: Zinke’s Spokesperson Said That “The Primary Issue He’s Hearing Concern About Is Inflation And A Close Second Is Gas Prices... People Recognize That This Is Very Much A Problem Caused By The Biden Administration And The Democrats Who Are Pushing Through The Spending And Regulations.”** The Independent Record reported, “The campaign said Zinke too has been traveling all across the district meeting with voters. ‘The primary issue he’s hearing concern about is inflation and a close second is gas prices,’ a campaign spokesperson wrote. ‘People recognize that this is very much a problem caused by the Biden Administration and the Democrats who are pushing through the spending and regulations. Other top issues Zinke is hearing about is shutting down management and access to federal lands and national parks, or slow rolling rebuilding Yellowstone infrastructure.’” [Independent Record, 8/7/22]

**2022: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Arguing That Inflation Was Caused By “Maleficent Leadership From The Radical Left” And That “Nearly Every Leading Economist... And Others Agree Inflation Is Driven By Democrat Policies... Such As More Government Spending And Higher Energy Costs.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “On top of the deepening recession, we are plagued by record high inflation, an underperforming labor market and a broken supply chain — all made worse by incompetent or maleficent



leadership from the radical left in Washington. Inflation is a hidden tax that is stealing from Montanans. As an example, a Montana family making \$60,000 a year has an added hidden inflation tax of about \$500 per month — that’s \$6,000 a year. At a time when gas is up 49%, housing up 6%, and groceries more than 10%, the blow to working families is devastating. [...] Nearly every leading economist, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and others agree inflation is driven by Democrat policies that my opponent Monica Tranel supports such as more government spending and higher energy costs.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/10/22]

- **Zinke: “Democrats In Washington Are Jamming Through The So-Called Inflation Reduction Act. Great Name, Opposite Effect. It’s A Terrible ‘Bill’... That Takes The Democrats’ Worst Wish List Items From The \$93 Trillion Green New Deal And \$4.5 Trillion Build Back Better, And Combines It With Tax Hikes And Economic Disaster.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Nearly every leading economist, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and others agree inflation is driven by Democrat policies that my opponent Monica Tranel supports such as more government spending and higher energy costs. Democrats in Washington are jamming through the so-called Inflation Reduction Act. Great name, opposite effect. It’s a terrible ‘Bill’ on the taxpayer that takes the Democrats’ worst wish list items from the \$93 trillion Green New Deal and \$4.5 trillion Build Back Better, and combines it with tax hikes and economic disaster.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/10/22]
- **Zinke Claimed The Inflation Reduction Act Would “Kill Jobs, Increase Health Insurance Premiums And Raise Taxes On Nearly Every Montanan.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Democrats in Washington are jamming through the so-called Inflation Reduction Act. Great name, opposite effect. It’s a terrible ‘Bill’ on the taxpayer that takes the Democrats’ worst wish list items from the \$93 trillion Green New Deal and \$4.5 trillion Build Back Better, and combines it with tax hikes and economic disaster. My opponent, Monica Tranel, a radical environmental lawyer who made millions off efforts to shut American oil and gas production, hike utility rates, and defending a convicted child molester, already supports it. She yelled her support at the crowd gathered for the debate last Monday in Missoula. Even though every credible economic analysis says it will kill jobs, increase health insurance premiums and raise taxes on nearly every Montanan.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/10/22]

## Education

### Department Of Education

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**2022: A Zinke Spokesperson Said That Zinke Supported Eliminating The U.S. Department Of Education, Arguing For Redistributing The Funding To States Because Of “Too Many Mandates And Policies Written By Teachers’ Unions, Lobbyists And Advocacy Groups In D.C.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Heuer does not support eliminating the Department of Education, but would advocate for a revamping of a national education system and national standards program. That could include more vocational mixed with educational classes as well as potentially more paths to fund attendance at the college level. A Zinke spokesperson said he would support elimination of the department. Federal funding should be allocated to states due to ‘too many mandates and policies written by teachers’ unions, lobbyists and advocacy groups in D.C.,’ the spokesperson said.” [Billings Gazette, 5/11/22]

### School Boards

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**2022: Zinke Said, “There’s A Lot Of Enthusiasm For School Boards In Montana... There’s An Interest In Getting Involved Because I Think There’s A Consensus That You Know, Democracy Is Fragile And When You Don’t Get Involved, You Get What You Get.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Several candidates in interviews and appearances praised parents and efforts to amplify the voice of parents in education. ‘There’s a lot of enthusiasm for school boards in Montana,’ Zinke said in an interview. ‘There’s an interest in getting involved

because I think there's a consensus that you know, democracy is fragile and when you don't get involved, you get what you get." [Billings Gazette, 5/11/22]

## Student Loans

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**2023: Zinke Praised The Supreme Court Ruling Striking Down President Biden's Plan To Forgive Up To \$20,000 In Student Debt Per Borrower And Argued For Congressional Oversight Of Student Loan Forgiveness, Saying, "Anytime A Law Is Being Abused, Congress Should Provide Oversight."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "The Supreme Court's ruling Friday that President Joe Biden lacks authority to forgive \$400 billion in student loans was unanimously welcomed by Montana's congressional delegation, which earlier voted to restart payments. Specifically, the president offered 20 million college borrowers up to \$20,000 in individual loan forgiveness, with the largest amounts going to Pell Grant recipients, who are students with exceptional need. [...] Friday, three of Montana's four lawmakers said they didn't see a need to repeal the HEROES Act. 'Anytime a law is being abused, Congress should provide oversight,' said Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Western District Republican. 'Article 1 section 9 no money should be drawn from Treasury without consequence of appropriations.'" [Ravalli Republic, 6/30/23]

**2023: Zinke Argued That Students Should Not Be Able To Receive Federal Loans For Private Schools With Tax-Free Endowments Like Harvard And Yale, Which He Said Were "Graduating Kids With Impractical Educations And Empty Job Markets."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Both Daines and Zinke said that changes were needed to the guaranteed student loan program. Zinke said the private schools with tax-free endowments, like Harvard and Yale, asking high tuition shouldn't be receiving federal aid for 'graduating kids with impractical educations and empty job markets.' He thought differently of making loans available to students at state schools. 'If you're looking for practicality, Montana schools can deliver quality education at a reasonable price,' Zinke said, 'Great trade schools with innovative curriculum delivery which provides a better value for education and turns the student loan process back on its original intention, access to a helpful education.' A four-year degree doesn't make financial sense for everyone, he said." [Ravalli Republic, 6/30/23]

- **Zinke: "If You're Looking For Practicality, Montana Schools Can Deliver Quality Education At A Reasonable Price... Great Trade Schools With Innovative Curriculum Delivery Which Provides A Better Value For Education And Turns The Student Loan Process Back On Its Original Intention, Access To A Helpful Education."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Both Daines and Zinke said that changes were needed to the guaranteed student loan program. Zinke said the private schools with tax-free endowments, like Harvard and Yale, asking high tuition shouldn't be receiving federal aid for 'graduating kids with impractical educations and empty job markets.' He thought differently of making loans available to students at state schools. 'If you're looking for practicality, Montana schools can deliver quality education at a reasonable price,' Zinke said, 'Great trade schools with innovative curriculum delivery which provides a better value for education and turns the student loan process back on its original intention, access to a helpful education.' A four-year degree doesn't make financial sense for everyone, he said." [Ravalli Republic, 6/30/23]

## Election Law & Campaign Finance

### 2020 Election

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**2022: The Washington Post Identified Zinke On A List Of 2020 Election Deniers Running For Office In 2022.** According to the Washington Post, Ryan Zinke was named on a list of 2020 election deniers who were running for office in 2022. [Washington Post, accessed [7/5/24](#)]

**2022: Zinke Claimed Big Tech Companies Censored And Manipulated Information And States Changed Voting Rules To Skew Voting In The 2020 Election.** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Former Congressman and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke did not attend the Kalispell forum his campaign says due to a scheduling conflict

but has been asked about the election. In a January radio interview on KGVO, he accused big-tech companies of censorship and manipulation that skewed the information people could see and translated into votes. He also raised similar issues with temporary state changes to voting processes because of the pandemic. ‘They changed how votes were done, mail-out votes, etcetera, etcetera,’ Zinke said. ‘Then you have the cheating. I think the focus just on the cheating part undervalues the bias in the media, (Facebook CEO Mark) Zuckerberg effect, the COVID effect, and it was well-planned and organized.’” [Ravalli Republic, 5/10/22]

- **Zinke: “They Changed How Votes Were Done, Mail-Out Votes, Etcetera, Etcetera... Then You Have The Cheating. I Think The Focus Just On The Cheating Part Undervalues The Bias In The Media, Zuckerberg Effect, The COVID Effect, And It Was Well-Planned And Organized.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Former Congressman and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke did not attend the Kalispell forum his campaign says due to a scheduling conflict but has been asked about the election. In a January radio interview on KGVO, he accused big-tech companies of censorship and manipulation that skewed the information people could see and translated into votes. He also raised similar issues with temporary state changes to voting processes because of the pandemic. ‘They changed how votes were done, mail-out votes, etcetera, etcetera,’ Zinke said. ‘Then you have the cheating. I think the focus just on the cheating part undervalues the bias in the media, (Facebook CEO Mark) Zuckerberg effect, the COVID effect, and it was well-planned and organized.’” [Ravalli Republic, 5/10/22]

**2022: Zinke Criticized Federal “Takeovers” Of Elections In Response To A Question About Whether Joe Biden Was Legitimately Elected, While Also Saying He Believed That Election Irregularities In Montana Were Rare.** The Independent Record reported, “The next question asked whether candidates would agree that President Joe Biden was duly elected and that elections are secure. While not a specific part of the question, it reflected frequent criticism from Republicans including false statements from former President Donald Trump and others that the election was stolen from him due to widespread voter fraud, which has not been proven. [...] Zinke stated his belief that election irregularities in Montana were a rarity, but said he opposed federal ‘takeovers’ of election laws. ‘I think Montana does a pretty good job of elections,’ he said. ‘I think we’re good people and as long as people stay vigilant, look at elections and get out there and do our part.’” [Independent Record, 9/29/22]

**Ravalli Republic: “Zinke Has Not Directly Answered Whether He Agrees With Trump’s False Claims Of Widespread Voter Fraud, And When Asked Has Pivoted To Discussing Montana’s Elections, The Influence Of Big Tech And Media Bias.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Zinke is a former cabinet member of the Trump administration, and had secured Trump’s endorsement in his bid to return to the House. Zinke was elected to Montana’s new western House seat in November. Zinke has not directly answered whether he agrees with Trump’s false claims of widespread voter fraud, and when asked has pivoted to discussing Montana’s elections, the influence of big tech and media bias. At a Butte forum in September Zinke said he believes Montana does a ‘pretty good job’ at elections and that he opposed federal ‘takeovers’ of election laws.” [Ravalli Republic, 12/5/22]

## **Fraud**

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**2013: Zinke Appeared On The Online Radio Show “The Haggmann And Haggmann Report” And Said There Was Widespread Voter Fraud Statewide In Montana And Federally, Including A Claim That Dead Voters Cast Ballots.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Before becoming a congressman, Ryan Zinke said there was widespread voter fraud in both national and Montana elections, including a claim that the dead cast ballots. While election officials deny that voter fraud happens in Montana, Zinke’s comments are in step with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who has made claims of rigged elections and raised the profile of fraud concerns leading up to the 2016 election. Zinke has been a supporter of Trump throughout the election year. In 2013, Zinke was a guest on an online radio show, The Haggmann and Haggmann Report. At the time he was a former state senator who served in the two previous terms in the Legislature.” [Billings Gazette, 10/21/16]

- **2013 – Zinke: “I Think There Was A Lot Of Tomfoolery In This Last Election. I Just Came Back From Santa Barbara With The Republican Women There That Went Down To A Local University And**



**Witness, You Know, A Lot Of Voter Fraud.**” The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke has been a supporter of Trump throughout the election year. In 2013, Zinke was a guest on an online radio show, The Hagmann and Hagmann Report. At the time he was a former state senator who served in the two previous terms in the Legislature. The conversation turned to voter fraud midway through the show, and Zinke said that voter confidence in the system is important. He then made his claim. ‘I think there was a lot of tomfoolery in this last election. I just came back from Santa Barbara with the Republican women there that went down to a local university and witnessed, you know, a lot of voter fraud,’ Zinke said. ‘And I have to believe that’s probably the case across the country. I know in my home state, during the senatorial election, there was a lot of voter fraud. And there was people that voted that were not alive.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/21/16]

- **2013 – Zinke: “I Know In My Home State, During The Senatorial Election, There Was A Lot Of Voter Fraud. And There Was People That Voted That Were Not Alive.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke has been a supporter of Trump throughout the election year. In 2013, Zinke was a guest on an online radio show, The Hagmann and Hagmann Report. At the time he was a former state senator who served in the two previous terms in the Legislature. The conversation turned to voter fraud midway through the show, and Zinke said that voter confidence in the system is important. He then made his claim. ‘I think there was a lot of tomfoolery in this last election. I just came back from Santa Barbara with the Republican women there that went down to a local university and witnessed, you know, a lot of voter fraud,’ Zinke said. ‘And I have to believe that’s probably the case across the country. I know in my home state, during the senatorial election, there was a lot of voter fraud. And there was people that voted that were not alive.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/21/16]

## January 6th

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**Great Falls Tribune: “Zinke Remains Mum On The Jan. 6 Insurrection In Washington, D.C., The Results Of The 2020 Election And Even Trump’s Leadership Within The Republican Party, Saying He’ll Be Listening On The River.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Zinke remains mum on the Jan. 6 insurrection in Washington, D.C., the results of the 2020 election and even Trump’s leadership within the Republican Party, saying he’ll be listening on the river - a reference to Montana-by-boat campaign. ‘There are a lot of people who hated Trump more than they loved their country,’ Zinke said, noting that working for the 45<sup>th</sup> President brought death threats to him, his family, even his dog. ‘I have zero doubt that Trump had great policies.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

**2022: Zinke Said, “As A Former Navy SEAL And I’ve Been In A Lot Of Countries During Civil War, That Was Not An Insurrection... Riotous, Illegal, A Lot Of Things Wrong With It And Severely Wrong With It. It Fell Short In My Judgment As An Insurrection.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Zinke also said he does not believe the events of Jan. 6 rose to the level of an insurrection. ‘As a former Navy SEAL and I’ve been in a lot of countries during civil war, that was not an insurrection,’ he said. ‘(It was) riotous, illegal, a lot of things wrong with it and severely wrong with it. It fell short in my judgment as an insurrection.’” [Ravalli Republic, 5/10/22]

**2022: Zinke Dismissed The January 6<sup>th</sup> Committee’s Recommendation To Criminally Charge Donald Trump, Calling The Committee “A Shameful Partisan Charade With An Overdose Of Trump Derangement Syndrome... I Look Forward To Tackling The Real Issues Of Out-Of-Control Spending, High Inflation And Securing Our Border.”** The Independent Record reported, “The Jan. 6 Committee’s recommendation that former President Donald Trump face charges for the 2021 riot at the Capitol received a measured response from Montana’s congressional delegation, with Republicans indicating they were moving on. The bipartisan select committee voted Monday to recommend four criminal charges against Trump, who carried the Montana vote by wide margins in 2016 and 2020. [...] Similar to Daines, incoming U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, who will represent western Montana, dismissed the select committee’s work as partisan and said the House focus belonged elsewhere. ‘A shameful partisan charade with an overdose of Trump derangement syndrome,’ said Zinke, a Republican and former Interior secretary under Trump. ‘I look forward to tackling the real issues of out-of-control spending, high inflation and securing our border.’” [Independent Record, 12/20/22]



## Leadership PAC

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**2022: Approximately One Quarter Of The Candidates Who Received Financial Support From Zinke’s Leadership PAC, SEAL PAC, Were Non-Veterans, Despite The PAC Ostensibly Being Dedicated To “Electing Conservative Veterans.”** The Independent Record reported, “The Republican primary has also generated suggestions of fishy financial activities by the campaigns. Al Olszewski’s campaign manager, Drew Zinecker, pointed reporters on Tuesday to a recent article published in the newspaper Roll Call, which detailed the spending patterns of SEAL PAC, a political committee run by GOP candidate Ryan Zinke. The PAC is dedicated to ‘electing conservative veterans to lead our nation,’ according to its website. The article, published Tuesday, details the PAC’s spending to support GOP candidates, about a quarter of which are nonveterans, according to Roll Call. The article also found that many of the incumbent candidates it supported voted against a measure in Congress to extend health care benefits to veterans sickened by exposure to toxins during their service.” [Independent Record, 6/3/22]

- **Many Of The Incumbent Candidates Who Received Support From Zinke’s Leadership PAC Reportedly Voted Against A Bill In Congress To Extend Healthcare Benefits To Veterans Harmed By Exposure To Toxins During Their Service.** The Independent Record reported, “The Republican primary has also generated suggestions of fishy financial activities by the campaigns. Al Olszewski’s campaign manager, Drew Zinecker, pointed reporters on Tuesday to a recent article published in the newspaper Roll Call, which detailed the spending patterns of SEAL PAC, a political committee run by GOP candidate Ryan Zinke. The PAC is dedicated to ‘electing conservative veterans to lead our nation,’ according to its website. The article, published Tuesday, details the PAC’s spending to support GOP candidates, about a quarter of which are nonveterans, according to Roll Call. The article also found that many of the incumbent candidates it supported voted against a measure in Congress to extend health care benefits to veterans sickened by exposure to toxins during their service.” [Independent Record, 6/3/22]
- **Zinke Spokeswoman Heather Swift Said Zinke “Absolutely Disagrees With The Characterization Of The Article,” Claiming That His Leadership PAC Supported Nonveterans Who Were “Strong Advocates For Veterans And America First Defense Policies.”** Zinke campaign spokeswoman Heather Swift didn’t dispute the facts of the article in an email, but wrote that the former congressman and Navy SEAL ‘absolutely disagrees with the characterization of the article’ and noted the PAC also supports nonveterans who ‘are strong advocates for veterans and America First defense policies.’ Swift also provided a statement from Zinke noting that his campaign is not associated with the spending group. ‘The SEAL PAC acronym stands for Supporting and Electing American Leaders and we are very clear that we support conservative veterans and other conservatives who support veterans,’ he stated. ‘Being a veteran is honorable and I’m grateful for all who served. However it is not the only criteria used to determine an endorsement. In many cases veterans are running against veterans, or a veteran decides to run but has absolutely no path to victory or legitimacy.’” [Independent Record, 6/3/22]
- **Zinke: “We Are Very Clear That We Support Conservative Veterans And Other Conservatives Who Support Veterans... Being A Veteran Is Honorable And I’m Grateful For All Who Served. However It Is Not The Only Criteria Used To Determine An Endorsement. In Many Cases Veterans Are Running Against Veterans, Or A Veteran Decides To Run But Has Absolutely No Path To Victory Or Legitimacy.”** The Independent Record reported, “Zinke campaign spokeswoman Heather Swift didn’t dispute the facts of the article in an email, but wrote that the former congressman and Navy SEAL ‘absolutely disagrees with the characterization of the article’ and noted the PAC also supports nonveterans who ‘are strong advocates for veterans and America First defense policies.’ Swift also provided a statement from Zinke noting that his campaign is not associated with the spending group. ‘The SEAL PAC acronym stands for Supporting and Electing American Leaders and we are very clear that we support conservative veterans and other conservatives who support veterans,’ he stated. ‘Being a veteran is honorable and I’m grateful for all who served. However it is not the only criteria used to determine an endorsement. In many cases veterans are



running against veterans, or a veteran decides to run but has absolutely no path to victory or legitimacy.”  
[Independent Record, 6/3/22]

**Zinke’s Campaign Received More Than \$29,000 In Contributions From PACs That Had Received A Similar Amount In Contributions From SEAL PAC Since 2021.** The Independent Record reported, “Olszewski’s campaign manager also shared research that showed Zinke benefitting from PACs that had gotten contributions from SEAL PAC in the last two years. FEC records show Zinke’s campaign received more than \$29,000 in total contributions from PACs that had gotten a similar combined total from SEAL PAC since 2021. The campaign has also received \$10,000 directly from SEAL PAC, according to disclosure reports. ‘It’s no surprise that other like-minded conservative and veteran-aligned PACs support Zinke,’ Swift wrote in response. ‘The campaign is not associated with the PAC and has nothing to do with PAC giving.’” [Independent Record, 6/3/22]

- **Zinke’s Campaign Received \$10,000 From Zinke’s Leadership PAC.** The Independent Record reported, “Olszewski’s campaign manager also shared research that showed Zinke benefitting from PACs that had gotten contributions from SEAL PAC in the last two years. FEC records show Zinke’s campaign received more than \$29,000 in total contributions from PACs that had gotten a similar combined total from SEAL PAC since 2021. The campaign has also received \$10,000 directly from SEAL PAC, according to disclosure reports. ‘It’s no surprise that other like-minded conservative and veteran-aligned PACs support Zinke,’ Swift wrote in response. ‘The campaign is not associated with the PAC and has nothing to do with PAC giving.’” [Independent Record, 6/3/22]
- **Zinke’s Spokeswoman: “It’s No Surprise That Other Like-Minded Conservative And Veteran-Aligned PACs Support Zinke,’ Swift Wrote In Response. ‘The Campaign Is Not Associated With The Pac And Has Nothing To Do With PAC Giving.’”** The Independent Record reported, “Olszewski’s campaign manager also shared research that showed Zinke benefitting from PACs that had gotten contributions from SEAL PAC in the last two years. FEC records show Zinke’s campaign received more than \$29,000 in total contributions from PACs that had gotten a similar combined total from SEAL PAC since 2021. The campaign has also received \$10,000 directly from SEAL PAC, according to disclosure reports. ‘It’s no surprise that other like-minded conservative and veteran-aligned PACs support Zinke,’ Swift wrote in response. ‘The campaign is not associated with the PAC and has nothing to do with PAC giving.’” [Independent Record, 6/3/22]

## Voter ID

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**2013: Zinke Called Himself A “Huge Advocate For Voter ID” During His Appearance On “The Haggman And Haggman Report.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “A measure requiring post-election audits of voting machines became law in 2009, unanimously passing the Senate and surviving a split House vote. That process remains in effect today. During the same session, a bill for absentee voter confirmation mailers was also signed into law. Zinke voted against the mailers bill. During the 2011 session, a bill to expand voting by mail died in the House amid concerns over voter fraud. A stricter voter ID law passed both chambers but was vetoed by Gov. Brian Schweitzer. The mail-in ballot bill never made it to the Senate, but Zinke did cast a no vote for the voter ID measure. In the 2013 Haggman show, Zinke called himself a ‘huge advocate for voter ID,’ adding that the cards would need to be widely accessible and at no cost.” [Billings Gazette, 10/21/16]

- **2011: Zinke Voted Against A Voter ID Law In The Montana Senate.** The Billings Gazette reported, “A measure requiring post-election audits of voting machines became law in 2009, unanimously passing the Senate and surviving a split House vote. That process remains in effect today. During the same session, a bill for absentee voter confirmation mailers was also signed into law. Zinke voted against the mailers bill. During the 2011 session, a bill to expand voting by mail died in the House amid concerns over voter fraud. A stricter voter ID law passed both chambers but was vetoed by Gov. Brian Schweitzer. The mail-in ballot bill never made it to the Senate, but Zinke did cast a no vote for the voter ID measure. In the 2013 Haggman show, Zinke called himself a ‘huge advocate for voter ID,’ adding that the cards would need to be widely accessible and at no cost.” [Billings Gazette, 10/21/16]

**2022: Zinke’s Spokesperson Said “We Feel Good About The Security Of Montana’s Elections And Applaud The Legislature For Taking Measures To Further Enhance Election Integrity.”** The Sidney Herald reported, “Ryan Zinke, Republican ‘We feel good about the security of Montana’s elections and applaud the legislature for taking measures to further enhance election integrity,’ wrote campaign spokesperson Heather Swift. ‘Regarding contesting the results, Montana has an automatic trigger for a recount when the race is within certain margins and allows campaigns to fund recounts within a slightly larger margin, which is prudent and frequently used in close races. We remain concerned about inappropriate influence from email, social media and news media platforms and them censoring or discounting information their ‘fact-checkers’ disagree with.’” [Sidney Herald, 11/8/22]

## Energy

### Critical Minerals

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**March 2023: Zinke Interrupted Former Rep. Deb Haaland’s Answer On Critical Minerals During Her Confirmation Hearing To Serve As Interior Secretary.** The Washington Post reported, “One of the most tension-filled exchanges at Tuesday’s House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies hearing occurred between Haaland and Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), who served as interior secretary under President Donald Trump before resigning under a cloud of ethics investigations. ‘Madam Secretary, is it your policy that critical minerals should be sourced from countries that are stewards of the environment, like the U.S. and our allies, or sourced from Russia and China, that don’t share our same values?’ Zinke asked. Haaland began to respond before Zinke interrupted her with a series of questions about critical minerals, including a query about whether Haaland is ‘aware that northern Minnesota is home to those critical minerals that are necessary for EVs and our Defense Department.’” [Washington Post, [3/29/23](#)]

- **March 2023 – Zinke: “Madam Secretary, Is It Your Policy That Critical Minerals Should Be Sourced From Countries That Are Stewards Of The Environment, Like The U.S. And Our Allies, Or Sourced From Russia And China, That Don’t Share Our Same Values?”** The Washington Post reported, “One of the most tension-filled exchanges at Tuesday’s House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies hearing occurred between Haaland and Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), who served as interior secretary under President Donald Trump before resigning under a cloud of ethics investigations. ‘Madam Secretary, is it your policy that critical minerals should be sourced from countries that are stewards of the environment, like the U.S. and our allies, or sourced from Russia and China, that don’t share our same values?’ Zinke asked. Haaland began to respond before Zinke interrupted her with a series of questions about critical minerals, including a query about whether Haaland is ‘aware that northern Minnesota is home to those critical minerals that are necessary for EVs and our Defense Department.’” [Washington Post, [3/29/23](#)]
- **March 2023: Haaland Began To Respond When Zinke Interrupted With A Series Of Additional Hostile Questions.** The Washington Post reported, “One of the most tension-filled exchanges at Tuesday’s House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies hearing occurred between Haaland and Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), who served as interior secretary under President Donald Trump before resigning under a cloud of ethics investigations. ‘Madam Secretary, is it your policy that critical minerals should be sourced from countries that are stewards of the environment, like the U.S. and our allies, or sourced from Russia and China, that don’t share our same values?’ Zinke asked. Haaland began to respond before Zinke interrupted her with a series of questions about critical minerals, including a query about whether Haaland is ‘aware that northern Minnesota is home to those critical minerals that are necessary for EVs and our Defense Department.’” [Washington Post, [3/29/23](#)]

### Energy Independence

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**2021: Zinke He Was Proud Of Helping The Trump Administration Achieve “Energy Dominance” And Said The United States Should Produce Its Own Energy.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “He said instead he’d like to focus on issues that bring Montanans together. ‘Very few people want wide open borders, so we can use dialogue,’ Zinke said. ‘The time has come for comprehensive immigration reform.’ Zinke said he’s proud of his time in Washington, D.C., in which he said he helped the Trump administration achieve ‘energy dominance,’ and said America must continue to look at itself for energy. ‘I spent the majority of my career as a Navy SEAL fighting on someone else’s shores over energy,’ Zinke said of the Sea, Air and Land Forces. Zinke said that includes a number of energy options, including wind and renewables. ‘We need energy that’s made in America, affordable and reliable,’ Zinke said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

- **Zinke: “I Spent The Majority Of My Career As A Navy SEAL Fighting On Someone Else’s Shores Over Energy.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “He said instead he’d like to focus on issues that bring Montanans together. ‘Very few people want wide open borders, so we can use dialogue,’ Zinke said. ‘The time has come for comprehensive immigration reform.’ Zinke said he’s proud of his time in Washington, D.C., in which he said he helped the Trump administration achieve ‘energy dominance,’ and said America must continue to look at itself for energy. ‘I spent the majority of my career as a Navy SEAL fighting on someone else’s shores over energy,’ Zinke said of the Sea, Air and Land Forces. Zinke said that includes a number of energy options, including wind and renewables. ‘We need energy that’s made in America, affordable and reliable,’ Zinke said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]
- **Zinke Said He Supported A Mix Of Energy Options, Including, Wind And Renewables, And That “We Need Energy That’s Made In America, Affordable And Reliable.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “He said instead he’d like to focus on issues that bring Montanans together. ‘Very few people want wide open borders, so we can use dialogue,’ Zinke said. ‘The time has come for comprehensive immigration reform.’ Zinke said he’s proud of his time in Washington, D.C., in which he said he helped the Trump administration achieve ‘energy dominance,’ and said America must continue to look at itself for energy. ‘I spent the majority of my career as a Navy SEAL fighting on someone else’s shores over energy,’ Zinke said of the Sea, Air and Land Forces. Zinke said that includes a number of energy options, including wind and renewables. ‘We need energy that’s made in America, affordable and reliable,’ Zinke said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Making The United States Energy Independent.** Hungry Horse News reported, “Zinke was formerly a Montana Congressman from 2015-2017 before becoming Secretary of Interior under the Trump Administration. ‘The campaign is going great,’ he said. ‘America is fixable.’ In a brief interview while shaking hands with folks, he said the U.S. needs to get back to energy independence and could shut down the southern border in three months to stop illegal immigration if need be. He said he would support building the southern border wall on the Mexican border and would support empowering the Border Patrol to do its job.” [Hungry Horse News, 3/16/22]

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported An All-Of-The-Above Energy Plan, Claiming That The United States Would Need Fossil Fuels For At Least The Next 50 Years To Sustain The Manufacturing Sector.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke said he backed an all-of-the-above energy plan and wanted to make sure energy used here came from the U.S. ‘I’ve spent most of my life fighting overseas for someone else’s energy,’ Zinke told the crowd. To be able to sustain the manufacturing sector, Zinke said that will require fossil fuels for the next 50 years at least. He called the Inflation Reduction Act an ‘oxymoron’ and said it would just increase the monthly cost of living for Montana families.” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

**2024: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Arguing For A Bill To Boost Domestic Energy And Mineral Resource Production By “Eliminating Burdensome Permitting Requirements... And Securing Our Supply Chains And Energy Infrastructure.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “\* H.R. 1 — The Lower Energy Costs Act: Three years ago, America wasn’t just energy independent - America was energy dominant. We gave Biden a blueprint for a clean, safe, efficient, and inexpensive energy policy and economy that benefited from it. He threw it in the garbage and Montanans have paid for it though high electricity bills and price





gouges at the fuel pump since. In fact, the average Montana family has paid \$26,000 more since Biden took office. H.R. 1 puts logic back into energy policy by focusing on spurring responsible development of domestic energy and mineral resources, eliminating burdensome permitting requirements, creating jobs, and securing our supply chains and energy infrastructure.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 5/4/24]

**July 2019 – Zinke: “I Promote Energy... It Is Better To Produce Energy In This Country With Reasonable Regulation Than Watch It Get Produced Overseas With None.”** The Boston Globe reported, “Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] ‘I promote energy,’ he said. ‘It is better to produce energy in this country with reasonable regulation than watch it get produced overseas with none.’” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

## **Mining**

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**October 2018: Zinke Approved A 20-Year Ban On New Mining Claims For Gold, Silver, And Other Minerals On Federal Lands In The Paradise Valley And Gardiner Basin, Two Mountain Ranges North Of Yellowstone National Park.** The Denver Post reported, “U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke approved a 20 year ban on new mining claims in the towering mountains north of Yellowstone National Park on Monday, after two proposed gold mines raised concerns that an area that draws tourists from the around the globe could be spoiled. [...] ‘I’m a pro mining guy. I love hardrock mining,’ Zinke said. ‘But there are places to mine and places not to mine.’ Zinke’s order extends a temporary ban imposed in 2016 under former President Barack Obama on new claims for gold, silver and other minerals on 47 square miles of public lands in the Paradise Valley and Gardiner Basin.” [Denver Post, 10/9/18]

- **Zinke: “I’m A Pro Mining Guy. I Love Hardrock Mining... But There Are Places To Mine And Places Not To Mine.”** The Denver Post reported, “U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke approved a 20 year ban on new mining claims in the towering mountains north of Yellowstone National Park on Monday, after two proposed gold mines raised concerns that an area that draws tourists from the around the globe could be spoiled. [...] ‘I’m a pro mining guy. I love hardrock mining,’ Zinke said. ‘But there are places to mine and places not to mine.’ Zinke’s order extends a temporary ban imposed in 2016 under former President Barack Obama on new claims for gold, silver and other minerals on 47 square miles of public lands in the Paradise Valley and Gardiner Basin.” [Denver Post, 10/9/18]

**July 2018: Zinke Overruled A Forest Service Decision That Banned Industrial Sulfide Ore Copper Mining Near The Boundary Waters Wilderness In Minnesota.** According to an op-ed by Yvon Chouinard and Land Tawney in the Denver Post, “First, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is overruling the Forest Service and paving the way for industrial sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota. This is the most visited wilderness area in the nation, and local communities rely on the nearly 4,500 jobs in the area generated by the outdoors recreation industry. Across Minnesota, 140,000 people are employed in outdoor recreation, but they apparently don’t carry as much weight with Zinke as the deep pocketed mining companies.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 7/24/18]

**March 2018: Zinke Announced That The Bureau Of Land Management Would Ease Mining Restrictions On 1.3 Million Acres Of Land Bordering Death Valley And Joshua Tree National Parks.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “This month, Zinke announced that the BLM would ease mining restrictions on 1.3 million acres of desert where it had been more tightly regulated, including public lands bordering Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks. Now, conservationists worry that industrial mining interests may push for road construction in areas of untrammelled wilderness.” [Los Angeles Times, 3/16/18]

## **Oil & Gas**

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## ANWR

**May 2017: Zinke Said That America Needed Refuge Oil From The Trans Alaska Pipeline To Reach Trump's "Energy Dominance" Goal.** The Denver Post reported, "What would opening the refuge do for the federal budget? Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke acknowledged Tuesday that the ANWR item in the president's proposed budget is a placeholder. Lease sales are not likely before 2022, Zinke said, and winning bids could generate \$3.5 billion over 10 years. If companies find oil, production would generate royalty payments and federal and state taxes. Zinke said America needs refuge oil in the trans Alaska pipeline to reach Trump's goal of 'energy dominance' and to help balance the federal budget." [Denver Post, 5/28/17]

**June 2017: Zinke Issued A Directive To Compel A Rewrite Of A 2013 Plan Limiting Oil And Natural Gas Development In Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve.** The Denver Post reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a directive aimed at spurring oil and natural gas development in Alaska, including a move to assess just how much crude might be lurking under the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Zinke's order, signed during a visit to Anchorage, also compels a rewrite of a 2013 plan that limited oil and natural gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. The move responds to complaints from oil companies and state officials that the Obama administration was too restrictive, blocking drilling in promising areas while hampering their ability to build pipelines across the 23 million acre reserve. 'This is land that was set up with the sole intention of oil and gas production; however, years of politics over policy put roughly half of the NPR A off limits,' Zinke said in a statement announcing the move. 'Using this land for its original intent will create good paying jobs and revenue.'" [Denver Post, 6/2/17]

**July 2017: Zinke Lowered The Price Companies Were Required To Pay The Government For Offshore Drilling, Accelerated Approval For Onshore Drilling, Opened Exploratory Drilling In The Arctic, And Scheduled Lease Sales On Western Lands That Were Deemed Off Limits By The Obama Administration.** The Denver Post reported, "With control over more than 500 million acres of public land and hundreds of millions of acres offshore, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is moving rapidly to promote American production of coal, oil and gas a critical piece of President Donald Trump's vision for 'making America great again.' In the past few weeks alone, Zinke has lowered the price companies must pay the government for offshore drilling, acted to accelerate approval for onshore drilling permits, approved exploratory drilling in the Arctic's Beaufort Sea, and scheduled lease sales on Western lands the Obama administration had deemed off limits. And Zinke's moves have immediate impact. Whereas Trump's ambitious plans to overhaul the tax code and renegotiate international trade pacts remain far off, and his campaign to roll back environmental regulations will take months to produce results for industry, Zinke is taking concrete action to deliver on one of Trump's most important campaign promises." [Denver Post, 7/21/17]

**September 2017: The Interior Department Circulated An Interior Memo Proposing Lifted Restrictions On Exploratory Seismic Studies In The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** The New York Times reported, "An internal Interior Department memo has proposed lifting restrictions on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a possible first step toward opening the pristine wilderness area to oil and gas drilling. The document proposes ending a restriction that had limited exploratory drilling to the period from Oct. 1, 1984, to May 31, 1986. It also directs the agency to provide an environmental assessment and a proposed rule allowing for new exploration plans. The document, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, was first reported by The Washington Post. The Arctic refuge, which covers more than 30,000 square miles, has been closed off to commercial drilling for decades because of concerns about the impact on polar bears, caribou and other animals in the region. Opening it up has been a top priority for Republicans. Doing so, even to determine how much oil is available, would be politically explosive and set the stage for bitter fights between the administration and environmental groups. Congress has the final say over whether to allow new drilling in the refuge, often referred to as A.N.W.R." [New York Times, 9/17/17]

- **September 2017: The Original Restrictions Limited Exploratory Drilling To A Period Between October 1984 And May 1986.** The New York Times reported, "An internal Interior Department memo has proposed

lifting restrictions on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a possible first step toward opening the pristine wilderness area to oil and gas drilling. The document proposes ending a restriction that had limited exploratory drilling to the period from Oct. 1, 1984, to May 31, 1986. It also directs the agency to provide an environmental assessment and a proposed rule allowing for new exploration plans. The document, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, was first reported by The Washington Post. The Arctic refuge, which covers more than 30,000 square miles, has been closed off to commercial drilling for decades because of concerns about the impact on polar bears, caribou and other animals in the region. Opening it up has been a top priority for Republicans. Doing so, even to determine how much oil is available, would be politically explosive and set the stage for bitter fights between the administration and environmental groups. Congress has the final say over whether to allow new drilling in the refuge, often referred to as A.N.W.R.” [New York Times, 9/17/17]

- **New York Times: “The Arctic Refuge, Which Covers More Than 30,000 Square Miles, Has Been Closed Off To Commercial Drilling For Decades Because Of Concerns About The Impact On Polar Bears, Caribou And Other Animals In The Region.”** The New York Times reported, “An internal Interior Department memo has proposed lifting restrictions on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a possible first step toward opening the pristine wilderness area to oil and gas drilling. The document proposes ending a restriction that had limited exploratory drilling to the period from Oct. 1, 1984, to May 31, 1986. It also directs the agency to provide an environmental assessment and a proposed rule allowing for new exploration plans. The document, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, was first reported by The Washington Post. The Arctic refuge, which covers more than 30,000 square miles, has been closed off to commercial drilling for decades because of concerns about the impact on polar bears, caribou and other animals in the region. Opening it up has been a top priority for Republicans. Doing so, even to determine how much oil is available, would be politically explosive and set the stage for bitter fights between the administration and environmental groups. Congress has the final say over whether to allow new drilling in the refuge, often referred to as A.N.W.R.” [New York Times, 9/17/17]
- **September 2017: Zinke Spokeswoman Heather Swift Declined To Comment On The Memo Proposing Ending Restrictions On Seismic Studies In The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** The New York Times reported, “The memo does not provide a legal justification for allowing new exploration. In 2013, the Obama administration rejected an effort by Alaska to perform a seismic survey over 2,300 square miles of plain in the area, arguing that the agency’s authority to review and approve such plans expired in 1987. A federal judge in Alaska in 2015 upheld that decision, saying that while the law was ‘ambiguous’ the administration’s argument was ‘based on a permissible and reasonable construction of statute.’ Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for the Interior Department, declined to comment on the memo but referred to a May 31 event that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke held in Anchorage when he signed a secretarial order reassessing the current management plans of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It calls to update estimates of the amount of oil beneath the ground there. ‘I’m a geologist. Science is a wonderful thing: it helps us understand what is going on deep below the surface of the earth,’ Mr. Zinke said at the time. ‘We need to use science to update our understanding of the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as Congress considers important legislation to responsibly develop there one day. This order takes the important first step in a smart and measured approach to energy development in A.N.W.R.’” [New York Times, 9/17/17]

**October 2017: The New York Times Editorial Board Criticized Zinke For Declaring That Alaska Was “Open for Business” In May 2017.** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “Alaska is ‘open for business!’ With these words, delivered before an appreciative audience of oil producers in Anchorage in May, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reaffirmed the Trump administration’s determination to open Alaska’s fragile environment to commercial exploitation. Here are the particulars of that assault, at least so far: In April, President Trump signed an order that to allow oil drilling in United States waters in the Arctic Ocean that President Barack Obama had declared off limits. In May, Mr. Zinke made clear his plan to reverse the Obama administration’s decision to protect environmentally delicate areas of the National Petroleum Reserve. Also in May, the Environmental Protection Agency administrator, Scott Pruitt, always eager to join in the environmental mayhem,



reversed an Obama policy that had blocked a proposed gold mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, one of the most productive wild salmon fisheries. Mr. Pruitt made the decision after meeting with the chief executive of the mining company.” [New York Times, Editorial, 10/18/17]

- **October 2017 – NYT Editorial Board: “Alaska Is ‘Open For Business!’ With These Words, Delivered Before An Appreciative Audience Of Oil Producers In Anchorage In May, Zinke Reaffirmed The Trump Administration’s Determination To Open Alaska’s Fragile Environment To Commercial Exploitation.”** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “Alaska is ‘open for business!’ With these words, delivered before an appreciative audience of oil producers in Anchorage in May, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reaffirmed the Trump administration’s determination to open Alaska’s fragile environment to commercial exploitation. Here are the particulars of that assault, at least so far: In April, President Trump signed an order that to allow oil drilling in United States waters in the Arctic Ocean that President Barack Obama had declared off limits. In May, Mr. Zinke made clear his plan to reverse the Obama administration’s decision to protect environmentally delicate areas of the National Petroleum Reserve. Also in May, the Environmental Protection Agency administrator, Scott Pruitt, always eager to join in the environmental mayhem, reversed an Obama policy that had blocked a proposed gold mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, one of the most productive wild salmon fisheries. Mr. Pruitt made the decision after meeting with the chief executive of the mining company.” [New York Times, Editorial, 10/18/17]

**December 2018: The Interior Department Approved Oil Drilling Along The Coast Of A Wildlife Refuge In Alaska, Challenging Obama-Era Policies That Protected The Area.** The New York Times reported, “But the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—a federally protected place of austere beauty that during a recent flyover was painted white by heavy snowfall—is on the cusp of major change. The biggest untapped onshore trove of oil in North America is believed to lie beneath the refuge’s coastal plain along the Beaufort Sea. For more than a generation, opposition to drilling has left the refuge largely unscathed, but now the Trump administration, working with Republicans in Congress and an influential and wealthy Alaska Native corporation, is clearing the way for oil exploration along the coast. [...] The fate of the refuge’s coastal plain is in the hands of Ryan Zinke, the Interior secretary, who has appointed top deputies with deep professional and political ties to Alaska to oversee its development. In 2014, two of the appointees were involved in an unsuccessful court challenge to Obama-era policies that had helped keep the area off limits. Congressional approval to open the area to oil exploration was inserted in tax overhaul legislation last December under the guise of generating revenue for the federal government, and by next year, the Interior Department expects to begin selling the first drilling leases.” [New York Times, 12/3/18]

- **Zinke Appointed Drilling-Friendly Officials To Oversee The Development Of The Refuge, Including The Executive Of A Corporation That Had A Large Financial Interest In Oil Drilling In The Region.** The New York Times reported, “The fate of the refuge’s coastal plain is in the hands of Ryan Zinke, the Interior secretary, who has appointed top deputies with deep professional and political ties to Alaska to oversee its development. [...] Mr. Zinke’s Alaska-friendly appointees, who have long pushed for oil exploration in the coastal plain, say the fears are overstated. They point out that years ago, Congress left open the eventual possibility of allowing development there. Exploration is in the best interest of Alaskans, they say. ‘I feel like there is a lot of expectations, hopes and dreams from people who I know and love that are riding on this,’ said Joe Balash, one of the appointees, who has worked in Alaskan political circles for two decades and now oversees the Bureau of Land Management. An Alaska Native company, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, has been a major force behind the push and stands to enjoy a windfall if drilling proceeds. The corporation, which has been awarded more than \$7.5 billion in federal contracts in the past 10 years, expanded its lobbying under the Trump administration, records show, and Mr. Zinke appointed one of its executives to a top post.” [New York Times, 12/3/18]

**Zinke Supported A Trump Executive Order To Expand Seismic Testing To Identify Oil And Gas Resources.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Johnson’s proposals are also packaged into the SECURE Act, a broader bill by



House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) that ‘overhauls federal lands energy policy to promote expanded exploration, development and production of oil, gas and wind resources,’ according to the House Committee on Natural Resources. This push in Congress comes after Trump’s executive order last year, which reversed an Obama decision that had blocked six companies seeking permits to conduct testing in the Atlantic. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has openly called for seismic tests to get the new data needed for energy expansion. ‘Allowing this scientific pursuit enables us to safely identify and evaluate resources that belong to the American people,’ Zinke said. ‘This will play an important role in the president’s strategy to create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign energy resources.’” [Los Angeles Times, 4/2/18]

- **Zinke: “Allowing This Scientific Pursuit Enables Us To Safely Identify And Evaluate Resources That Belong To The American People... This Will Play An Important Role In The President’s Strategy To Create Jobs And Reduce Our Dependence On Foreign Energy Resources.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Johnson’s proposals are also packaged into the SECURE Act, a broader bill by House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) that ‘overhauls federal lands energy policy to promote expanded exploration, development and production of oil, gas and wind resources,’ according to the House Committee on Natural Resources. This push in Congress comes after Trump’s executive order last year, which reversed an Obama decision that had blocked six companies seeking permits to conduct testing in the Atlantic. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has openly called for seismic tests to get the new data needed for energy expansion. ‘Allowing this scientific pursuit enables us to safely identify and evaluate resources that belong to the American people,’ Zinke said. ‘This will play an important role in the president’s strategy to create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign energy resources.’” [Los Angeles Times, 4/2/18]

**2023: Zinke Praised An EPA And Interior Department Appropriations Bill For Focusing On Energy Independence; The Bill Undid Democratic Policies Restricting Offshore Oil Drilling In Alaska And Restricting Oil And Gas Exploration On Public Land.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The same bill included a 4.5% cut to The Department of Interior budget and a 13% cut to national parks. Zinke pointed out that the bill blocks Glacier National Park from spending money on a vehicle rationing system, but funds the Bureau of Indian Affairs at levels higher than in 2023. There were counter measures to Democratic policies passed in 2022 concerning oil and gas exploration on federal land, particularly drilling off the Alaskan shore. ‘It does focus on national energy policy a lot to make sure that we move forward on energy independence and not become dependent upon our foreign adversaries for energy needs, in the EV world or Venezuela,’ Zinke said. ‘You know, Iran probably benefitted \$80 billion from circumnavigating the sanctions that were put in place.’ The \$80 billion references a talking point in active circulation about oil sold by Iran during the Joe Biden presidency. The inference is that lax enforcement of sanctions is allowing Iran to sell oil to fund terrorism, specifically Hamas.” [Billings Gazette, 11/6/23]

## ***Barrels Per Day***

**2022: Zinke Took Credit For Expanding Domestic Oil Drilling From 8.3 Million Barrels Per Day To 12.5 Million Per Day While Serving As Secretary Of The Interior.** The Sidney Herald reported, “As Secretary of the Interior with oversight of more than 500 million acres of federal land, Zinke played an important role in setting the tone for leasing oil and gas on federal lands and waters, which accounts for a significant portion of fossil fuel extraction nationally. He pointed to the expansion of U.S. drilling from 8.3 million barrels of oil per day to 12.5 million barrels of oil per day during his tenure as Interior Secretary as proof of his commitment to American energy independence. He also highlighted the department’s largest-to-date lease of offshore wind energy development while he was leading the agency.” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

## ***Bridge Fuel***

**2022: Zinke Said He Believed That Natural Gas Would Serve As A Bridge Fuel To Replace Higher-Emission Sources Of Energy With Lower-Emission Ones.** The Sidney Herald reported, “Both Zinke and Tranel acknowledge the role of fossil fuels in contributing to climate change, which has warmed Montana by 2 to 3





degrees Fahrenheit between 1950 and 2015, contributing to shrinking snowpacks, reduced late-summer and fall streamflows, and longer and more intense wildfire seasons. Zinke emphasized the importance of developing ‘affordable, reliable and abundant’ sources of energy and said he anticipates oil and gas will continue to be part of the country’s energy mix for another 50 years. He said natural gas can serve as a bridge fuel to replace higher-emission sources of energy and underscored his interest in finding ways to make oil and gas production cleaner and more efficient by examining practices like methane flaring. [...] He also said he supports coal-fired generation, which is the most CO<sub>2</sub>-heavy form of electricity generation in the U.S., and in a state of decline as power companies pursue cheaper alternatives in natural gas plants and wind farms.” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

## ***Campaign Contributions & Business Ties***

**March 2017: Zinke Had Received Nearly \$350,000 In Campaign Contributions From Oil And Gas Companies.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke’s critics, however, point to policies they call ‘far from Rooseveltian.’ He has a 4 percent lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters, and oil and gas companies have donated nearly \$350,000 to his campaigns. He is a strong supporter of coal — ‘we are not going to power our nation on pixie dust and hope,’ he told a local crowd in 2014 — and has pushed to end Mr. Obama’s moratorium on new coal leases. More recently, he held listening sessions for a bill that would overhaul the Antiquities Act by requiring approval from local residents before a president designates a national monument. Roosevelt signed the 1906 law, and presidents have used it to push through unpopular preservation projects.” [New York Times, 3/1/17]

**December 2016: A Center For Responsive Politics Report Found That The Oil And Gas Industry Was Zinke’s Largest Industry Donor With \$345,136 In Campaign Contributions.** The Washington Post reported, “In Montana, the oil and gas industry is Zinke’s largest-single industry contributor, giving him \$345,136 for his campaigns, according to an analysis by the Center for Responsive Politics. Zinke has been a vocal proponent of coal extraction, representing a region, the Powder River Basin, where much of the federal government’s coal is leased. Popovich, the mining industry spokesman, said that given Zinke’s roots ‘he obviously understands the importance of natural resources like coal — too important to be ‘kept in the ground,’ as [the Obama] administration proposes to do.’” [Washington Post, [12/14/16](#)]

**February 2017 – November 2017: An Analysis Of The Interior Department’s Visitor Log By Friends Of The Earth Revealed That Interior Officials Held Nearly 180 Meetings With Oil And Gas Industry Representatives.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke has been accused of favoring oil and gas interests over nearly everything else. Between February and November of last year, top Interior officials had nearly 180 meetings with industry representatives, according to an analysis of the department’s visitor log by the nonprofit organization Friends of the Earth. ‘You always know these meetings are happening, but the sheer volume was shocking,’ said Nicole Ghio, fossil fuels program manager for the group, which leans to the political left. It undertook the analysis, she said, because opposition to the drilling plan was so immediate, strong and bipartisan on both coasts that Friends of the Earth wondered how the administration put it together.” [Washington Post, [2/28/18](#)]

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**July 2017: Republican Energy Lobbyist And Trump Transition Adviser Michael McKenna Said That The Oil And Gas Lobby Was Happy About Zinke’s Tenure As Interior Secretary Because “They’re Going Back To The Bush Administration.”** The New York Times reported, “To conservationists, the act is getting old. ‘Zinke has been a disappointment,’ said Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, which supported his nomination. ‘His first meetings were with the sportsmen’s community, and we were encouraged that he would be great — or at least someone we could work with. Since that time, it’s been nothing but rolling back conservation.’ The oil and gas lobby says it is delighted. ‘All these guys have been in Interior before and they know a hell of a lot,’ said Michael McKenna, a Republican energy lobbyist and adviser to the Trump transition. ‘They’re getting the band back together, and they’re going back to the Bush administration.’” [New York Times, 7/25/17]

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**December 2018: Center For Western Priorities Executive Director Jennifer Rokala Said In A Statement After Zinke Resigned That Zinke Was “A Pawn For The Oil And Gas Industry.”** The Washington Post reported, “‘Ryan Zinke will go down as the most anti-conservation Interior secretary in our nation’s history,’ Jennifer Rokala, executive director of the Center for Western Priorities, said in a statement. ‘Surrounding himself with former lobbyists, it quickly became clear that Ryan Zinke was a pawn for the oil and gas industry. We can expect more of the same from Acting Secretary David Bernhardt, but without the laughable Teddy Roosevelt comparisons.’ Zinke had styled himself as a Teddy Roosevelt Republican, showcasing his love of hunting, fishing and riding in the Montana wilderness.” [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]

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**May 2018: Former Park Ranger Kim Heacox Slammed Zinke In An Op-Ed, Writing, "Get Away From Those Sticky Oilmen Who Can Hear A Dollar Bill Fall On The Rimrock — Men Who Would Watch The World Burn To Increase Their Profits."** According to an op-ed by former park ranger Kim Heacox in the Washington Post reported, "Get away from those sticky oilmen who can hear a dollar bill fall on the rimrock — men who would watch the world burn to increase their profits. Good interior secretaries hold on to what we have. They add to America's résumé of stunning public lands. They never dismantle existing national monuments or drill for oil in wildlife refuges, as Zinke intends. And they don't appoint wildlife boards loaded with trophy hunters. Put on that NPS hat — properly. Walk with us and see the folly in what you've done." [Washington Post, Op-Ed, [5/23/18](#)]

- **Heacox: "Good Interior Secretaries... Add To America's Résumé Of Stunning Public Lands. They Never Dismantle Existing National Monuments Or Drill For Oil In Wildlife Refuges, As Zinke Intends."** According to an op-ed by former park ranger Kim Heacox in the Washington Post reported, "Get away from those sticky oilmen who can hear a dollar bill fall on the rimrock — men who would watch the world burn to increase their profits. Good interior secretaries hold on to what we have. They add to America's résumé of stunning public lands. They never dismantle existing national monuments or drill for oil in wildlife refuges, as Zinke intends. And they don't appoint wildlife boards loaded with trophy hunters. Put on that NPS hat — properly. Walk with us and see the folly in what you've done." [Washington Post, Op-Ed, [5/23/18](#)]
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**March 2018: Zinke Said The Department Of The Interior "Should Be In The Business Of Being A Partner" To Oil And Gas Companies.** The Denver Post reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says his agency should be a partner with oil and gas companies that seek to drill on public land and that long regulatory reviews with an uncertain outcome are 'un American.' Speaking Tuesday to a major energy industry conference, Zinke described the Trump administration's efforts to increase offshore drilling, reduce regulations, and streamline inspections of oil and gas operators. 'Interior should not be in the business of being an adversary. We should be in the business of being a partner,' Zinke said to a receptive audience that included leaders of energy companies and oil producing countries." [Denver Post, 3/7/18]

**2017: Zinke Had Accepted More Than \$350,000 From The Oil And Gas Industry Over The Course Of His Only Congressional Campaign.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "When Zinke assumed office in early 2017, he had been the recipient of more than \$350,000 from gas and oil interests for his one congressional campaign. By the time he resigned in December 2018, Zinke had overseen the rollback of federal land protection and tripled oil and gas leases on federal lands." [Los Angeles Times, 1/23/19]

**Zinke's Opponent Monica Tranel: "Zinke... Only Four Months After Being Elected In November 2016, Walked Away From His Montana Congressional Seat To Take A Position Where He Could Coddle Those Same Powerful Special Interests As They Sought Favors And Special Advantage. It's Paid Off As Zinke Is**

**Now \$30 Million Richer Since Jumping Into The D.C. Swamp.**” According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “If you read or listen to the talking heads in the D.C. swamp, the odds-on favorite for our new seat is Ryan Zinke. That’s the same Ryan Zinke who, only four months after being elected in November 2016, walked away from his Montana congressional seat to take a position where he could coddle those same powerful special interests as they sought favors and special advantage. It’s paid off as Zinke is now \$30 million richer since jumping into the D.C. swamp. This is the same Ryan Zinke who in a little over a year and a half was pressured to leave office under a cloud of corruption and resigned in disgrace. In fact, according to the Washington Post, ‘Zinke was told he had until the end of the year to leave or be fired.’ Just recently a Trump-appointed inspector general reported that Zinke had misused his position and broke ethics rules for his own personal financial benefit.” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 4/18/22]

- **Tranel: “Zinke Had Already Bellied Up To The Petroleum Bar To Cash-In On The Big Money They’re Pocketing By Overcharging Us At The Gas Pump. In His Legally-Required Financial Report, Zinke Disclosed That He Had Received \$460,000 From ConocoPhillips Alone.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “But Zinke had already bellied up to the petroleum bar to cash-in on the big money they’re pocketing by overcharging us at the gas pump. In his legally-required financial report, Zinke disclosed that he had received \$460,000 from ConocoPhillips alone. That report was up to seven months late, raising more questions of whether Zinke was getting money from Big Oil as a candidate. Almost exactly a year ago, while still being paid big money from Big Oil, Zinke decided to announce that he would start picking up big campaign dollars from Big Oil by running for this seat. Sort of like trying to butter your bread on both sides. And this could just be the tip of an iceberg.” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 4/18/22]
- **Tranel: “That Report Was Up To Seven Months Late, Raising More Questions Of Whether Zinke Was Getting Money From Big Oil As A Candidate.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “But Zinke had already bellied up to the petroleum bar to cash-in on the big money they’re pocketing by overcharging us at the gas pump. In his legally-required financial report, Zinke disclosed that he had received \$460,000 from ConocoPhillips alone. That report was up to seven months late, raising more questions of whether Zinke was getting money from Big Oil as a candidate. Almost exactly a year ago, while still being paid big money from Big Oil, Zinke decided to announce that he would start picking up big campaign dollars from Big Oil by running for this seat. Sort of like trying to butter your bread on both sides. And this could just be the tip of an iceberg.” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 4/18/22]
- **Tranel: “Almost Exactly A Year Ago, While Still Being Paid Big Money From Big Oil, Zinke Decided To Announce That He Would Start Picking Up Big Campaign Dollars From Big Oil By Running For This Seat. Sort Of Like Trying To Butter Your Bread On Both Sides. And This Could Just Be The Tip Of An Iceberg.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “But Zinke had already bellied up to the petroleum bar to cash-in on the big money they’re pocketing by overcharging us at the gas pump. In his legally-required financial report, Zinke disclosed that he had received \$460,000 from ConocoPhillips alone. That report was up to seven months late, raising more questions of whether Zinke was getting money from Big Oil as a candidate. Almost exactly a year ago, while still being paid big money from Big Oil, Zinke decided to announce that he would start picking up big campaign dollars from Big Oil by running for this seat. Sort of like trying to butter your bread on both sides. And this could just be the tip of an iceberg.” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 4/18/22]
- **Tranel: “Ryan Zinke Made A Choice Years Back To Be In The Pocket Of Big Oil. He Supported Them In Congress, Coddled Them From Interior, Collected More Than A Half Million From Them As A ‘Consultant’ Or Board Member, And Now Is Chasing Them For More Campaign Cash. There Is No Question Whose Bed Ryan Zinke Has Chosen To Lay Down In.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “Ryan Zinke made a choice years back to be in the pocket of Big Oil. He supported them in Congress, coddled them from Interior, collected more than a half million from them as a ‘consultant’ or board member, and now is chasing them for more campaign cash. There is no question whose bed Ryan Zinke has chosen to lay down in. I have made a choice as well. In a letter last week to the ConocoPhillips CEO I told

him in no uncertain terms: ‘I am running for the same Congressional seat as Ryan Zinke and I want you to know that I have no interest in receiving any consulting, lobbying or campaign checks from ConocoPhillips. I intend to represent the interests of Montanans, not powerful corporations such as ConocoPhillips.’” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 4/18/22]

- **Tranel: “1. What Exactly Did Ryan Zinke Do For The \$460,000 He Got From ConocoPhillips? 2. Did Zinke Use His Positions To Secure A \$2,500 Campaign Contribution From ConocoPhillips PAC And Other Big Oil Donations? 3. Did Zinke Advise ConocoPhillips To Go Ahead And Price Gouge Montanans At The Gas Pump While Raking In \$8.1 Billion In Profits Last Year?”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “Montana voters will also need to make choices. Will you choose to demand answers from Ryan Zinke about: 1. What exactly did Ryan Zinke do for the \$460,000 he got from ConocoPhillips? 2. Did Zinke use his positions to secure a \$2,500 campaign contribution from ConocoPhillips PAC and other Big Oil donations? 3. Did Zinke advise ConocoPhillips to go ahead and price gouge Montanans at the gas pump while raking in \$8.1 billion in profits last year?” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 4/18/22]

**August 2022: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Wrote An Op-Ed Criticizing Him For Making Money From Working For Oil Companies That Drilled On Public Lands Immediately After Resigning From Trump’s Cabinet In Disgrace.** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “Second, the revolving door of members of Congress and administration officials leaving office and taking lavishly paid lobbying or consulting jobs with the very industries they were once expected to oversee must stop. When Zinke resigned from the Interior Department in disgrace, he immediately began making money from oil companies that operate on our public lands. And he made a lot of money. From 2015 when he entered Congress, his wealth increased 13-fold to \$35 million. Was it really possible for Zinke to serve the public interest, rather than oil company interests, when he knew those lucrative arrangements lay ahead? Congress must pass an ethics law barring former members from working in the field they regulated for five years after their term ends. I will champion this bill, and hold myself up to this standard.” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 8/5/22]

- **Tranel: “When Zinke Resigned From The Interior Department In Disgrace, He Immediately Began Making Money From Oil Companies That Operate On Our Public Lands. And He Made A Lot Of Money.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “Second, the revolving door of members of Congress and administration officials leaving office and taking lavishly paid lobbying or consulting jobs with the very industries they were once expected to oversee must stop. When Zinke resigned from the Interior Department in disgrace, he immediately began making money from oil companies that operate on our public lands. And he made a lot of money. From 2015 when he entered Congress, his wealth increased 13-fold to \$35 million. Was it really possible for Zinke to serve the public interest, rather than oil company interests, when he knew those lucrative arrangements lay ahead? Congress must pass an ethics law barring former members from working in the field they regulated for five years after their term ends. I will champion this bill, and hold myself up to this standard.” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 8/5/22]
- **Tranel: “From 2015 When He Entered Congress, His Wealth Increased 13-Fold To \$35 Million. Was It Really Possible For Zinke To Serve The Public Interest, Rather Than Oil Company Interests, When He Knew Those Lucrative Arrangements Lay Ahead?”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “Second, the revolving door of members of Congress and administration officials leaving office and taking lavishly paid lobbying or consulting jobs with the very industries they were once expected to oversee must stop. When Zinke resigned from the Interior Department in disgrace, he immediately began making money from oil companies that operate on our public lands. And he made a lot of money. From 2015 when he entered Congress, his wealth increased 13-fold to \$35 million. Was it really possible for Zinke to serve the public interest, rather than oil company interests, when he knew those lucrative arrangements lay ahead? Congress must pass an ethics law barring former members from working in the field they regulated for five years after their term ends. I will champion this bill, and hold myself up to this standard.” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 8/5/22]



- **Tranel: “Congress Must Pass An Ethics Law Barring Former Members From Working In The Field They Regulated For Five Years After Their Term Ends. I Will Champion This Bill, And Hold Myself Up To This Standard.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Independent Record, “Second, the revolving door of members of Congress and administration officials leaving office and taking lavishly paid lobbying or consulting jobs with the very industries they were once expected to oversee must stop. When Zinke resigned from the Interior Department in disgrace, he immediately began making money from oil companies that operate on our public lands. And he made a lot of money. From 2015 when he entered Congress, his wealth increased 13-fold to \$35 million. Was it really possible for Zinke to serve the public interest, rather than oil company interests, when he knew those lucrative arrangements lay ahead? Congress must pass an ethics law barring former members from working in the field they regulated for five years after their term ends. I will champion this bill, and hold myself up to this standard.” [Independent Record, Op-Ed, 8/5/22]

**After Resigning From The Trump Cabinet, Zinke Worked As A Consultant For The Oil Company ConocoPhillips, A Pipeline Construction Company Called U.S. Trinity, And Keelen Group, A Lobbying Firm.** The Sidney Herald reported, “According to financial disclosures, Zinke served as consultant for various companies and groups working in the energy space in the years between his resignation from Trump’s cabinet and his current bid for the western district House seat. Those include oil giant ConocoPhillips, Texas-based pipeline construction company U.S. Trinity, and Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm Keelen Group. Asked how he would separate his prior consulting work from his role as a congressional representative if elected, Zinke said his consulting background will serve him in D.C. ‘It included wind, it included advanced grid technology, it included UAV drone technology and design of plastics that would break down,’ he said. ‘My background as a consultant was pretty broad, and I’ll use that experience in Congress. I’m not embedded on any energy except American energy.’” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

- **2022: When Asked How He Would Separate His Consulting Work From His Role If Elected To Congress, Zinke Denied That His Consulting Was Biased Toward A Particular Type Of Energy, Saying, “I’m Not Embedded On Any Energy Except American Energy.”** The Sidney Herald reported, “According to financial disclosures, Zinke served as consultant for various companies and groups working in the energy space in the years between his resignation from Trump’s cabinet and his current bid for the western district House seat. Those include oil giant ConocoPhillips, Texas-based pipeline construction company U.S. Trinity, and Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm Keelen Group. Asked how he would separate his prior consulting work from his role as a congressional representative if elected, Zinke said his consulting background will serve him in D.C. ‘It included wind, it included advanced grid technology, it included UAV drone technology and design of plastics that would break down,’ he said. ‘My background as a consultant was pretty broad, and I’ll use that experience in Congress. I’m not embedded on any energy except American energy.’” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

**2023: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent From 2022, Monica Tranel, Said, “Zinke Took Half A Million Dollars From Big Oil, And Voted To Increase Their Profits While Raising Our Gas Prices... He Promised \$2 Gas, But His Votes Made That Impossible.”** The Sidney Herald reported, “In Monday’s announcement, Tranel knocked Zinke for ‘working for corporate interests’ and saying his 2022 campaign promises have not come to fruition. ‘Zinke took half a million dollars from big oil, and voted to increase their profits while raising our gas prices,’ she said in a statement. ‘He promised \$2 gas, but his votes made that impossible. It’s time to elect someone to Congress who’s going to prioritize people who actually live and work in Montana.’” [Sidney Herald, 7/11/23]

## ***Energy Prices***

**2022: Zinke Argued For Increasing Domestic Oil Production To Cut Imports From Other Countries, Saying, “The Big Issues Are Inflation And At The Heart Of It Is The Energy. And For Montana I Think Energy Costs When It Goes Up, I Think It Hurts Montana More Than Certainly Some Of Our Neighbors.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke, citing long driving distances for services and goods, said high energy prices tend to affect Montanans more than other states. ‘Montanans don’t make a lot of money. There’s a lot of new money





coming into Montana but most of Montana is blue collar, hard-working Montanans and when the budget gets pretty thin, and that's tough,' he said. Zinke touted his time at Interior, which included increased oil and gas leasing on federal lands and an uptick in energy production. After resigning from the Trump administration Zinke worked in consulting, including for Conoco-Phillips. He favors again upping oil production to cut imports from other countries. 'The big issues are inflation and at the heart of it is the energy. And for Montana I think energy costs when it goes up, I think it hurts Montana more than certainly some of our neighbors,' Zinke said in an interview." [Billings Gazette, 5/9/22]

- **Zinke: "I'm Not Pro Oil And Gas Versus Renewable, I'm Pro-American Energy But It's Got To Be Affordable, Reliable And Abundant."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke does identify a role for renewable energy as part of an overall strategy emphasizing domestic energy production. 'I'm not pro oil and gas versus renewable, I'm pro-American energy but it's got to be affordable, reliable and abundant,' he said in an April radio interview on the Montana Talks program." [Billings Gazette, 5/9/22]

## ***Environmental Review***

**June 2018: The Department Of The Interior Released A Memo Allowing The Bureau Of Land Management To Fast-Track The Environmental Review Process For Issuing New Federal Land Leases.** The New York Times reported, "That was just the start of a flurry of revisions to rules under the Trump administration that have reflected the industry agenda. In June 2018, the department issued a second memo that allowed Bureau of Land Management offices to skip the comprehensive environmental studies that have historically been conducted before issuing new leases. Field offices could instead use bureaucratic loopholes known as categorical exclusions and other measures that allowed officials to do away with environmental assessments, letting them 'expedite the processing' of permits to drill, the memo said." [New York Times, 10/27/18]

**March 2018: Zinke Described The Energy Permitting And Review Process As "Un American" And Said The Process Shouldn't Take Longer Than Two Years.** The Denver Post reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says his agency should be a partner with oil and gas companies that seek to drill on public land and that long regulatory reviews with an uncertain outcome are 'un American.' [...] Zinke said the permitting process for energy infrastructure shouldn't take longer than two years. 'If you ask an investor to continuously put money on a project that is uncertain because the permit process has too much uncertainty, ambiguity, (it) is quite frankly un American,' he said." [Denver Post, 3/7/18]

## ***Export Ban***

**2022: Zinke's Democratic Opponent Criticized Him For Voting To Lift The 40-Year-Old Crude Oil Export Ban When He Was In Congress In 2015, Arguing That He Was More Interested In Helping Oil Companies Than His Constituents.** The Sidney Herald reported, "Another aspect of having two energy insiders in the political fray is that both candidates have found rhetorical ammunition in their opponent's record on energy issues. Tranel's campaign points to Zinke's vote to lift a 40-year-old crude oil export ban when he was in Congress in 2015 as evidence that he's looking out for energy corporations rather than constituents. (At the time, Zinke touted his vote as an effort to spur job creation in Montana.)" [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

## ***Fracking***

**July 2017: Zinke's Staff Filed A Legal Proposal To Rescind The Nation's First Safety Regulation On Hydraulic Fracking.** The New York Times reported, "But as the secretary hopscoches across millions of acres of Western parks, monuments and wilderness with his Stetson-sporting swagger, a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts put in effect over the eight years of the Obama administration. Many of those appointees spent the Obama years working for the oil and gas industry — and they come to the Interior Department with an insider's knowledge of how its levers work and a wish list of policies from their former employers. Their work has been swift. Mr. Zinke's staff on Tuesday filed a legal proposal to rescind



the nation's first safety regulation on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. They are exploring a proposal to loosen safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put in place after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. They have rolled back an Obama-era order to block coal mining on public lands and delayed carrying out a regulation controlling emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from oil and gas wells." [New York Times, 7/25/17]

**January 2018: California Filed A Lawsuit Against Zinke's Repeal Of A Rule Regulating Hydraulic Fracking On Publicly Owned Lands.** The Denver Post reported, "On Wednesday, California filed another lawsuit against the Trump administration, this one concerning the repeal of a rule regulating hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, on publicly owned lands under Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. 'The risks of fracking to our health and our environment are real,' Xavier Becerra said at a news conference Wednesday, on the first anniversary of his becoming California's attorney general. 'President (Donald) Trump and Interior Secretary Zinke didn't let the law or facts get in their way in their zeal to repeal,' he added. The repeal of the 2015 rule, which was issued by the Bureau of Land Management under President Barack Obama, was a long time coming. After first indicating in a March 2017 court filing that it planned to repeal the rule, the Trump administration finalized the rollback Dec. 29." [Denver Post, 1/25/18]

**Zinke Repealed Rules That Required Greater Safety And Transparency In Well Fracking Operations, Cutting Costs For Industry By Nearly \$300 Million At The Expense Of Public Health And Safety.** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, "Zinke repealed a rule that would have required greater safety in well fracking operations and transparency in reporting the chemicals used in those wells to help evaluate their public health impacts. This action reduces industry costs nearly \$300 million over the next decade at the expense of increasing public health and safety risks and aims again at expanding fossil fuel production on public lands." [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

**2017: After Multiple Industry Lobbyists Wrote To The Interior Department Requesting A Rollback Of Federal Regulations Protecting Sage Grouse From The Impacts Of Fracking, Zinke Proposed A Policy Change That Reflected The Industry's Demands.** The New York Times reported, "Trump-era rollbacks of Interior Department rules that govern methane releases, and a requirement that oil and gas companies disclose fracking chemicals they use on federal land, also followed intervention by industry. In July 2017, Kathleen M. Sgamma, the president of the Western Energy Alliance, wrote to the Interior Department, arguing that the Obama-era sage grouse rules were far too protective. The measures included 'overly expansive and burdensome' buffers, such as a requirement that drilling not take place within 3.1 miles of areas where the male birds gather for their annual courtship displays. 'These provisions are contrary to the president's executive order' to promote energy independence, Ms. Sgamma wrote. Ms. McDonald, then a top lobbyist at the Independent Petroleum Association of America, also intervened on behalf of oil companies like Chesapeake, ConocoPhillips and EOG Resources, pushing for specific changes in zones set up in Wyoming to protect sage grouse. 'To ignore the problem,&#34; Ms. McDonald wrote in a July 2017 email, could 'jeopardize several dozen projects in Wyoming.' A top ConocoPhillips executive had reached out the previous day with a similar plea, reinforcing the industry's demand. Ms. McDonald followed up the next month, asking Timothy Williams, a senior official at the Interior Department, if the bureau had 'been able to resolve this map discrepancy in Wyoming yet?' Two minutes later, he responded, 'We are working on it. I have let the secretary know as well.' The emails were obtained by the Western Values Project, a nonprofit public lands advocacy group that sued the agency to gain access to its correspondence. Last summer, Mr. Zinke proposed a new policy that reflected the change the oil companies had requested. A final action is expected soon." [New York Times, 10/27/18]

- **The Bureau Of Land Management Gave Final Approval To A 3,500-Well Drilling Project In Sage Grouse Territory, Even As The Species' Population Was Declining.** The New York Times reported, "More recently, the Bureau of Land Management gave final approval to a 140,859-acre project in western Wyoming — one that will feature as many as 3,500 new wells — in an area that also includes one of the world's most important winter habitats for sage grouse, said Tom Christiansen, who served as Wyoming Game and Fish Department's sage grouse coordinator until last month. Drilling there will mean as much as \$2.2 billion in new federal revenue over the life of the project, the Bureau of Land Management said in its approval document

signed at the end of August. But counts of sage grouse populations in Wyoming over the last two years have already declined about 30 percent, he said.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

## ***Keystone Pipeline***

### **September 2016: Zinke Pledged His Support For The Keystone Pipeline During A Congressional Debate.**

The Montana Standard reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties’ presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] Zinke enthusiastically said he supported the pipeline. ‘Let me show you a little leadership. The answer is yes,’ he said. ‘The Keystone pipeline was the most greatest, smartest engineered product in the history of the nation. It was safe. Even the EPA said it was safe.’ Colstrip, which lies east of Billings, played a large role in the night’s questions. A moderator asked why not leave the future of the coal-fired power plant in the hands of the market, namely low natural gas prices that make it cheaper to produce electricity in natural gas-fired plants. Zinke said federal over-regulation is more harmful to Colstrip than market forces. He said the loss of Colstrip would bring up the cost of electricity to major manufacturers in Montana, including the refinery in Billings. ‘Colstrip is the heartbeat of it.’” [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

- **September 2016 – Zinke: “The Keystone Pipeline Was The Most Greatest, Smartest Engineered Product In The History Of The Nation. It Was Safe. Even The EPA Said It Was Safe.”** The Montana Standard reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties’ presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] Zinke enthusiastically said he supported the pipeline. ‘Let me show you a little leadership. The answer is yes,’ he said. ‘The Keystone pipeline was the most greatest, smartest engineered product in the history of the nation. It was safe. Even the EPA said it was safe.’ Colstrip, which lies east of Billings, played a large role in the night’s questions. A moderator asked why not leave the future of the coal-fired power plant in the hands of the market, namely low natural gas prices that make it cheaper to produce electricity in natural gas-fired plants. Zinke said federal over-regulation is more harmful to Colstrip than market forces. He said the loss of Colstrip would bring up the cost of electricity to major manufacturers in Montana, including the refinery in Billings. ‘Colstrip is the heartbeat of it.’” [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

## ***Leases Near Important Sites***

**Zinke Was Accused Of “Ring Fencing” National Monuments By Surrounding Them With Potentially Damaging Oil, Gas, And Uranium Leases.** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, “To make matters worse, Zinke’s actions often cut the public out of the decision making for the management of public lands. [...] He recommended shrinking national monuments and is surrounding several with ill advised leases for oil, gas, and uranium often at bargain basement prices. ‘Ring fencing’ monuments with mineral extraction exposes them to increased environmental risks and denies them a buffer of more compatible ranching and conservation uses of adjacent lands.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

**March 2018: The Interior Department Sold A Collection Of Leases Next To A National Monument For Less Than \$3 An Acre, Over Pleas From The National Park Service.** The New York Times reported, “Not just environmental groups are concerned. In Utah, the National Park Service, itself a division of the Interior Department, tried to stop the sale of a collection of leases next to the Hovenweep National Monument, known for its mesas, ravines and recovered ruins of prehistoric villages. Its pleas were ignored, and the department sold those parcels for as little as \$3 an acre in March.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

**March 2018: Zinke Announced A Last-Minute Postponement Of An Oil And Gas Lease Sale For Land Near A Sacred Tribal Site In New Mexico, Following Protests From Tribal Officials And Conservationists Worried About The Harm To Cultural Artifacts.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday abruptly postponed an oil and gas lease sale for parcels near Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a sacred tribal site in northwestern New Mexico, saying a detailed analysis of more than 5,000 cultural sites will be



done before lots are designated for auction. The proposed lease sale, which includes 25 parcels covering 4,434 acres within New Mexico's Rio Arriba, Sandoval and San Juan counties, has sparked an outcry from tribal officials and conservationists. They argue that drilling near a UNESCO World Heritage Site could damage prized cultural artifacts." [Denver Post, 3/3/18]

- **Zinke Said That A More Detailed Analysis Of Nearby Cultural Sites Needed To Occur Before The Sales Went Forward.** The Denver Post reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday abruptly postponed an oil and gas lease sale for parcels near Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a sacred tribal site in northwestern New Mexico, saying a detailed analysis of more than 5,000 cultural sites will be done before lots are designated for auction. The proposed lease sale, which includes 25 parcels covering 4,434 acres within New Mexico's Rio Arriba, Sandoval and San Juan counties, has sparked an outcry from tribal officials and conservationists. They argue that drilling near a UNESCO World Heritage Site could damage prized cultural artifacts." [Denver Post, 3/3/18]

## ***New Leases***

**July 2017: Zinke Accelerated Approvals For Onshore Drilling Permits.** The Denver Post reported, "With control over more than 500 million acres of public land and hundreds of millions of acres offshore, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is moving rapidly to promote American production of coal, oil and gas a critical piece of President Donald Trump's vision for 'making America great again.' In the past few weeks alone, Zinke has lowered the price companies must pay the government for offshore drilling, acted to accelerate approval for onshore drilling permits, approved exploratory drilling in the Arctic's Beaufort Sea, and scheduled lease sales on Western lands the Obama administration had deemed off limits. And Zinke's moves have immediate impact. Whereas Trump's ambitious plans to overhaul the tax code and renegotiate international trade pacts remain far off, and his campaign to roll back environmental regulations will take months to produce results for industry, Zinke is taking concrete action to deliver on one of Trump's most important campaign promises." [Denver Post, 7/21/17]

**July 2017: Zinke Signed An Order Which Called For Faster Processing Of Oil And Gas Permitting To Clear A Backlog Of Federal Drilling Permits.** The Denver Post reported, "President Donald Trump's efforts to increase U.S. energy production got a boost Thursday from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who pledged to streamline permitting for oil and gas drilling and hold more frequent sales of drilling rights on federal lands. Zinke signed an order calling for faster and more efficient oil and gas permitting to clear a backlog of federal drilling permits in U.S. Bureau of Land Management offices out West. 'There has to be a process that doesn't over delay things so we can't get anything done in this country,' Zinke said. Federal law requires permits to be decided upon within 30 days, Zinke said, but the average wait for oil and gas companies has grown to 257 days. Backlogs of oil and gas permits awaiting approval at BLM offices in Casper, Wyoming and Vernal, Utah, have topped 500, according to the Interior Department." [Denver Post, 7/7/17]

- **July 2017: Zinke Promised That The Order Would Not Open Up Drilling In National Parks Or Other Major Federal Holdings.** The Denver Post reported, "Federal law requires permits to be decided upon within 30 days, Zinke said, but the average wait for oil and gas companies has grown to 257 days. Backlogs of oil and gas permits awaiting approval at BLM offices in Casper, Wyoming and Vernal, Utah, have topped 500, according to the Interior Department. Zinke promised not to sidestep the main law regulating development on federal lands, the National Environmental Policy Act, and said the order won't open up national parks or other major federal holdings to drilling. Yet some regulations stifle the innovation needed to make energy development more environmentally friendly, he said. 'We're going to be a fair and prudent partner, but we're not going to be an adversary to creating wealth and opportunity on some of our public lands,' Zinke said." [Denver Post, 7/7/17]
- **July 2017: The Sierra Club's Kelly Martin Criticized Zinke's Order As "Giving Big Oil Free On Our Publicly Owned Lands, Whatever The Cost To Our Health And Environment."** The Denver Post reported, "Environmentalists criticized Zinke's order as a giveaway to oil and gas interests. 'As much as Zinke talks





about valuing our public lands and emulating Teddy Roosevelt, the truth is that he and Donald Trump share the same priority: giving Big Oil free rein on our publicly owned lands, whatever the cost to our health and our environment,' Kelly Martin with the Sierra Club said in a statement." [Denver Post, 7/7/17]

**April 2017: Trump Praised Zinke At An Interior Department Event For “Doing An Incredible Job” At Lifting Restrictions On Energy Production.** The Denver Post reported, “As a candidate, Trump pledged that within his first 100 days he would ‘lift the restrictions on the production of \$50 trillion dollars’ worth of job producing American energy reserves, including shale, oil, natural gas and clean coal.’ While federal rules prevent him from wiping out these curbs overnight, Trump has taken what he describes as ‘historic steps to lift the restrictions on American energy, to reverse government intrusion, and to cancel job killing regulations.’ At this task, Trump remarked during an event at Interior in late April, Zinke ‘is doing an incredible job.’ Elizabeth Gore, chairwoman of the government relations practice at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, said Trump’s clear vision on the subject has allowed Zinke to move ahead more quickly than some other appointees.” [Denver Post, 7/21/17]

**July 2017: Zinke Scheduled Lease Sales For Oil Drilling On Western Lands That Were Deemed Off Limits By The Obama Administration.** The Denver Post reported, “With control over more than 500 million acres of public land and hundreds of millions of acres offshore, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is moving rapidly to promote American production of coal, oil and gas a critical piece of President Donald Trump’s vision for ‘making America great again.’ In the past few weeks alone, Zinke has lowered the price companies must pay the government for offshore drilling, acted to accelerate approval for onshore drilling permits, approved exploratory drilling in the Arctic’s Beaufort Sea, and scheduled lease sales on Western lands the Obama administration had deemed off limits. And Zinke’s moves have immediate impact. Whereas Trump’s ambitious plans to overhaul the tax code and renegotiate international trade pacts remain far off, and his campaign to roll back environmental regulations will take months to produce results for industry, Zinke is taking concrete action to deliver on one of Trump’s most important campaign promises.” [Denver Post, 7/21/17]

**October 2017: Zinke’s Bureau Of Land Management Announced That It Would Auction Oil And Gas Rights For 94,000 Acres Of Land Near The Dinosaur National Monument In Utah.** The New York Times reported, “Changes loom near remote Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. It’s a rough region of 1,000-foot cliffs and canyons, two wild rivers — the Green and the Yampa — ancient rock art and archaeological evidence of 10,000 years of human history. The park, which straddles the Utah-Colorado border, affords visitors backcountry camping, white-water rafting and, most famously, spectacular dinosaur fossils. The Bureau of Land Management has announced that in December it will auction gas and oil drilling rights on 94,000 acres, or 146 square miles, of land, some of it near the park’s entrance road. Pumpjacks, drill rigs and other equipment would be visible from the park’s visitor center, which is 2.5 miles from one lease parcel, according to critics. The B.L.M. has said that equipment would not intrude on the average visitor’s field of view. The agency said it would take steps to minimize visibility, including light shields, noise mufflers and ‘placement of exhaust systems to direct noise away from noise sensitive areas’ and ‘avoiding unnecessary flaring of gas.’ Ozone pollution from such energy development already exceeds federal Clean Air Act limits in the monument area.” [New York Times, 10/18/17]

- **New York Times: “Pumpjacks, Drill Rigs And Other Equipment Would Be Visible From The Park’s Visitor Center, Which Is 2.5 Miles From One Lease Parcel, According To Critics.”** The New York Times reported, “Changes loom near remote Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. It’s a rough region of 1,000-foot cliffs and canyons, two wild rivers — the Green and the Yampa — ancient rock art and archaeological evidence of 10,000 years of human history. The park, which straddles the Utah-Colorado border, affords visitors backcountry camping, white-water rafting and, most famously, spectacular dinosaur fossils. The Bureau of Land Management has announced that in December it will auction gas and oil drilling rights on 94,000 acres, or 146 square miles, of land, some of it near the park’s entrance road. Pumpjacks, drill rigs and other equipment would be visible from the park’s visitor center, which is 2.5 miles from one lease parcel, according to critics. The B.L.M. has said that equipment would not intrude on the average visitor’s field of view. The agency said it would take steps to minimize visibility, including light shields, noise mufflers and ‘placement of exhaust systems to direct noise away from noise sensitive areas’ and ‘avoiding unnecessary flaring of gas.’ Ozone



pollution from such energy development already exceeds federal Clean Air Act limits in the monument area.” [New York Times, 10/18/17]

- **Ozone Pollution From Similar Oil And Gas Development Near The Dinosaur National Monument Had Already Exceeded Federal Clean Air Act Limits In The Monument’s Area.** The New York Times reported, “Changes loom near remote Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. It’s a rough region of 1,000-foot cliffs and canyons, two wild rivers — the Green and the Yampa — ancient rock art and archaeological evidence of 10,000 years of human history. The park, which straddles the Utah-Colorado border, affords visitors backcountry camping, white-water rafting and, most famously, spectacular dinosaur fossils. The Bureau of Land Management has announced that in December it will auction gas and oil drilling rights on 94,000 acres, or 146 square miles, of land, some of it near the park’s entrance road. Pumpjacks, drill rigs and other equipment would be visible from the park’s visitor center, which is 2.5 miles from one lease parcel, according to critics. The B.L.M. has said that equipment would not intrude on the average visitor’s field of view. The agency said it would take steps to minimize visibility, including light shields, noise mufflers and ‘placement of exhaust systems to direct noise away from noise sensitive areas’ and ‘avoiding unnecessary flaring of gas.’ Ozone pollution from such energy development already exceeds federal Clean Air Act limits in the monument area.” [New York Times, 10/18/17]

**October 2017: Canadian Paleontologist Scott Sampson Had Overseen Much Of The Monument’s Early Dinosaur Research And Was Worried That Opening The Area To Extraction Could Threaten The Area’s Fossil Findings.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, ordered by Trump to reassess the biggest national monuments named since 1996, has proposed shrinking Grand Staircase-Escalante. Whatever area is removed would be open to coal mining, oil drilling and mineral extraction. The fossil beds here are scattered across land that also holds an estimated 62 billion tons of coal. ‘My fear is that opening up the monument to energy extraction will threaten our ability to uncover the secrets that we know must still be buried in the monument,’ said Scott Sampson, a Canadian paleontologist who oversaw much of the early dinosaur research in the monument. Trump, who has vowed to revive the coal industry, is tapping into Utah’s longstanding resentment of federal control of public lands. The state’s Republican leaders support Zinke’s recommendation. They were furious at Clinton for creating the monument, which killed a proposed coal mine. Today’s poor market for coal casts doubt on prospects for mining any time soon. No specific proposal has emerged publicly. Regardless, environmental groups are preparing lawsuits to thwart any attempt to curb protections of Grand Staircase-Escalante and nine other monuments, as Zinke proposed in August in a report to Trump.” [Los Angeles Times, 10/27/17]

- **Sampson: “My Fear Is That Opening Up The Monument To Energy Extraction Will Threaten Our Ability To Uncover The Secrets That We Know Must Still Be Buried In The Monument.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, ordered by Trump to reassess the biggest national monuments named since 1996, has proposed shrinking Grand Staircase-Escalante. Whatever area is removed would be open to coal mining, oil drilling and mineral extraction. The fossil beds here are scattered across land that also holds an estimated 62 billion tons of coal. ‘My fear is that opening up the monument to energy extraction will threaten our ability to uncover the secrets that we know must still be buried in the monument,’ said Scott Sampson, a Canadian paleontologist who oversaw much of the early dinosaur research in the monument. Trump, who has vowed to revive the coal industry, is tapping into Utah’s longstanding resentment of federal control of public lands. The state’s Republican leaders support Zinke’s recommendation. They were furious at Clinton for creating the monument, which killed a proposed coal mine. Today’s poor market for coal casts doubt on prospects for mining any time soon. No specific proposal has emerged publicly. Regardless, environmental groups are preparing lawsuits to thwart any attempt to curb protections of Grand Staircase-Escalante and nine other monuments, as Zinke proposed in August in a report to Trump.” [Los Angeles Times, 10/27/17]

**January 2018: The Interior Department Boasted That Federal Drilling Lease Auctions Earned \$316.2 Million In Revenue In 2017.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Overall, the administration has insisted that its efforts are successful: The Interior Department reported that auctions of federal drilling leases earned \$316.2

million in revenue in 2017, about 61% higher than the \$196.7 million that the government made from leasing in 2016. In a handful of oil-rich areas of the West, producers are eager to lease. A February lease auction attracted \$129 million in sales for 183,155 acres, mostly in Wyoming, an average of \$705 an acre. A September lease sale in New Mexico's Permian Basin attracted nearly \$131 million in sales from 61 parcels covering 15,331 acres, an average of about \$8,545 an acre. 'It's better to produce energy here under reasonable regulations than to watch it be produced overseas with no regulation,' Zinke told reporters last summer." [Los Angeles Times, 1/8/18]

- **January 2018: The Interior Department Claimed That The 2017 Auction Revenue Was About 61 Percent Higher Than It Was In 2016.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Overall, the administration has insisted that its efforts are successful: The Interior Department reported that auctions of federal drilling leases earned \$316.2 million in revenue in 2017, about 61% higher than the \$196.7 million that the government made from leasing in 2016. In a handful of oil-rich areas of the West, producers are eager to lease. A February lease auction attracted \$129 million in sales for 183,155 acres, mostly in Wyoming, an average of \$705 an acre. A September lease sale in New Mexico's Permian Basin attracted nearly \$131 million in sales from 61 parcels covering 15,331 acres, an average of about \$8,545 an acre. 'It's better to produce energy here under reasonable regulations than to watch it be produced overseas with no regulation,' Zinke told reporters last summer." [Los Angeles Times, 1/8/18]

**January 2018: The Interior Department Was Scheduled To Hold Auctions For Oil And Gas Permits Near Yellowstone National Park In Montana In March 2018.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Environmental groups are alarmed by how close the administration's leasing program is to sensitive areas across the West. Auctions scheduled for March will seek bids for sensitive public lands in Montana near Yellowstone National Park, and in Utah close to Canyonlands National Park. But in those regions, as here in northeast Nevada, it is far from clear how much interest an auction will generate. Why? In Nevada's Ruby Mountains, where a lease auction is proposed, geological surveys 'show there is low to no potential for oil,' said Jenna Padilla, the geologist for the Humboldt-Toiyabe Ruby Mountains ranger district. Roughly 32 million acres of federal land are under lease across the West and Alaska, according to the Interior Department. Over 100,000 wells have been drilled, producing 166 million barrels of oil annually (less than 5% of U.S. production) and 3.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas—about 11% of U.S. annual production, according to the Energy Information Administration, an Energy Department statistics unit." [Los Angeles Times, 1/8/18]

**January-July 2018: Oil Production On Federal Lands Increased 25 Percent Compared To 2016, Driven By An Expansion Of Federal Lease Sales For Oil, Gas, And Coal By The Interior Department.** The New York Times reported, "Nationally, oil production on federal lands is rising at an extraordinary pace, jumping 25 percent in the first seven months of this year compared with 2016, the last year of the Obama administration. That boom has driven up government revenue from lease sales and royalties collected from oil and gas production on federal lands, which is shared with the states. Wyoming received \$669 million from federal oil, gas and coal sales last year, money it uses to help pay for its schools, roads and other needs. One federal lease sale in New Mexico last month brought in nearly \$1 billion worth of bids, more than the total lease sale revenue from all sales nationwide in 2017. 'This historic lease sale shows what is possible when we leverage the vast natural resources we have in our country, using innovation, best science and best practices,' Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in September, celebrating the result of that particular lease sale, adding that critics of the Trump administration's efforts to increase energy production 'are eating their words and once again President Trump's policies are bearing fruit for the American people.' But the Interior Department has offered so much land through auctions in the last two years that the majority have failed to attract any bidders. Even so, the overall amount of land actually leased — in deals signed with oil and gas companies or investors — was 1.2 million acres in 2017, according to the agency, more than double the amount from the previous year, and reached 1.35 million acres this year." [New York Times, 10/27/18]

- **September 2018: Zinke Said That Critics Of The Lease Sales Were "Eating Their Words And Once Again President Trump's Policies Are Bearing Fruit For The American People."** The New York Times reported, "Nationally, oil production on federal lands is rising at an extraordinary pace, jumping 25 percent in the first seven months of this year compared with 2016, the last year of the Obama administration. That boom

has driven up government revenue from lease sales and royalties collected from oil and gas production on federal lands, which is shared with the states. Wyoming received \$669 million from federal oil, gas and coal sales last year, money it uses to help pay for its schools, roads and other needs. One federal lease sale in New Mexico last month brought in nearly \$1 billion worth of bids, more than the total lease sale revenue from all sales nationwide in 2017. ‘This historic lease sale shows what is possible when we leverage the vast natural resources we have in our country, using innovation, best science and best practices,’ Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in September, celebrating the result of that particular lease sale, adding that critics of the Trump administration’s efforts to increase energy production ‘are eating their words and once again President Trump’s policies are bearing fruit for the American people.’ But the Interior Department has offered so much land through auctions in the last two years that the majority have failed to attract any bidders. Even so, the overall amount of land actually leased — in deals signed with oil and gas companies or investors — was 1.2 million acres in 2017, according to the agency, more than double the amount from the previous year, and reached 1.35 million acres this year.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

**2017: The Department Of The Interior Sent An “Instruction Memorandum” To Field Offices Across The Country Directing Them To Eliminate “Unnecessary Impediments And Burdens” To The Expansion Of Federal Land Leases.** The New York Times reported, “Weeks after Mr. Trump’s inauguration, senior administration aides, urged on by the industry, began to reverse the Obama-era policies, documents show. ‘Yesterday afternoon we, BLM & Solicitor’s Office, had a preliminary discussion on possible settlement conditions with the Western Energy Alliance,’ said one February 2017 email from Kathleen Benedetto, a geologist and former executive at an oil and gas consulting firm, whom Mr. Zinke named as a senior adviser at the Bureau of Land Management. The outcome of that meeting became public this year, when the Interior Department sent a detailed ‘instruction memorandum’ to field offices nationwide, ordering them to eliminate ‘unnecessary impediments and burdens’ limiting the ability of the department to offer more land for lease. The steps included cutting down the amount of time that individual citizens or groups have to file protests challenging any oil and gas lease to 10 days, from a month. The agency also notified the Bureau of Land Management offices that they would now have no more than six months to decide on nominations by the oil and gas industry of federal land they wanted to lease. Previously, that process often took more than a year, during which the Interior Department had to decide if the land should be kept available as pristine wild lands, or designated for other uses, such as farming or hiking.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

- **The Policy Change Followed A Department-Wide Meeting With The Western Energy Alliance, A Trade Association Representing Oil And Gas Companies.** The New York Times reported, “Weeks after Mr. Trump’s inauguration, senior administration aides, urged on by the industry, began to reverse the Obama-era policies, documents show. ‘Yesterday afternoon we, BLM & Solicitor’s Office, had a preliminary discussion on possible settlement conditions with the Western Energy Alliance,’ said one February 2017 email from Kathleen Benedetto, a geologist and former executive at an oil and gas consulting firm, whom Mr. Zinke named as a senior adviser at the Bureau of Land Management. The outcome of that meeting became public this year, when the Interior Department sent a detailed ‘instruction memorandum’ to field offices nationwide, ordering them to eliminate ‘unnecessary impediments and burdens’ limiting the ability of the department to offer more land for lease. The steps included cutting down the amount of time that individual citizens or groups have to file protests challenging any oil and gas lease to 10 days, from a month. The agency also notified the Bureau of Land Management offices that they would now have no more than six months to decide on nominations by the oil and gas industry of federal land they wanted to lease. Previously, that process often took more than a year, during which the Interior Department had to decide if the land should be kept available as pristine wild lands, or designated for other uses, such as farming or hiking.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

**Daily Inter Lake: “As Interior Secretary, Zinke Helped Spearhead The Trump Administration’s Deregulation Effort... Opening Up Vast Swaths Of Public Land For Oil And Gas Leases.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “As Interior secretary, Zinke helped spearhead the Trump administration’s deregulation effort, weakening protections on migratory birds, opening up vast swaths of public land for oil and gas leases, and



drastically shrinking the footprint of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

- **Daily Inter Lake: “Meanwhile, In Concert With Environmental And Tribal Groups Including The Blackfeet Nation, Zinke Fought In Federal Court To Uphold The Cancellation Of Oil And Gas Leases In The Badger-Two Medicine Area Near Glacier National Park.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Meanwhile, in concert with environmental and tribal groups including the Blackfeet Nation, Zinke fought in federal court to uphold the cancellation of oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area near Glacier National Park. And he prioritized a fast restoration of Glacier’s Sperry Chalet after it was damaged in a wildfire in 2017.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

## ***Offshore Drilling***

**July 2017: Zinke Lowered The Price Companies Were Required To Pay The Government For Offshore Drilling.** The Denver Post reported, “With control over more than 500 million acres of public land and hundreds of millions of acres offshore, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is moving rapidly to promote American production of coal, oil and gas a critical piece of President Donald Trump’s vision for ‘making America great again.’ In the past few weeks alone, Zinke has lowered the price companies must pay the government for offshore drilling, acted to accelerate approval for onshore drilling permits, approved exploratory drilling in the Arctic’s Beaufort Sea, and scheduled lease sales on Western lands the Obama administration had deemed off limits. And Zinke’s moves have immediate impact. Whereas Trump’s ambitious plans to overhaul the tax code and renegotiate international trade pacts remain far off, and his campaign to roll back environmental regulations will take months to produce results for industry, Zinke is taking concrete action to deliver on one of Trump’s most important campaign promises.” [Denver Post, 7/21/17]

**July 2017: Zinke Pledged To Expand Offshore Drilling At The Western Conservative Summit, Which Was Hosted By The Centennial Institute.** The Denver Post reported, “The Coloradan’s comments, delivered at the Colorado Convention Center, came on the opening night of the Western Conservative Summit the second major conservative political conference in downtown Denver this week, as the American Legislative Exchange Council wrapped up its own annual meeting at a hotel across the street. Hosted by the Centennial Institute, a conservative Christian policy center based at Colorado Christian University, the annual conservative summit’s organizers say its the largest annual conservative political gathering outside of Washington, D.C., drawing thousands of attendees from across the country.” [Denver Post, 7/22/17]

- **July 2017: The Centennial Institute Was A Conservative Christian Policy Center At Colorado Christian University.** The Denver Post reported, “The Coloradan’s comments, delivered at the Colorado Convention Center, came on the opening night of the Western Conservative Summit the second major conservative political conference in downtown Denver this week, as the American Legislative Exchange Council wrapped up its own annual meeting at a hotel across the street. Hosted by the Centennial Institute, a conservative Christian policy center based at Colorado Christian University, the annual conservative summit’s organizers say its the largest annual conservative political gathering outside of Washington, D.C., drawing thousands of attendees from across the country.” [Denver Post, 7/22/17]

**November 2017: The Trump Administration Announced The Largest Gulf Lease Offering For Oil And Gas Exploration In American History, Which Was 77 Million Acres.** The Denver Post reported, “Drilling platforms dot the Gulf of Mexico, where the fossil fuel industry has extracted oil and gas for decades. But the Trump administration wanted to make history. In early November, it did so by announcing the largest gulf lease offering for oil and gas exploration in U.S. history: 77 million acres. The move was consistent with Trump’s push for ‘energy dominance.’ He and Zinke are also opening more land to coal excavation in the West. One of Zinke’s first acts as interior secretary was to remove a bright and colorful picture of a western landscape from the Bureau of Land Management’s website and replace it with a black wall of coal. Is drilling in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge next?” [Denver Post, 12/28/17]



**January 2018: The Trump Administration Announced Plans To Allow New Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling In Nearly All Coastal Waters, Opening Up More Than A Billion Acres For Drilling In The Arctic, Off The Shore Of California, And Along The Eastern Seaboard.** The New York Times reported, “The Trump administration said Thursday it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, giving energy companies access to leases off California for the first time in decades and opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic and along the Eastern Seaboard. The proposal lifts a ban on such drilling imposed by President Barack Obama near the end of his term and would deal a serious blow to his environmental legacy. It would also signal that the Trump administration is not done unraveling environmental restrictions in an effort to promote energy production. While the plan puts the administration squarely on the side of the energy industry and against environmental groups, it also puts the White House at odds with a number of coastal states that oppose offshore drilling. Some of those states are led by Republicans, like Gov. Rick Scott of Florida, where the tourism industry was hit hard by the Deepwater Horizon rig disaster in 2010 that killed 11 people and spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

- **New York Times: “The Proposal Lifts A Ban On Such Drilling Imposed By President Barack Obama Near The End Of His Term And Would Deal A Serious Blow To His Environmental Legacy.”** The New York Times reported, “The Trump administration said Thursday it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, giving energy companies access to leases off California for the first time in decades and opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic and along the Eastern Seaboard. The proposal lifts a ban on such drilling imposed by President Barack Obama near the end of his term and would deal a serious blow to his environmental legacy. It would also signal that the Trump administration is not done unraveling environmental restrictions in an effort to promote energy production. While the plan puts the administration squarely on the side of the energy industry and against environmental groups, it also puts the White House at odds with a number of coastal states that oppose offshore drilling. Some of those states are led by Republicans, like Gov. Rick Scott of Florida, where the tourism industry was hit hard by the Deepwater Horizon rig disaster in 2010 that killed 11 people and spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

**January 2018: The Interior Department Proposed Opening 25 Of 26 Regions Of The Outer Continental Shelf To New Oil And Gas Drilling, Making 90 Percent Of The Area Available For Leasing.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke said the drilling plan was part of ‘a new path for energy dominance in America,’ but said he planned to speak with Governor Scott and other state leaders before the proposal was finalized. ‘It’s not going to be done overnight,’ he said. Oil industry leaders cheered the reversal, calling it long overdue. ‘I think the default should be that all of our offshore areas should be available,’ said Thomas J. Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance. ‘These are our lands. They’re taxpayer-owned and they should be made available.’ The Obama administration blocked drilling on about 94 percent of the outer continental shelf, the submerged offshore area between state coastal waters and the deep ocean. Mr. Zinke charged that those restrictions had cost the United States billions of dollars in lost revenue and said the new proposal would make about 90 percent of those waters available for leasing. The Interior Department would open 25 of 26 regions of the outer continental shelf, leaving only the North Aleutian Basin — which President George Bush protected in an executive order — exempted from drilling.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

- **January 2018: Zinke Said That The New Oil And Gas Drilling Plans Were A Part Of “A New Path For Energy Dominance In America.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke said the drilling plan was part of ‘a new path for energy dominance in America,’ but said he planned to speak with Governor Scott and other state leaders before the proposal was finalized. ‘It’s not going to be done overnight,’ he said. Oil industry leaders cheered the reversal, calling it long overdue. ‘I think the default should be that all of our offshore areas should be available,’ said Thomas J. Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance. ‘These are our lands. They’re taxpayer-owned and they should be made available.’ The Obama administration blocked drilling on about 94 percent of the outer continental shelf, the submerged offshore area between state coastal waters and the deep ocean. Mr. Zinke charged that those restrictions had cost the United States billions of dollars in lost



revenue and said the new proposal would make about 90 percent of those waters available for leasing. The Interior Department would open 25 of 26 regions of the outer continental shelf, leaving only the North Aleutian Basin — which President George Bush protected in an executive order — exempted from drilling.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

- **January 2018: Zinke Said That The New Oil And Gas Drilling Plan Would Commit 90 Percent Of Offshore Reserves To Leasing.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “The Trump administration, inviting a political backlash from coastal state leaders, on Thursday proposed to open for exploration the largest expanse of the nation’s offshore oil and natural gas reserves ever offered to global energy companies, including waters off the coast of California. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said the draft five-year leasing plan would commit 90% of the nation’s offshore reserves to leasing, including areas off all three regions of the California coast that have been off-limits to oil and gas exploration since the Reagan administration. The draft plan, now subject to review and debate, would allow the first new federal lease sales off California since 1984. It sparked immediate fury from Democratic leaders up and down the West Coast.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/5/18]

**January 2018: Business Alliance For Protecting The Atlantic Coast President Frank Knapp Criticized The Proposal To Open Coastal Drilling As “Not Consistent” With The Priorities Of Local Communities.** The New York Times reported, “Frank Knapp, president of the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast, said thousands of small businesses, from restaurants to hotels to commercial fishing operations, oppose drilling off their states’ waters. ‘It’s not consistent with our vibrant tourism, fishing and recreation,’ Mr. Knapp said. ‘Their concern is their livelihood, the local economies. We all saw what happened to the Gulf Coast with Deepwater Horizon.’ Of particular interest to oil companies — and concern to many Florida lawmakers — will be the decision to open the eastern Gulf of Mexico, said Kevin Book, an energy consultant and managing director of ClearView Energy Partners. He noted the area is attractive to the energy industry because there is already a large amount of infrastructure in the region. ‘You can talk about the Atlantic all you want, but you’re 10 years, 15 years from production,’ Mr. Book said.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

- **Knapp: “It’s Not Consistent With Our Vibrant Tourism, Fishing, And Recreation. Their Concern Is Their Livelihood, The Local Economies. We All Saw What Happened To The Gulf Coast With Deepwater Horizon.”** The New York Times reported, “Frank Knapp, president of the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast, said thousands of small businesses, from restaurants to hotels to commercial fishing operations, oppose drilling off their states’ waters. ‘It’s not consistent with our vibrant tourism, fishing and recreation,’ Mr. Knapp said. ‘Their concern is their livelihood, the local economies. We all saw what happened to the Gulf Coast with Deepwater Horizon.’ Of particular interest to oil companies — and concern to many Florida lawmakers — will be the decision to open the eastern Gulf of Mexico, said Kevin Book, an energy consultant and managing director of ClearView Energy Partners. He noted the area is attractive to the energy industry because there is already a large amount of infrastructure in the region. ‘You can talk about the Atlantic all you want, but you’re 10 years, 15 years from production,’ Mr. Book said.” [New York Times, 1/4/18]

**January 2018: OCEANA Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz Criticized Zinke For Prioritizing Lobbyists Over Citizens.** According to an op-ed by OCEANA Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz in the New York Times, “Last year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke promised to ‘listen to state and local stakeholders’ as his department’s reviewed offshore oil and gas. But this proposal plan tells America that so far, the only stakeholders this administration has listened to are industry lobbyists. Perhaps this will change. There will be a 60-day window for the public to comment on the Interior Department plan. In announcing the proposal, Mr. Zinke said, ‘Just like with mining, not all areas are appropriate for offshore drilling, and we will take that into consideration in the coming weeks.’ I hope he does. Oil interests are probably hoping that this new plan will discourage those who fought long and hard to protect their coast. But if I know anything about the people I’ve met over the last couple of years, they’re not the type to be discouraged. And by expanding the threat of drilling to nearly all United States waters, this administration faces a tsunami of opposition from businesses, local leaders and activists on all our coasts.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 1/5/18]

- **Savitz: “Last Year, Zinke Promised To ‘Listen To State And Local Stakeholders’ As His Department Reviewed Offshore Oil And Gas.”** According to an op-ed by OCEANA Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz in the New York Times, “Last year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke promised to ‘listen to state and local stakeholders’ as his department’s reviewed offshore oil and gas. But this proposal plan tells America that so far, the only stakeholders this administration has listened to are industry lobbyists. Perhaps this will change. There will be a 60-day window for the public to comment on the Interior Department plan. In announcing the proposal, Mr. Zinke said, ‘Just like with mining, not all areas are appropriate for offshore drilling, and we will take that into consideration in the coming weeks.’ I hope he does. Oil interests are probably hoping that this new plan will discourage those who fought long and hard to protect their coast. But if I know anything about the people I’ve met over the last couple of years, they’re not the type to be discouraged. And by expanding the threat of drilling to nearly all United States waters, this administration faces a tsunami of opposition from businesses, local leaders and activists on all our coasts.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 1/5/18]
- **Savitz: “But This Proposal Plan Tells America That So Far, The Only Stakeholders This Administration Has Listened To Are Industry Lobbyists.”** According to an op-ed by OCEANA Vice President For U.S. Oceans Jacqueline Savitz in the New York Times, “Last year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke promised to ‘listen to state and local stakeholders’ as his department’s reviewed offshore oil and gas. But this proposal plan tells America that so far, the only stakeholders this administration has listened to are industry lobbyists. Perhaps this will change. There will be a 60-day window for the public to comment on the Interior Department plan. In announcing the proposal, Mr. Zinke said, ‘Just like with mining, not all areas are appropriate for offshore drilling, and we will take that into consideration in the coming weeks.’ I hope he does. Oil interests are probably hoping that this new plan will discourage those who fought long and hard to protect their coast. But if I know anything about the people I’ve met over the last couple of years, they’re not the type to be discouraged. And by expanding the threat of drilling to nearly all United States waters, this administration faces a tsunami of opposition from businesses, local leaders and activists on all our coasts.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 1/5/18]

**January 2018: Oil Change International Senior Research Analyst Lorne Stockman Said There Was “No Economic Justification For Going To The Outer Continental Shelf, And There Probably Never Will Be.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “‘There is no economic justification for going to the outer continental shelf, and there probably never will be,’ said Lorne Stockman, a senior research analyst with Oil Change International, a clean energy research and advocacy group in Washington. The administration’s agenda seems clear: With a series of executive orders issued early last year by the president, and regulatory changes ordered by Zinke, Trump has set out to reverse Obama-era restrictions on fossil fuel development. Offshore production has been a particular area of focus, not only because Obama had strictly limited access to the Atlantic and the Arctic, but also because government energy analysts have projected that tens of billions of barrels of untapped oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas lay beneath the oceans.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/6/18]

**January 2018: Zinke Ruled Out Drilling Off The Coast Of Florida From The Trump Administration’s Decision To Allow Offshore Drilling In Nearly All Coastal Waters.** The New York Times reported, “The Trump administration said Tuesday it had ruled out drilling for oil and gas off the coast of Florida after strong opposition from the state’s Republican governor, Rick Scott. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke moved last week to allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic, Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico to potential leases. The decision prompted an outcry from Republican and Democratic governors alike on both coasts. ‘I support the governor’s position that Florida is unique and its coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an economic driver,’ Mr. Zinke said in a statement after meeting Governor Scott in Florida. ‘I am removing Florida from consideration for any new oil and gas platforms.’ Mr. Zinke’s reversal underscored the deep unpopularity of a plan that would undo one of the environmental legacies of the Obama administration. But the administration’s proposal is also a signal that President Trump is not done rolling back environmental restrictions to bolster domestic energy production.” [New York Times, 1/9/18]

- **January 2018 – Zinke: “I Support The Governor’s Position That Florida Is Unique And Its Coasts Are Heavily Reliant On Tourism As An Economic Driver. I Am Removing Florida From Consideration For Any New Oil And Gas Platforms.”** The New York Times reported, “The Trump administration said Tuesday it had ruled out drilling for oil and gas off the coast of Florida after strong opposition from the state’s Republican governor, Rick Scott. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke moved last week to allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic, Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico to potential leases. The decision prompted an outcry from Republican and Democratic governors alike on both coasts. ‘I support the governor’s position that Florida is unique and its coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an economic driver,’ Mr. Zinke said in a statement after meeting Governor Scott in Florida. ‘I am removing Florida from consideration for any new oil and gas platforms.’ Mr. Zinke’s reversal underscored the deep unpopularity of a plan that would undo one of the environmental legacies of the Obama administration. But the administration’s proposal is also a signal that President Trump is not done rolling back environmental restrictions to bolster domestic energy production.” [New York Times, 1/9/18]
- **January 2018: Environmental Groups Like OCEANA Accused Zinke Of Trying To Curry Favor With Florida Governor Rick Scott.** The New York Times reported, “Florida lawmakers of both parties have long opposed offshore drilling, saying it could harm the state’s tourism industry, which was hit hard after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico sent waves of oil to the state’s shores in 2010. Environmental groups accused Mr. Zinke of currying political favor with Governor Scott while pushing ahead with opening up coastal waters elsewhere. ‘Such a quick reversal begs the question: Will the Trump administration give equal consideration to all the other coastal governors from both parties who overwhelmingly reject this radical offshore drilling plan?’ said Diane Hoskins, a spokeswoman for the ocean conservation group Oceana.” [New York Times, 1/9/18]
- **January 2018 – OCEANA Spokeswoman Diane Hoskins: “Such A Quick Reversal Begs The Questions: Will The Trump Administration Give Equal Consideration To All Other Coastal Governors From Both Parties Who Overwhelmingly Reject This Radical Offshore Drilling Plan?”** The New York Times reported, “Florida lawmakers of both parties have long opposed offshore drilling, saying it could harm the state’s tourism industry, which was hit hard after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico sent waves of oil to the state’s shores in 2010. Environmental groups accused Mr. Zinke of currying political favor with Governor Scott while pushing ahead with opening up coastal waters elsewhere. ‘Such a quick reversal begs the question: Will the Trump administration give equal consideration to all the other coastal governors from both parties who overwhelmingly reject this radical offshore drilling plan?’ said Diane Hoskins, a spokeswoman for the ocean conservation group Oceana.” [New York Times, 1/9/18]

**January 2018: California Attorney General Xavier Becerra Criticized Zinke’s Decision To Remove Florida From The New Offshore Drilling Plans Because California Was Also “Unique.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “But Zinke’s announcement instantly drew criticism from Democratic officials who also oppose drilling off their states’ coasts, saying they oppose drilling for the same reasons Florida’s governor does. ‘California is also “unique” & our “coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an economic driver,”’ California Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra said on Twitter. ‘Our “local and state voice” is firmly opposed to any and all offshore drilling. If that’s your standard, we, too, should be removed from your list. Immediately.’ ‘Secretary Zinke must also abandon his efforts to drill along California’s beautiful coastline,’ Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) tweeted. ‘Protection of our ocean shouldn’t depend on the D, R, or I after the governor’s name.’ In New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo also tweeted a protest. ‘New York doesn’t want drilling off our coast either,’ he said. ‘Where do we sign up for a waiver @SecretaryZinke?’” [Los Angeles Times, 1/10/18]

- **January 2018 – California AG Becerra: “California Is Also ‘Unique’ And Our ‘Coasts Are Heavily Reliant On Tourism As An Economic Driver.’ Our ‘Local And State Voice’ Is Firmly Opposed To Any And All Offshore Drilling. If That’s Your Standard, We, Too, Should Be Removed From Your List.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “But Zinke’s announcement instantly drew criticism from Democratic officials who also oppose drilling off their states’ coasts, saying they oppose drilling for the same reasons Florida’s

governor does. ‘California is also “unique” & our “coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an economic driver,”’ California Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra said on Twitter. ‘Our “local and state voice” is firmly opposed to any and all offshore drilling. If that’s your standard, we, too, should be removed from your list. Immediately.’ ‘Secretary Zinke must also abandon his efforts to drill along California’s beautiful coastline,’ Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) tweeted. ‘Protection of our ocean shouldn’t depend on the D, R, or I after the governor’s name.’ In New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo also tweeted a protest. ‘New York doesn’t want drilling off our coast either,’ he said. ‘Where do we sign up for a waiver @SecretaryZinke?’” [Los Angeles Times, 1/10/18]

**January 2018: Zinke Remained Committed To Expanding Offshore Drilling Despite Removing Florida From The National Plans.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Despite the partial rollback of the plan, Zinke said the administration was still dedicated to aggressively seeking energy resources throughout the country. ‘I don’t want your kids ever to fight on foreign shores for a resource we have here,’ he said. ‘But there’s places where resources are sensitive, and there’s places where we’re not going to go forward with [drilling for oil], and one of them is off the coast of Florida.’ Scott was not the only Florida Republican criticizing the proposal last week, with U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan calling it ‘reckless, misguided and potentially catastrophic to Florida.’ The Florida Petroleum Council hailed the administration’s move as a way to benefit state consumers by potentially creating jobs and additional government revenue while strengthening national security.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/10/18]

- **January 2018 – Zinke: “I Don’t Want Your Kids Ever To Fight On Foreign Shores For A Resource We Have Here. But There’s Places Where Resources Are Sensitive, And There’s Places Where We We’re Not Going To Go Forward With [Drilling For Oil], And One Of Them Is Off The Coast Of Florida.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Despite the partial rollback of the plan, Zinke said the administration was still dedicated to aggressively seeking energy resources throughout the country. ‘I don’t want your kids ever to fight on foreign shores for a resource we have here,’ he said. ‘But there’s places where resources are sensitive, and there’s places where we’re not going to go forward with [drilling for oil], and one of them is off the coast of Florida.’ Scott was not the only Florida Republican criticizing the proposal last week, with U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan calling it ‘reckless, misguided and potentially catastrophic to Florida.’ The Florida Petroleum Council hailed the administration’s move as a way to benefit state consumers by potentially creating jobs and additional government revenue while strengthening national security.” [Los Angeles Times, 1/10/18]

**January 2018: Florida Was Not One Of The States That Had Requested An Exemption From The Oil Drilling Expansion Plans, While California, New York, New Jersey, And Several Other States Had Requested Exemptions.** The New York Times reported, “The governors of New York, New Jersey, California and several other states requested exclusion from the drilling plan last year, while the plan was being drafted, citing the tourism value of their coastlines. ‘The problem is that the request for exclusion came from most of the East Coast states and all of the West Coast states, and yet it was just granted to Florida,’ said Sierra Weaver, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. ‘The problem is treating Florida differently from every other state that requested exclusion.’ In fact, Florida was not among the states that had requested an exemption to the drilling plan. Throughout his political career, Governor Scott has veered between supporting and opposing offshore drilling. Legal experts said they were perplexed by Mr. Zinke’s move. ‘No one knows what the legal implications are, because this has never been done before,’ Ms. Weaver said. She said Mr. Zinke’s move may put the administration in conflict with the provisions of the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, a law that lays out the standards and procedures for determining which areas will be opened to offshore drilling. ‘There’s supposed to be a 60-day public comment period, an environmental-impact statement,’ Ms. Weaver said. ‘It’s not clear what they did here, and it’s not clear that they understand that there is a legal process that they need to follow.’” [New York Times, 1/10/18]

- **January 2018: Southern Environmental Law Center Attorney Sierra Weaver: “The Problem Is That The Request For Exclusion Came From Most Of The East Coast States And All Of The West Coast States, And Yet It Was Just Granted To Florida... The Problem Is Treating Florida Differently From Every Other State That Requested Exclusion.”** The New York Times reported, “The governors of New York, New Jersey, California and several other states requested exclusion from the drilling plan last year, while



the plan was being drafted, citing the tourism value of their coastlines. ‘The problem is that the request for exclusion came from most of the East Coast states and all of the West Coast states, and yet it was just granted to Florida,’ said Sierra Weaver, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. ‘The problem is treating Florida differently from every other state that requested exclusion.’ In fact, Florida was not among the states that had requested an exemption to the drilling plan. Throughout his political career, Governor Scott has veered between supporting and opposing offshore drilling. Legal experts said they were perplexed by Mr. Zinke’s move. ‘No one knows what the legal implications are, because this has never been done before,’ Ms. Weaver said. She said Mr. Zinke’s move may put the administration in conflict with the provisions of the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, a law that lays out the standards and procedures for determining which areas will be opened to offshore drilling. ‘There’s supposed to be a 60-day public comment period, an environmental-impact statement,’ Ms. Weaver said. ‘It’s not clear what they did here, and it’s not clear that they understand that there is a legal process that they need to follow.’” [New York Times, 1/10/18]

- **Weaver: “No One Knows What The Legal Implications Are, Because This Has Never Been Done Before.”** The New York Times reported, “The governors of New York, New Jersey, California and several other states requested exclusion from the drilling plan last year, while the plan was being drafted, citing the tourism value of their coastlines. ‘The problem is that the request for exclusion came from most of the East Coast states and all of the West Coast states, and yet it was just granted to Florida,’ said Sierra Weaver, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. ‘The problem is treating Florida differently from every other state that requested exclusion.’ In fact, Florida was not among the states that had requested an exemption to the drilling plan. Throughout his political career, Governor Scott has veered between supporting and opposing offshore drilling. Legal experts said they were perplexed by Mr. Zinke’s move. ‘No one knows what the legal implications are, because this has never been done before,’ Ms. Weaver said. She said Mr. Zinke’s move may put the administration in conflict with the provisions of the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, a law that lays out the standards and procedures for determining which areas will be opened to offshore drilling. ‘There’s supposed to be a 60-day public comment period, an environmental-impact statement,’ Ms. Weaver said. ‘It’s not clear what they did here, and it’s not clear that they understand that there is a legal process that they need to follow.’” [New York Times, 1/10/18]
- **Weaver: “There’s Supposed To Be A 60-Day Public Comment Period, An Environmental-Impact Statement. It’s Not Clear What They Did Here, And It’s Not Clear That They Understand That There Is A Legal Process That They Need To Follow.”** The New York Times reported, “The governors of New York, New Jersey, California and several other states requested exclusion from the drilling plan last year, while the plan was being drafted, citing the tourism value of their coastlines. ‘The problem is that the request for exclusion came from most of the East Coast states and all of the West Coast states, and yet it was just granted to Florida,’ said Sierra Weaver, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. ‘The problem is treating Florida differently from every other state that requested exclusion.’ In fact, Florida was not among the states that had requested an exemption to the drilling plan. Throughout his political career, Governor Scott has veered between supporting and opposing offshore drilling. Legal experts said they were perplexed by Mr. Zinke’s move. ‘No one knows what the legal implications are, because this has never been done before,’ Ms. Weaver said. She said Mr. Zinke’s move may put the administration in conflict with the provisions of the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, a law that lays out the standards and procedures for determining which areas will be opened to offshore drilling. ‘There’s supposed to be a 60-day public comment period, an environmental-impact statement,’ Ms. Weaver said. ‘It’s not clear what they did here, and it’s not clear that they understand that there is a legal process that they need to follow.’” [New York Times, 1/10/18]

**January 2018: Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Walter Cruickshank Told A House Natural Resources Subcommittee That Zinke’s Decision To Omit Florida From Offshore Drilling Leases Was “Not A Formal Action.”** The New York Times reported, “On Friday, the head of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Interior Department agency that manages offshore leasing, said Mr. Zinke’s Florida decision was not final. ‘It is not a formal action, no,’ Walter Cruickshank, the bureau’s acting director, told a subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources. Instead, the bureau was pushing ahead with the



required review of resources off the nation's shores, including Florida's, he said. A decision on whether to offer leases off Florida as part of the administration's offshore program would come after that analysis. 'The secretary's decision will be reflected in the proposed program decision,' Mr. Cruickshank said. Mr. Cruickshank said he was not aware of anyone at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management who had been consulted about Mr. Zinke's Twitter message about Florida before it was posted." [New York Times, 1/19/18]

- **Cruickshank Told A House Natural Resources Subcommittee That He Was Unaware Of Anyone In His Department Who Was Consulted About Zinke's Florida Decision Prior To Zinke's Twitter Announcement.** The New York Times reported, "On Friday, the head of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Interior Department agency that manages offshore leasing, said Mr. Zinke's Florida decision was not final. 'It is not a formal action, no,' Walter Cruickshank, the bureau's acting director, told a subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources. Instead, the bureau was pushing ahead with the required review of resources off the nation's shores, including Florida's, he said. A decision on whether to offer leases off Florida as part of the administration's offshore program would come after that analysis. 'The secretary's decision will be reflected in the proposed program decision,' Mr. Cruickshank said. Mr. Cruickshank said he was not aware of anyone at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management who had been consulted about Mr. Zinke's Twitter message about Florida before it was posted." [New York Times, 1/19/18]

**December 2018: Every Governor Except Maine's Opposed Zinke's Plan To Open Offshore Drilling On The Entire Outer Continental Shelf.** The Washington Post reported, "In service to Trump, Zinke pursued the most ambitious expansion of offshore leasing in history, proposing a plan to open nearly the entire U.S. outer continental shelf to the oil and gas industry, including the Pacific and Arctic oceans, along with the Atlantic, where drilling had not happened in about five decades. Every governor except Maine's eventually opposed it. What happened in the week after Zinke announced the proposal in early January probably contributed to his downfall. Without informing the president, Zinke flew to Florida to meet with Gov. Rick Scott ®, a Trump backer and a onetime supporter of drilling who was mulling a Senate run." [Washington Post, [12/20/18](#)]

**March 2018: The Interior Department Under Zinke Issued A Stop-Work Order For A Study By The National Academy Of Sciences That Was Researching Ways To Reduce Accidents In Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling Operations.** The New York Times reported, "Last month, a group of 19 Senate Democrats wrote to Mr. Zinke questioning why the agency had issued a stop-work order for a study by the National Academy of Sciences that was looking at ways to reduce offshore accidents." [New York Times, 3/18/18]

**January 2018: The Interior Department Proposed Allowing Offshore Drilling Along The Entire American Coastline.** The New York Times reported, "In January, the Interior Department proposed opening up almost the entire American coastline to offshore drilling." [New York Times, 12/6/18]

**2018: Zinke Announced In A Press Conference That Offshore Drilling In Florida Was "Off The Table."** The Miami Herald reported, "Rooney said a permanent offshore drilling ban would clear up confusion for Floridians after former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced in a 2018 Tallahassee press conference that offshore drilling in Florida was 'off the table.' Zinke's surprise announcement, which was coordinated with then-Gov. Scott four months before he announced a bid for U.S. Senate, set off criticism that political considerations were behind the Florida exemption, as President Trump announced plans to expand offshore drilling in other parts of the country." [Miami Herald, 9/11/19]

- **Zinke's Pledge Came A Few Days After The Trump Administration Announced That It Would Allow Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling In Coastal Waters, Including The Gulf Of Mexico.** According to the Tampa Bay Times Editorial Board, "But the Trump administration's announcement in January 2018 that it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all U.S. coastal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico, reflects the inadequacy of a temporary ban. Only a permanent exclusion gives Florida the certainty it needs while establishing a reliable corridor for military training. The legislation also removes a cloud of uncertainty stemming from the assurances of then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, only days after the administration

announced its drilling plan, that Florida would be off the table. Skeptics saw the move as a political attempt by the Trump administration to help then-Gov. Scott in his winning campaign to unseat Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson. Motivations aside, Zinke's pledge was never codified into policy, and Florida's status remains unsettled." [Tampa Bay Times, Editorial, 9/17/19]

- **Zinke's Carveout For Florida Was Criticized As A Political Attempt To Help Rick Scott Win His Senate Campaign Against Then-Incumbent Bill Nelson.** According to the Tampa Bay Times Editorial Board, "But the Trump administration's announcement in January 2018 that it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all U.S. coastal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico, reflects the inadequacy of a temporary ban. Only a permanent exclusion gives Florida the certainty it needs while establishing a reliable corridor for military training. The legislation also removes a cloud of uncertainty stemming from the assurances of then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, only days after the administration announced its drilling plan, that Florida would be off the table. Skeptics saw the move as a political attempt by the Trump administration to help then-Gov. Scott in his winning campaign to unseat Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson. Motivations aside, Zinke's pledge was never codified into policy, and Florida's status remains unsettled." [Tampa Bay Times, Editorial, 9/17/19]
- **Zinke's Pledge Was Nonbinding, Leaving Confusion Over What The Administration's Policy Towards Florida Was.** According to the Tampa Bay Times Editorial Board, "But the Trump administration's announcement in January 2018 that it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all U.S. coastal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico, reflects the inadequacy of a temporary ban. Only a permanent exclusion gives Florida the certainty it needs while establishing a reliable corridor for military training. The legislation also removes a cloud of uncertainty stemming from the assurances of then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, only days after the administration announced its drilling plan, that Florida would be off the table. Skeptics saw the move as a political attempt by the Trump administration to help then-Gov. Scott in his winning campaign to unseat Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson. Motivations aside, Zinke's pledge was never codified into policy, and Florida's status remains unsettled." [Tampa Bay Times, Editorial, 9/17/19]
- **Zinke Later Backtracked His Pledge.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "That alone is a shift for this administration, which only a few years ago announced plans to vastly open offshore drilling near Florida, including in the Gulf of Mexico. But then-U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke held a hastily arranged news conference in Tallahassee to announce that drilling in Florida was off the table, in what was widely seen as a bid to help then-Republican Gov. Rick Scott unseat Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson. Zinke later backtracked from that pledge, and the future of offshore drilling near Florida has been unsettled since." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/9/20]

## ***Pollution Payments***

**2018: Zinke Reversed A Policy That Required Energy Companies To Pay Damages For Polluting Federal Lands, Calling The Previous Policy "Un-American."** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, "Zinke's most recent decision may be the most astounding. He has decided that energy companies that despoil federal lands won't always have to pay a price for damages they cause. He even labeled the previous, long standing policy of requiring payments for harming the land 'un American.'" [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

- **Zinke Repealed Rules That Required Natural Gas Emitters To Pay Royalties On Their Emissions, Which The Interior Department Estimated Would Reduce Royalties Paid By Gas Corporations By Tens Of Millions Of Dollars Over The Next Decade, While Other Experts Estimated Lost Revenue Of Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars.** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, "Zinke repealed rules requiring companies to reduce natural gas waste and guarantee royalty payments of gas emissions. The Department of the Interior admits this decision

will reduce royalties paid by gas corporations by tens of millions of dollars over the next decade. Other experts gauge the lost royalty revenue at hundreds of millions of dollars.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

- **Zinke Repealed Rules That Closed Loopholes Allowing Fossil Fuel Companies To Underpay Federal Royalties, Costing Between \$75 Million And Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars Annually.** According to an op-ed by Dan Bucks, former director of the Montana Department of Revenue, in the Denver Post, “To make matters worse, Zinke’s actions often cut the public out of the decision making for the management of public lands. [...] He also repealed rules closing loopholes that allow oil, gas and coal corporations to underpay federal royalties. Again, the estimates of lost revenue range from \$75 million (the Interior’s own number) to hundreds of millions of dollars annually and billions over the next decade.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/8/18]

## **Safety**

**July 2017: Zinke’s Staff Was Exploring Proposals To Loosen Safety Rules Implemented After The 2010 BP Oil Spill.** The New York Times reported, “But as the secretary hopscoches across millions of acres of Western parks, monuments and wilderness with his Stetson-sporting swagger, a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts put in effect over the eight years of the Obama administration. Many of those appointees spent the Obama years working for the oil and gas industry — and they come to the Interior Department with an insider’s knowledge of how its levers work and a wish list of policies from their former employers. Their work has been swift. Mr. Zinke’s staff on Tuesday filed a legal proposal to rescind the nation’s first safety regulation on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. They are exploring a proposal to loosen safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put in place after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. They have rolled back an Obama-era order to block coal mining on public lands and delayed carrying out a regulation controlling emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from oil and gas wells.” [New York Times, 7/25/17]

**March 2018: Zinke Sent Inspectors To The Gulf Of Mexico To Investigate The Safety Of Giant Cranes Used In Offshore Oil And Gas Operations.** The New York Times reported, “Faced with questions about its commitment to safety, the Interior Department sent teams to the Gulf of Mexico last week to inspect giant cranes used in offshore oil and gas operations that are a significant source of accidents. More than 50 inspectors, traveling on helicopters, conducted surprise inspections on about 40 offshore platforms and drilling rigs, said Jason Mathews, the head of offshore safety management for the Gulf of Mexico at the department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The results were still being compiled, he said, but the inspectors found serious problems, including some that were potentially life threatening. ‘There are still some major incidents that are occurring, and we need to figure out why,’ Mr. Mathews said Friday. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had discussed plans for the inspection push this month after the safety bureau issued an alert to offshore oil and gas operators in the Gulf. It warned about a series of ‘potentially catastrophic crane and lifting incidents’ that occurred late last year on platforms and drilling rigs.” [New York Times, 3/18/18]

- **The Investigation Followed An Alert To Offshore Oil And Gas Operators That There Was A Possibility Of “Catastrophic Crane And Lifting Incidents” On Platforms And Drilling Rigs.** The New York Times reported, “Faced with questions about its commitment to safety, the Interior Department sent teams to the Gulf of Mexico last week to inspect giant cranes used in offshore oil and gas operations that are a significant source of accidents. More than 50 inspectors, traveling on helicopters, conducted surprise inspections on about 40 offshore platforms and drilling rigs, said Jason Mathews, the head of offshore safety management for the Gulf of Mexico at the department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The results were still being compiled, he said, but the inspectors found serious problems, including some that were potentially life threatening. ‘There are still some major incidents that are occurring, and we need to figure out why,’ Mr. Mathews said Friday. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had discussed plans for the inspection push this month after the safety bureau issued an alert to offshore oil and gas operators in the Gulf. It warned about a series of ‘potentially catastrophic crane and lifting incidents’ that occurred late last year on platforms and drilling rigs.” [New York Times, 3/18/18]

## Solar

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**September 2017: Zinke Said That Solar Cells On Land Rendered The Land “No Longer Useful For Anything Else But Energy, But There’s A Lot Of Roofs When You Fly Over.”** The Denver Post reported, “Or as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke put it in a March television interview: ‘Producing energy domestically and reasonable regulation is far better than watching it being produced overseas with no regulation.’ All of which is why solar energy advocates were scratching their heads after a recent comment Zinke made in a speech during National Clean Energy Week. In the comments, Zinke seemed to suggest that utility scale solar projects were a poor use of publicly owned land and that solar companies should look away from Interior’s land and toward the roofs of homes and businesses for solar panel space instead. ‘If I see solar cells out on land, that land is no longer useful for anything else but energy, but there’s a lot of roofs when you fly over,’ Zinke said, according to Politico. ‘And I think the greatest opportunity, quite frankly, for the solar industry is look at all the roofs in America.’” [Denver Post, 9/30/17]

- **Zinke: “I Think The Greatest Opportunity, Quite Frankly, For The Solar Industry Is Look At All The Roofs In America.”** The Denver Post reported, “Or as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke put it in a March television interview: ‘Producing energy domestically and reasonable regulation is far better than watching it being produced overseas with no regulation.’ All of which is why solar energy advocates were scratching their heads after a recent comment Zinke made in a speech during National Clean Energy Week. In the comments, Zinke seemed to suggest that utility scale solar projects were a poor use of publicly owned land and that solar companies should look away from Interior’s land and toward the roofs of homes and businesses for solar panel space instead. ‘If I see solar cells out on land, that land is no longer useful for anything else but energy, but there’s a lot of roofs when you fly over,’ Zinke said, according to Politico. ‘And I think the greatest opportunity, quite frankly, for the solar industry is look at all the roofs in America.’” [Denver Post, 9/30/17]

**September 2017: Zinke’s Interior Department Had Only Approved One Solar Project During The Trump Administration.** The Denver Post reported, “Under Trump, Interior has approved one solar project. And Zinke has publicly criticized at least one Obama era solar project one that in addition to being built on public lands was partially financed through the Energy Department’s loan guarantee program. ‘If you’ve been outside of Las Vegas and looked at that solar field, it kind of looks like a scene from Mad Max,’ Zinke said of the Ivanpah solar plant in Nevada during a speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, an influential Washington’s business group. ‘Is that the future of having these three or four 80 foot towers with reflector cells the size of garage doors where it makes this cone, this sphere of death, so as birds go through it they get zapped?’ he asked. Zinke, however, is out of line with public opinion: In 2017, nearly 2 in 3 Americans, or 65 percent, said priority should generally be given to developing alternative energy over fossil fuels, according to a Pew Research Center survey.” [Denver Post, 9/30/17]

**September 2017: Zinke Compared The Ivanpah Solar Plant In Nevada To A “Cone, This Sphere Of Death, So As Birds Go Through It They Get Zapped?”** The Denver Post reported, “‘If you’ve been outside of Las Vegas and looked at that solar field, it kind of looks like a scene from Mad Max,’ Zinke said of the Ivanpah solar plant in Nevada during a speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, an influential Washington’s business group. ‘Is that the future of having these three or four 80 foot towers with reflector cells the size of garage doors where it makes this cone, this sphere of death, so as birds go through it they get zapped?’ he asked. Zinke, however, is out of line with public opinion: In 2017, nearly 2 in 3 Americans, or 65 percent, said priority should generally be given to developing alternative energy over fossil fuels, according to a Pew Research Center survey.” [Denver Post, 9/30/17]

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**March 2018: Zinke Claimed That Solar Energy Projects Were Incompatible With Wildlife, Recreation, And Hunting.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Things in the desert got even more uncertain last week when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a Trump appointee in charge of the BLM, stunned an audience at an annual energy conference in Houston by saying wind turbines have a ‘significant’ carbon footprint and ‘chop up’ thousands of birds each year. Solar projects, he added, are not compatible with wildlife, recreation or hunting.” [Los Angeles Times, 3/16/18]

## Wind

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**November 2018: Zinke Announced An Auction Of Federal Waters Off The Coast Of Massachusetts, Potentially Clearing The Way For The Construction Of Offshore Wind Turbines.** The New York Times reported, “The Interior Department rated two mentions. One was Secretary Ryan Zinke’s announcement of a forthcoming auction of federal waters off Massachusetts as a possible site for wind turbines. Offshore wind is a carbon-free source of power, and Mr. Obama promoted it as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Trump administration advertises it as part of the president’s ‘all of the above’ energy strategy and a way to promote American wind turbine builders. With only one offshore wind farm in United States waters, America lags far behind the rest of the world.” [New York Times, 11/26/18]

**March 2018: Zinke Claimed That Wind Turbines Had A “Significant” Carbon Footprint And “Chop Up” Thousand Of Birds Per Year.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Things in the desert got even more uncertain last week when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a Trump appointee in charge of the BLM, stunned an audience at an annual energy conference in Houston by saying wind turbines have a ‘significant’ carbon footprint and ‘chop up’ thousands of birds each year. Solar projects, he added, are not compatible with wildlife, recreation or hunting.” [Los Angeles Times, 3/16/18]

**2022 – Zinke: “Wind’s Not Free. An Enormous Amount Of Mining Material Costs Up Front Goes Into A Wind Farm. It Also Chops Up At Least 750,000 Birds A Year, And If You Add Bats, Which Are An Important Part Of The Environment, That’s A Consequence.”** The Sidney Herald reported, “Zinke also foregrounded the environmental impacts associated with renewable energy projects, including the mined material that’s used in solar panels, batteries and wind farms. ‘Wind’s not free. An enormous amount of mining material costs up front goes into a wind farm. It also chops up at least 750,000 birds a year, and if you add bats, which are an important part of the environment, that’s a consequence [too],’ Zinke said. ‘There’s a consequence for coal, there’s a consequence for hydrocarbons, there’s a consequence for nuclear. Every type of energy has a consequence.’” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

**2022: Zinke Said, “Yes Energy Is Important In This Country, But To Think You’re Going To Make Montana Into One Giant Windmill And Hydrogen Is Going To Provide The Power, Is Just Simply Nuts.”** The Independent Record reported, “Zinke countered that the U.S. produces fossil fuel-based energy cleaner than in other countries, saying that Tranel’s stance would risk economic harm. ‘Yes energy is important in this country, but to think you’re going to make Montana into one giant windmill and hydrogen is going to provide the power, is just simply nuts,’ he said.” [Independent Record, 9/29/22]

**July 2019: Zinke Supported Fast Development Of Offshore Wind.** According to the Boston Globe Editorial Board, “Three turbines from the Deepwater Wind project stand off Block Island, R.I. Who thought we’d miss Ryan Zinke? President Trump’s former interior secretary, who left office last winter dogged by a pack of ethical



questions, got at least one thing right: He supported swift action to develop offshore wind energy in the United States.” [Boston Globe, Editorial, 7/24/19]

- **Zinke: The “Men And Women Who Construct Wind Turbines In American Waters In The Years To Come Will Continue To Set Our Nation Toward Clean Energy Dominance.”** According to the Boston Globe Editorial Board, “Three turbines from the Deepwater Wind project stand off Block Island, R.I. Who thought we’d miss Ryan Zinke? President Trump’s former interior secretary, who left office last winter dogged by a pack of ethical questions, got at least one thing right: He supported swift action to develop offshore wind energy in the United States. [...] The ‘men and women who construct wind turbines in American waters in the years to come will continue to set our nation toward clean energy dominance,’ Zinke wrote in these pages last year. [Boston Globe, Editorial, 7/24/19]

## Environment

### Alaska Land Swap Scandal

**2018: Zinke Approved A Land Swap Deal Through Protected Land In Alaska, But It Was Rejected By Federal Courts.** The New York Times reported, “The legal battle over the gravel route could gut an environmental law that the 39<sup>th</sup> president called one of his highest achievements. By Alaskan standards, the gravel road that an isolated community near the Aleutian Islands wants to build to connect to an airport is not a huge project. But because it would be cut through a federal wildlife refuge, the road has been a simmering source of contention since it was first proposed decades ago. [...] The full road remained the dream. But it would have to run for at least 11 miles through the refuge, an area with delicate wetlands containing some of the world’s largest beds of eelgrass, which attract black brants and other migratory geese. Until President Trump took office in 2017, the proposal that had made the most headway was one in which the state and the local Native village corporation would swap acreage elsewhere with the federal government for a corridor through the refuge. The exchange was authorized by Congress during the Obama administration, but was rejected by Sally Jewell, then the interior secretary, after a review found it would cause irreversible damage to the refuge and its wildlife. Once Mr. Trump entered the White House, however, the land swap idea was revived, this time by Mr. Trump’s interior secretaries, who bypassed Congress. Ryan Zinke made an agreement with the village corporation in 2018, and when it was rejected by courts in response to a lawsuit by conservation groups, Mr. Zinke’s successor, David Bernhardt, made a similar deal in 2019.” [New York Times, 5/25/22]

- **The Road Was Supposed To Help Connect A Remote Community To An Airport, But It Was Controversial Because It Would Have Run 11 Miles Through A Federal Wildlife Refuge That Contained One Of The World’s Largest Beds Of Eelgrass, Which Attracted Black Brants And Other Migratory Geese.** The New York Times reported, “The legal battle over the gravel route could gut an environmental law that the 39<sup>th</sup> president called one of his highest achievements. By Alaskan standards, the gravel road that an isolated community near the Aleutian Islands wants to build to connect to an airport is not a huge project. But because it would be cut through a federal wildlife refuge, the road has been a simmering source of contention since it was first proposed decades ago. [...] The full road remained the dream. But it would have to run for at least 11 miles through the refuge, an area with delicate wetlands containing some of the world’s largest beds of eelgrass, which attract black brants and other migratory geese. Until President Trump took office in 2017, the proposal that had made the most headway was one in which the state and the local Native village corporation would swap acreage elsewhere with the federal government for a corridor through the refuge. The exchange was authorized by Congress during the Obama administration, but was rejected by Sally Jewell, then the interior secretary, after a review found it would cause irreversible damage to the refuge and its wildlife. Once Mr. Trump entered the White House, however, the land swap idea was revived, this time by Mr. Trump’s interior secretaries, who bypassed Congress. Ryan Zinke made an agreement with the village corporation in 2018, and when it was rejected by courts in response to a lawsuit by conservation groups, Mr. Zinke’s successor, David Bernhardt, made a similar deal in 2019.” [New York Times, 5/25/22]

- **During The Obama Administration, Congress Approved A Proposal To Allow The State And Local Native Village Corporation To Swap Acreage In The Refuge For Federal Land Elsewhere, Clearing A Path Through The Refuge.** The New York Times reported, “The legal battle over the gravel route could gut an environmental law that the 39<sup>th</sup> president called one of his highest achievements. By Alaskan standards, the gravel road that an isolated community near the Aleutian Islands wants to build to connect to an airport is not a huge project. But because it would be cut through a federal wildlife refuge, the road has been a simmering source of contention since it was first proposed decades ago. [...] The full road remained the dream. But it would have to run for at least 11 miles through the refuge, an area with delicate wetlands containing some of the world’s largest beds of eelgrass, which attract black brants and other migratory geese. Until President Trump took office in 2017, the proposal that had made the most headway was one in which the state and the local Native village corporation would swap acreage elsewhere with the federal government for a corridor through the refuge. The exchange was authorized by Congress during the Obama administration, but was rejected by Sally Jewell, then the interior secretary, after a review found it would cause irreversible damage to the refuge and its wildlife. Once Mr. Trump entered the White House, however, the land swap idea was revived, this time by Mr. Trump’s interior secretaries, who bypassed Congress. Ryan Zinke made an agreement with the village corporation in 2018, and when it was rejected by courts in response to a lawsuit by conservation groups, Mr. Zinke’s successor, David Bernhardt, made a similar deal in 2019.” [New York Times, 5/25/22]
- **Sally Jewell, Obama’s Second Secretary Of The Interior, Rejected The Proposal After A Review Concluded That It Would Cause Irreversible Damage To The Refuge And Its Wildlife.** The New York Times reported, “The legal battle over the gravel route could gut an environmental law that the 39<sup>th</sup> president called one of his highest achievements. By Alaskan standards, the gravel road that an isolated community near the Aleutian Islands wants to build to connect to an airport is not a huge project. But because it would be cut through a federal wildlife refuge, the road has been a simmering source of contention since it was first proposed decades ago. [...] The full road remained the dream. But it would have to run for at least 11 miles through the refuge, an area with delicate wetlands containing some of the world’s largest beds of eelgrass, which attract black brants and other migratory geese. Until President Trump took office in 2017, the proposal that had made the most headway was one in which the state and the local Native village corporation would swap acreage elsewhere with the federal government for a corridor through the refuge. The exchange was authorized by Congress during the Obama administration, but was rejected by Sally Jewell, then the interior secretary, after a review found it would cause irreversible damage to the refuge and its wildlife. Once Mr. Trump entered the White House, however, the land swap idea was revived, this time by Mr. Trump’s interior secretaries, who bypassed Congress. Ryan Zinke made an agreement with the village corporation in 2018, and when it was rejected by courts in response to a lawsuit by conservation groups, Mr. Zinke’s successor, David Bernhardt, made a similar deal in 2019.” [New York Times, 5/25/22]
- **When Trump Was Elected, Zinke Bypassed Congress And Tried To Make An Agreement With The Native Village Corporation Directly.** The New York Times reported, “The legal battle over the gravel route could gut an environmental law that the 39<sup>th</sup> president called one of his highest achievements. By Alaskan standards, the gravel road that an isolated community near the Aleutian Islands wants to build to connect to an airport is not a huge project. But because it would be cut through a federal wildlife refuge, the road has been a simmering source of contention since it was first proposed decades ago. [...] The full road remained the dream. But it would have to run for at least 11 miles through the refuge, an area with delicate wetlands containing some of the world’s largest beds of eelgrass, which attract black brants and other migratory geese. Until President Trump took office in 2017, the proposal that had made the most headway was one in which the state and the local Native village corporation would swap acreage elsewhere with the federal government for a corridor through the refuge. The exchange was authorized by Congress during the Obama administration, but was rejected by Sally Jewell, then the interior secretary, after a review found it would cause irreversible damage to the refuge and its wildlife. Once Mr. Trump entered the White House, however, the land swap idea was revived, this time by Mr. Trump’s interior secretaries, who bypassed Congress. Ryan Zinke made an agreement with the village corporation in 2018, and when it was rejected by courts in response to a lawsuit by

conservation groups, Mr. Zinke's successor, David Bernhardt, made a similar deal in 2019." [New York Times, 5/25/22]

**March 2019: A Federal Judge Ruled That Zinke Had Acted Illegally By Reversing, Without A Reasoned Explanation, A 2013 Fish And Wildlife Service Decision Regarding The Land-Exchange.** The Seattle Times reported, "Nine conservation groups sued the U.S. Interior Department last week over its latest proposed land trade that could lead to a road through a national wildlife refuge in Alaska. The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge near the tip of the Alaska Peninsula contains internationally recognized habitat for migrating waterfowl. A federal judge in March rejected a previous land swap. Residents of King Cove, a village just outside the refuge boundaries, for decades have sought a land connection through the refuge to Cold Bay, which has an all-weather airport and better access to emergency flights. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2013 concluded a road would cause irrevocable damage to the Izembek watershed. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said last month the King Cove residents' needs were more important. President Donald Trump's first interior secretary, Ryan Zinke, signed the first proposed land-exchange deal and made plans for the road. But U.S. District Court Judge Gleason in March ruled Zinke had acted illegally, and could not discard without a reasoned explanation the previous factual findings that the refuge watershed would be harmed." [Seattle Times, 8/11/19]

## Climate Change

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### Causes

**2014: Zinke Was Asked About Human-Caused Climate Change And Answered That "It's Not A Hoax, But It's Not Proven Science Either."** The New York Times reported, "Last week, he named Scott Pruitt, the Oklahoma attorney general who has built a career out of suing the Environmental Protection Agency, to lead that office. On Tuesday, transition officials said he would name Rick Perry, the former Texas governor who vowed to eliminate the Energy Department, to run that agency. Mr. Trump has also chosen Rex W. Tillerson, the chief executive of Exxon Mobil, to head the State Department, which negotiates international climate change agreements. Mr. Zinke, 55, called Hillary Clinton 'the Antichrist' as he campaigned for the House in 2014. Asked that year about the established science of human-caused climate change, Mr. Zinke was quoted in the Billings Gazette, a Montana newspaper, as saying, 'It's not a hoax, but it's not proven science either.'" [New York Times, 12/14/16]

**December 2016 – Zinke: "The Climate Is Changing; I Don't Think You Can Deny That. But Climate Has Always Changed."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Zinke, who received an undergraduate degree in geology from the University of Oregon in 1984, has questioned the broad scientific consensus that climate change is real and humans are largely the cause of it. In the interview Wednesday, he said, 'The climate is changing; I don't think you can deny that. But climate has always changed.' Describing himself as 'a former geologist,' he first said, 'I don't think there's any question that man has had an influence' on climate change. Later, he said that influence was 'likely,' but that 'what that influence is, exactly, is still under scrutiny.'" [Los Angeles Times, 12/15/16]

- **December 2016 – Zinke: "I Don't Think There's Any Question That Man Has Had An Influence... What That Influence Is, Exactly, Is Still Under Scrutiny."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Zinke, who received an undergraduate degree in geology from the University of Oregon in 1984, has questioned the broad scientific consensus that climate change is real and humans are largely the cause of it. In the interview Wednesday, he said, 'The climate is changing; I don't think you can deny that. But climate has always changed.' Describing himself as 'a former geologist,' he first said, 'I don't think there's any question that man has had an influence' on climate change. Later, he said that influence was 'likely,' but that 'what that influence is, exactly, is still under scrutiny.'" [Los Angeles Times, 12/15/16]

### Fossil Fuels

**2022: Zinke Claimed That He Acknowledged Fossil Fuels Were Contributing To Climate Change, But Said Oil And Gas Would Continue To Be Part Of The U.S.'s Energy Mix For Another 50 Years.** The Sidney



Herald reported, “Both Zinke and Tranel acknowledge the role of fossil fuels in contributing to climate change, which has warmed Montana by 2 to 3 degrees Fahrenheit between 1950 and 2015, contributing to shrinking snowpacks, reduced late-summer and fall streamflows, and longer and more intense wildfire seasons. Zinke emphasized the importance of developing ‘affordable, reliable and abundant’ sources of energy and said he anticipates oil and gas will continue to be part of the country’s energy mix for another 50 years. He said natural gas can serve as a bridge fuel to replace higher-emission sources of energy and underscored his interest in finding ways to make oil and gas production cleaner and more efficient by examining practices like methane flaring.” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

**2022: Zinke Said He Preferred Greenhouse-Gas Emitting Projects To Be Developed In America Than In Poorer Countries With Worse Regulations And That He Cared More About The Environmental Impact Of Poverty And Plastic Pollution Than Carbon Dioxide Entering The Atmosphere.** The Sidney Herald reported, “Speaking to MTFP on Sept. 17 via phone en route to a car show in Ronan, Zinke also said he’d rather see greenhouse gas-emitting projects developed under America’s regulatory framework than in poorer countries with laxer standards, and said he’s more concerned about the environmental impacts associated with poverty and plastics pollution in oceans than carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere from American energy production.” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

## ***IRA***

**2022: Zinke Criticized The Inflation Reduction Act As A “Wish List For The Climate Change People.”** The Sidney Herald reported, “In a three-way debate last month between Tranel, Zinke and Bozeman-area farmer and Libertarian candidate John Lamb, Zinke told Missoula residents in attendance that he wants no part of the energy economy forwarded by President Joe Biden and the Democrat-controlled Congress. He described the Inflation Reduction Act as a ‘wish list for the climate change people’ and called for policymakers to rein in government spending to curb inflation.” [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

## ***Methane***

**December 2016: Zinke Opposed A New Rule To Reduce Emissions Of Methane During Energy Production On Public Lands.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “While Zinke has supported preserving the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is viewed as sacrosanct by many conservationists, he has also opposed a new rule to reduce the emission of the greenhouse gas methane during energy production on public land and a moratorium on new coal leasing. He praised a preliminary federal study that said hydraulic fracturing to produce oil and gas did not cause systemic damage to drinking water—but that finding was reversed this week. In his memoir, co-written with Scott McEwen, who also co-wrote the bestselling ‘American Sniper,’ Zinke, 55, praised Theodore Roosevelt for setting aside land under the Antiquities Act and ‘wrestling 230 million acres away from timber and railroad interests and placing the land under federal protection.’” [Los Angeles Times, 12/15/16]

## ***Removal Of References***

**2018: Democrats Called For An Investigation Into Zinke After A National Park Service Report Removed Any References To Human-Caused Climate Change, With Zinke Denying That He Had Any Role In Changing The Report.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In April of 2018, congressional Democrats called for an investigation after references to human-caused climate change were removed from a National Park Service report. Zinke repeatedly denied he had any role in changing a report on the risks of rising seas and flooding at 118 coastal parks. Interior policy sets out a process for handling scientific information to ensure that findings are credible and ‘free of political influence,’ ABC News reported. Democrats in their complaint questioned whether that policy was being followed, or if politics influenced the changes to the report. The report was later published in full.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## ***Staff Purges***

**A Former Climate Policy Expert At The Department Of The Interior Testified In Congress That Zinke Had Systemically Purged The Agency Of Scientists Who Were Working To Address Climate Change.** The New York Times reported, “They were like, ‘Who the hell is this guy?’” said Joel Clement, a former top climate-policy expert at the Interior Department who quit in 2017 and testified in Congress that former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was purging the agency of government scientists working to address climate change—allegations later backed by the agency’s inspector general.” [New York Times, 3/2/20]

- **The Agency’s Inspector General Backed Up The Expert’s Testimony.** The New York Times reported, “They were like, ‘Who the hell is this guy?’” said Joel Clement, a former top climate-policy expert at the Interior Department who quit in 2017 and testified in Congress that former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was purging the agency of government scientists working to address climate change—allegations later backed by the agency’s inspector general.” [New York Times, 3/2/20]

## ***Support For Action***

**October 2018: During A Trip To The Northern Mariana Islands, Zinke Said Of Climate Change, “If It Is A Priority In The Pacific, Then It Becomes Our Priority Too.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, whose department has responsibility for U.S. territories, recently visited the Marianas as part of a broader trip to the Pacific. During the trip, according to the Pacific Daily News, Zinke said of climate change: ‘If it is a priority in the Pacific, then it becomes our priority too.’” [Los Angeles Times, 10/26/18]

**While Serving In The Montana State Senate, Zinke Described Himself As An Environmentalist And Urged Obama To Take Action On Climate Change.** The New York Times reported, “In his early years in politics, Mr. Zinke courted environmentalists like Steve Thompson, an elk hunter and Whitefish resident who had been on the board of the Montana Conservation Voters. Mr. Thompson recalled receiving a call from Mr. Zinke in 2008. ‘He said he was an environmental-minded Teddy Roosevelt Republican and was looking for MCV’s endorsement, and could he meet with me, could I support him, any advice?’ Mr. Thompson said. Mr. Thompson’s group did support him, and Mr. Zinke went on to earn a relatively high 60 percent rating from its members, signing on to a letter that urged Mr. Obama to take action on climate change. ‘He was the greenest Republican in the State Senate,’ Mr. Thompson said.” [New York Times, 4/16/18]

- **Zinke Was Once Described As “The Greenest Republican In The State Senate” By A Colleague.** The New York Times reported, “In his early years in politics, Mr. Zinke courted environmentalists like Steve Thompson, an elk hunter and Whitefish resident who had been on the board of the Montana Conservation Voters. Mr. Thompson recalled receiving a call from Mr. Zinke in 2008. ‘He said he was an environmental-minded Teddy Roosevelt Republican and was looking for MCV’s endorsement, and could he meet with me, could I support him, any advice?’ Mr. Thompson said. Mr. Thompson’s group did support him, and Mr. Zinke went on to earn a relatively high 60 percent rating from its members, signing on to a letter that urged Mr. Obama to take action on climate change. ‘He was the greenest Republican in the State Senate,’ Mr. Thompson said.” [New York Times, 4/16/18]

## ***Wildfires***

**October 2017: Pomona College Environmental Analysis Professor Char Miller Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For His Continued Efforts “To Ignore Fire Science” Amidst Major Western Wildfires.** According to an op-ed by Pomona College environmental analysis professor Char Miller in the Los Angeles Times, “The major fires erupting across the West this summer—and now into fall—have burned through more than 8 million acres and \$2 billion, raining lung-clogging ash on residents of Seattle, Portland, Ore., Los Angeles, Anaheim and points east. It seems the right time to carefully assess wildland fire, its climate drivers and forest-health consequences. Alas, that’s the last thing the Trump administration is interested in doing. Its key wildfire officials—Interior Secretary Ryan



Zinke, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt—have refused to acknowledge the primary role that dangerous climatological factors, such as drought, heat and wind, play in energizing and propelling wildland fire. Instead, they’re fingering ‘radical environmentalists’ who allegedly have scuttled timber sales that would have removed trees and reduced ignition sources.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 10/1/17]

- **October 2017 – Pomona College Environmental Analysis Professor Char Miller: “It Seems The Right Time To Carefully Assess Wildland Fire, Its Climate Drivers, And Forest-Health Consequences. Alas, That’s The Last Thing The Trump Administration Is Interested In Doing.”** According to an op-ed by Pomona College environmental analysis professor Char Miller in the Los Angeles Times, “The major fires erupting across the West this summer—and now into fall—have burned through more than 8 million acres and \$2 billion, raining lung-clogging ash on residents of Seattle, Portland, Ore., Los Angeles, Anaheim and points east. It seems the right time to carefully assess wildland fire, its climate drivers and forest-health consequences. Alas, that’s the last thing the Trump administration is interested in doing. Its key wildfire officials—Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt—have refused to acknowledge the primary role that dangerous climatological factors, such as drought, heat and wind, play in energizing and propelling wildland fire. Instead, they’re fingering ‘radical environmentalists’ who allegedly have scuttled timber sales that would have removed trees and reduced ignition sources.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 10/1/17]
- **Miller: “Zinke... Refused To Acknowledge The Primary Role That Dangerous Climatological Factors, Such As Drought, Heat And Wind, Play In Energizing And Propelling Wildland Fire.”** According to an op-ed by Pomona College environmental analysis professor Char Miller in the Los Angeles Times, “The major fires erupting across the West this summer—and now into fall—have burned through more than 8 million acres and \$2 billion, raining lung-clogging ash on residents of Seattle, Portland, Ore., Los Angeles, Anaheim and points east. It seems the right time to carefully assess wildland fire, its climate drivers and forest-health consequences. Alas, that’s the last thing the Trump administration is interested in doing. Its key wildfire officials—Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt—have refused to acknowledge the primary role that dangerous climatological factors, such as drought, heat and wind, play in energizing and propelling wildland fire. Instead, they’re fingering ‘radical environmentalists’ who allegedly have scuttled timber sales that would have removed trees and reduced ignition sources.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 10/1/17]
- **Miller: “Instead, [The Trump Administration Is] Fingering ‘Radical Environmentalists’ Who Allegedly Have Scuttled Timber Sales That Would Have Removed Trees And Reduced Ignition Sources.”** According to an op-ed by Pomona College environmental analysis professor Char Miller in the Los Angeles Times, “The major fires erupting across the West this summer—and now into fall—have burned through more than 8 million acres and \$2 billion, raining lung-clogging ash on residents of Seattle, Portland, Ore., Los Angeles, Anaheim and points east. It seems the right time to carefully assess wildland fire, its climate drivers and forest-health consequences. Alas, that’s the last thing the Trump administration is interested in doing. Its key wildfire officials—Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt—have refused to acknowledge the primary role that dangerous climatological factors, such as drought, heat and wind, play in energizing and propelling wildland fire. Instead, they’re fingering ‘radical environmentalists’ who allegedly have scuttled timber sales that would have removed trees and reduced ignition sources.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 10/1/17]
- **Miller Claimed That Zinke Sent A Memo To The Interior Department That “Called For ‘New And Aggressive’ Thinking About Fire, Which Really Amounted To Just One Thing: Managing, Or Thinning ‘Fuel,’ Which Is To Say, More Logging Of More Trees.”** According to an op-ed by Pomona College environmental analysis professor Char Miller in the Los Angeles Times, “When Zinke returned to Washington, he continued to ignore fire science in a memo he sent to Interior land-management staff. Among wildland experts, the directive was read as a rebuke to anyone arguing that climate change is what’s creating a ‘new normal’ of larger, more dangerous and erratic fires. The memo called for ‘new and aggressive’ thinking about

fire, which really amounted to just one thing: managing, or thinning ‘fuel,’ which is to say, more logging of more trees. Back at Lolo Peak, Zinke had revealed his real intention: to gut the regulatory authority of the National Environmental Policy Act. Zinke and crew tipped their hand when they argued against the act’s requirement for rigorous environmental-impact reports and its principled insistence on public input and oversight. Their goal is to privilege resource extraction over recreation, wildlife protection and climate-change mitigation, which may well result in less resilient forests and, of all things, more fire. President Nixon, who in 1970 signed NEPA into law, would be stunned by this effort to strip his landmark legislation’s environmental and democratic protections.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 10/1/17]

- **Miller: “Zinke Had Revealed His Real Intention: To Gut The Regulatory Authority Of The National Environmental Policy Act.”** According to an op-ed by Pomona College environmental analysis professor Char Miller in the Los Angeles Times, “When Zinke returned to Washington, he continued to ignore fire science in a memo he sent to Interior land-management staff. Among wildland experts, the directive was read as a rebuke to anyone arguing that climate change is what’s creating a ‘new normal’ of larger, more dangerous and erratic fires. The memo called for ‘new and aggressive’ thinking about fire, which really amounted to just one thing: managing, or thinning ‘fuel,’ which is to say, more logging of more trees. Back at Lolo Peak, Zinke had revealed his real intention: to gut the regulatory authority of the National Environmental Policy Act. Zinke and crew tipped their hand when they argued against the act’s requirement for rigorous environmental-impact reports and its principled insistence on public input and oversight. Their goal is to privilege resource extraction over recreation, wildlife protection and climate-change mitigation, which may well result in less resilient forests and, of all things, more fire. President Nixon, who in 1970 signed NEPA into law, would be stunned by this effort to strip his landmark legislation’s environmental and democratic protections.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 10/1/17]
- **Miller: “Zinke And Crew Tipped Their Hand When They Argued Against The Act’s Requirement For Rigorous Environmental-Impact Reports And Its Principled Insistence On Public Input And Oversight. Their Goal Is To Privilege Resource Extraction Over Recreation, Wildlife Protection And Climate-Change Mitigation.”** According to an op-ed by Pomona College environmental analysis professor Char Miller in the Los Angeles Times, “When Zinke returned to Washington, he continued to ignore fire science in a memo he sent to Interior land-management staff. Among wildland experts, the directive was read as a rebuke to anyone arguing that climate change is what’s creating a ‘new normal’ of larger, more dangerous and erratic fires. The memo called for ‘new and aggressive’ thinking about fire, which really amounted to just one thing: managing, or thinning ‘fuel,’ which is to say, more logging of more trees. Back at Lolo Peak, Zinke had revealed his real intention: to gut the regulatory authority of the National Environmental Policy Act. Zinke and crew tipped their hand when they argued against the act’s requirement for rigorous environmental-impact reports and its principled insistence on public input and oversight. Their goal is to privilege resource extraction over recreation, wildlife protection and climate-change mitigation, which may well result in less resilient forests and, of all things, more fire. President Nixon, who in 1970 signed NEPA into law, would be stunned by this effort to strip his landmark legislation’s environmental and democratic protections.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 10/1/17]

**August 2018: Zinke Agreed With A Suggestion By Trump That California Wildfires Were Being “Magnified & Made So Much Worse By The Bad Environmental Laws Which Aren’t Allowing Massive Amounts Of Readily Available Water To Be Properly Utilized.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “On Sunday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke toured neighborhoods devastated by the flames. ‘The president’s right,’ Zinke said. ‘We have to actively manage our forests.’ President Trump has tweeted that California wildfires ‘are being magnified & made so much worse by the bad environmental laws which aren’t allowing massive amounts of readily available water to be properly utilized.’ ‘It is being diverted into the Pacific Ocean. Must also tree clear stop fire spreading!’ Trump tweeted. Trump’s tweet attempts to tie the fires ravaging Northern California to complaints by members of the state’s Republican congressional delegation concerning environmental protections that have reduced water deliveries to San Joaquin Valley agriculture. The president’s assertion has been declared incorrect by a number of experts.” [Los Angeles Times, 8/14/18]

- **Trump’s Statement Was Declared False By Multiple Experts, But Zinke Still Claimed “The President’s Right.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “On Sunday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke toured neighborhoods devastated by the flames. ‘The president’s right,’ Zinke said. ‘We have to actively manage our forests.’ President Trump has tweeted that California wildfires ‘are being magnified & made so much worse by the bad environmental laws which aren’t allowing massive amounts of readily available water to be properly utilized.’ ‘It is being diverted into the Pacific Ocean. Must also tree clear stop fire spreading!’ Trump tweeted. Trump’s tweet attempts to tie the fires ravaging Northern California to complaints by members of the state’s Republican congressional delegation concerning environmental protections that have reduced water deliveries to San Joaquin Valley agriculture. The president’s assertion has been declared incorrect by a number of experts.” [Los Angeles Times, 8/14/18]

**August 2018: Zinke Said That Climate Change Did Not Contribute To Wildfires In California, Instead Blaming Them On Canadian Lumber Imports.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Trump also offered his own, inaccurate explanation — one rejected by state officials and firefighting experts — for the scourge of wildfires ravaging California. [...] He called on Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, to repeat an argument he had made earlier in the day on television — that climate change was not to blame for the deadly blazes. ‘Ryan was saying it’s not a global warming thing, it’s a management situation,’ Mr. Trump said. Mr. Zinke obliged, blaming Canadian lumber imports — one of Mr. Trump’s favorite trade villains — for what he called displacing American-grown lumber on the market, leaving fallen trees to rot and become combustible. ‘So ridiculous,’ Mr. Trump said with a nod.” [New York Times, 8/16/18]

- **Zinke Later Backtracked, Saying “Of Course” When Asked If He Thought Climate Change Contributed To The Fires.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke and his boss, President Trump, also dismissed the impact of global warming on the fires. But the secretary later clarified his comments, responding ‘of course’ when asked if he accepted that climate change was part of the problem.” [New York Times, 8/17/18]
- **Zinke Also Blamed “Environmental Terror Groups” For The Fire, Arguing That Their Lawsuits Prevented The Harvesting Of Dead And Dying Trees.** The New York Times reported, “In radio and television interviews while in California visiting with firefighters, Mr. Zinke acknowledged that fires had been getting worse. But he said what was driving this summer’s severe blazes — including the Mendocino Complex fire north of San Francisco that is now the largest in the state’s history — was ‘fuel load,’ or the presence of dead and dying trees that have not been cleared from forests. In one interview, with Breitbart Radio, Mr. Zinke blamed ‘environmental terrorist groups’ for the situation, saying their legal efforts had prevented the widespread harvesting of dead timber.” [New York Times, 8/17/18]
- **Zinke Said In An Interview That The Fires Had “Nothing To Do With Climate Change.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke also dismissed the impact of climate change on the fires in an interview Monday with a Sacramento television station. ‘This has nothing to do with climate change,’ he said. ‘This has to do with active forest management.’” [New York Times, 8/17/18]
- **Zinke’s Comments On The Fire Were Condemned By Scientists And Environmental Groups, Who Argued That He Was “Clearly And Demonstrably Incorrect.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke later clarified that he accepted that climate change was a factor. But his earlier comments, and those of the president, drew condemnation from scientists and environmental groups. Philip B. Duffy, executive director of the Woods Hole Research Center, a climate change research group in Massachusetts, said the comments were ‘clearly and demonstrably incorrect.’ ‘Scientific research has shown that the enormous increases in fire activity experienced recently in the West are driven to a large extent by climate change,’ Dr. Duffy said in a statement. ‘Simply put, climate warming results in longer fire seasons and larger and more intense fires.’” [New York Times, 8/17/18]

**November 2018: Zinke Blamed Forest Fires On “Radical Environmentalists” And “Years Of Neglect.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke blamed the state’s fires on ‘radical environmentalists’ who he said have prevented forest management. His comments come days after he and President Trump toured the devastation from Paradise to Malibu, with both vowing to help California recover from the disaster. In an interview with Breitbart News, Zinke said he agrees with Trump’s comments about the fires being a result of poor forest management, and he repeatedly said radical environmentalists were responsible for the destruction caused by the fires. ‘It’s not time for finger-pointing,’ Zinke said. ‘We know the problem. It’s been years of neglect, and in many cases it’s been these radical environmentalists that want nature to take its course.... You know what? This is on them.’” [Los Angeles Times, 11/20/18]

**2021: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Arguing That Wildfires Were Burning More Land, Worsening Climate Change By Releasing CO2 Into The Atmosphere.** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Last year, fires across the west burned a record 10+ million acres and nearly 18,000 structures. The cost to taxpayers was in the billions and the loss of life and habitat tragic. Unfortunately, we are on track to surpass that grim marker in 2021. The Forest Service estimates a backlog of 80 million acres of unhealthy forest in need of restoration and 63 million acres have a dangerously high fire risk. When Department of Interior lands are added to the mix, the scale of forest mismanagement from years of neglect is staggering. There is little doubt that the fire season is longer and drought and elevated temperatures have created a perfect storm. Everyone should agree that the federal government can—and must—do more to restore the health of our forests to be more resilient against catastrophic wildfires, regardless of where they fall on the issue of climate change. For climate change advocates, the amount of CO2 released into the atmosphere by fires cannot be ignored. Drier and hotter conditions should encourage active management rather than offer an excuse for the destruction of habitat and waste of renewable resources. The good news is, there are common sense solutions that can be quickly enacted if Congress had the resolve and leadership to get it done.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/20/21]

- **Zinke Argued For Greater Federal Government Partnership With Forest Restoration Projects.** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Addressing the cost of fighting fires was helpful, but the real solution is using best science and better management to help prevent wildfires in the first place. Congress has the power to fix this problem and restore our federal forests to health and resiliency by taking immediate steps: • Be a good partner: Large-scale forest restoration projects are lengthy and expensive, but the Federal government is under strict rules about how long their contracts can be. Lengthening the time the feds can partner on forest projects provides more certainty and increases the likelihood of investment and improved forest health.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/20/21]
- **Zinke Argued, “Sustainable Timber Yields That Promote Healthy Forests Yet Lawsuit After Lawsuit By Radical Environmental Groups Have Prevented Or Delayed Harvest, Salvage Operations, And Restoration Projects. The Result Has Been Overgrown Forests, A Waste Of Renewable Resources, And Greater Risk To Property And Life.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Addressing the cost of fighting fires was helpful, but the real solution is using best science and better management to help prevent wildfires in the first place. Congress has the power to fix this problem and restore our federal forests to health and resiliency by taking immediate steps: [...] • Adhere to science-driven sustainable timber yields: Study after study has determined sustainable timber yields that promote healthy forests yet lawsuit after lawsuit by radical environmental groups have prevented or delayed harvest, salvage operations, and restoration projects. The result has been overgrown forests, a waste of renewable resources, and greater risk to property and life.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/20/21]
- **Zinke Argued For Prioritizing Prescribed Burns And Omitting Them From Clean Air Act Compliance Requirements, Arguing, “History Has Proven The Catastrophic Wildfires That Occur On Overgrown And Unhealthy Forests Release More Carbon, Destroy More Critical Habitat, And Do More Damage To Watersheds Than Tightly Controlled Burns.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Addressing the cost of fighting fires was helpful, but the real solution is using best science and better management to help prevent wildfires in the first place. Congress has the power to fix this problem and restore



our federal forests to health and resiliency by taking immediate steps: [...] • Prioritize prescribed burns: Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem and some of the earliest Native Americans used prescribed burns to manage the range and forests. Federal law should prioritize late season prescribed burns as a management tool to clear the dense underbrush and dead and dying timber on the forest floors by granting categorical exclusions and omitting prescribed burns from state Clean Air Act compliance. History has proven the catastrophic wildfires that occur on overgrown and unhealthy forests release more carbon, destroy more critical habitat, and do more damage to watersheds than tightly controlled burns.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/20/21]

- **Zinke Argued, “Lift The Export Ban: Outdated Policy From The 1970s Made It Illegal To Export Timber From Federal Lands... Timber Prices Are Through The Roof. Authorizing The Export From Federal Lands Would Create An Incentive For State, Tribal And Private Entities To Partner With Federal Forests.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Addressing the cost of fighting fires was helpful, but the real solution is using best science and better management to help prevent wildfires in the first place. Congress has the power to fix this problem and restore our federal forests to health and resiliency by taking immediate steps: [...] • Lift the export ban: Outdated policy from the 1970s made it illegal to export timber from federal lands. However the world is a different place now. Our forests are unhealthy, milling capacity plummeted, and timber prices are through the roof. Authorizing the export from federal lands would create an incentive for State, Tribal and private entities to partner with federal forests.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/20/21]
- **Zinke Argued, “Promote Biomass: Healthy Trees Are Resilient Trees, But Dead, Diseased And Defective Logs Create A Tinderbox. There Is Little Use For This Material However It Is Perfect For Biomass. Promoting Biomass As The Viable, Cost-Effective And Renewable Source Of Energy It Is Would Create A Market For What Is Currently A Dangerous Hazard.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Addressing the cost of fighting fires was helpful, but the real solution is using best science and better management to help prevent wildfires in the first place. Congress has the power to fix this problem and restore our federal forests to health and resiliency by taking immediate steps: [...] • Promote biomass: Healthy trees are resilient trees, but dead, diseased and defective logs create a tinderbox. There is little use for this material however it is perfect for biomass. Promoting biomass as the viable, cost-effective and renewable source of energy it is would create a market for what is currently a dangerous hazard.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/20/21]
- **Zinke: “Radical Environmentalists Would Have You Believe Forest Management Means Clear Cutting Forests And National Parks. But Their Rhetoric Could Not Be Further From The Truth. They Make Outdated And Unscientific Arguments, Void Of Facts, Because They Cannot Defend The Merits Of Their Policy Preferences Year After Year As Our Forests And Homes Burn To The Ground.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Radical environmentalists would have you believe forest management means clear cutting forests and national parks. But their rhetoric could not be further from the truth. They make outdated and unscientific arguments, void of facts, because they cannot defend the merits of their policy preferences year after year as our forests and homes burn to the ground. Anyone who says managing, saving and restoring forests is not conservation is either knowingly lying or doesn’t understand the issue. We’ve seen too much destruction and loss of life to keep doing nothing. The hotter and drier climate mixed with decades of neglect of federal forests has created a lethal situation in Montana and across the west. We need science-driven solutions that restore health to our dead and dying forests. We could use less politics and more leadership in Washington, DC.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/20/21]

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Dealing With Wildfires Quickly And That He Supported Prescribed Burns To Prevent Wildfires From Getting Out Of Control.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Zinke said that he has always been an advocate of getting out quickly to deal with wildfires. He said that prescribed burns should be done in shoulder seasons that could help to put ‘out of control fires’ to an end. Better technology, better decisions on the frontlines of wildfires and an empowered frontline are solutions Zinke offered for dealing with fires.” [Ravalli Republic, 5/24/22]



- **Zinke Also Said He Supported Using Technology And Empowering Frontline Workers To Address Wildfires.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Zinke said that he has always been an advocate of getting out quickly to deal with wildfires. He said that prescribed burns should be done in shoulder seasons that could help to put ‘out of control fires’ to an end. Better technology, better decisions on the frontlines of wildfires and an empowered frontline are solutions Zinke offered for dealing with fires.” [Ravalli Republic, 5/24/22]

**Zinke Blamed California Forest Fires On “Frivolous Litigation From Radical Environmentalists” Who Blocked Officials From Trying To “Sustainably Harvest Timber From Defense And Fire-Prone Areas.”** The New York Post reported, “When President Trump and then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pointed out the green culpability in California’s conflagrations last year they were roundly condemned. ‘There is no reason for these massive, deadly and costly forest fires in California except that forest management is so poor,’ Trump tweeted last year. Zinke went even further: When ‘we try to thin forests of dead and dying timber, or we try to sustainably harvest timber from dense and fire-prone areas, we are attacked with frivolous litigation from radical environmentalists who would rather see forests and communities burn than see a logger in the woods.’” [New York Post, 10/31/19]

## EPA

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**2022: Zinke Said He Would Support Eliminating The Environmental Justice Department Of The EPA.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “He said he would work to roll back the Biden administration’s plan to bring on more IRS workers, and that he’d push to eliminate the Environmental Justice department of the EPA. ‘You think they hated me before in Washington, stand by,’ he said. ‘Because I’m not pissed, I’m going back with vengeance and I’m going to get ‘em, every one of them.’ Zinke had two more rallies planned over the weekend in Missoula and Bozeman.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]

## Endangered Species

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### *Bald Eagles*

**February 2018: Zinke’s Interior Department Allowed Developers To Build Housing As Close As 660 Feet To Bald Eagle Nests.** The Denver Post reported, “The pressure that Colorado’s Front Range development boom is putting on bald eagles, golden eagles, owls and other raptors is intensifying, driving local wildlife lovers into a nest by nest fight to protect survivors. Federal authorities have been allowing developers to build housing as close as 660 feet from bald eagle nests, far closer than the half mile buffer that Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists recommend. On Wednesday, an eagle monitoring and research group filed a lawsuit against the feds challenging two ‘take’ permits that let developers escape penalties if they accidentally kill bald eagles, which, under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, must not be harmed. The lawsuit, in U.S. District Court, targets Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Greg Sheehan. The Front Range Nesting Bald Eagles Studies group seeks a federal court injunction and rejection of the permits, including one issued last week that would allow new housing west of Stearns Lake, prime raptor habitat in Boulder County, where a nesting pair of bald eagles has been struggling to hang on.” [Denver Post, 2/15/18]

- **February 2018: The Front Range Nesting Bald Eagles Studies Group Filed A Lawsuit Seeking An Injunction Against Zinke And The U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service.** The Denver Post reported, “The pressure that Colorado’s Front Range development boom is putting on bald eagles, golden eagles, owls and other raptors is intensifying, driving local wildlife lovers into a nest by nest fight to protect survivors. Federal authorities have been allowing developers to build housing as close as 660 feet from bald eagle nests, far closer than the half mile buffer that Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists recommend. On Wednesday, an eagle monitoring and research group filed a lawsuit against the feds challenging two ‘take’ permits that let developers escape penalties if they accidentally kill bald eagles, which, under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection

Act, must not be harmed. The lawsuit, in U.S. District Court, targets Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Greg Sheehan. The Front Range Nesting Bald Eagles Studies group seeks a federal court injunction and rejection of the permits, including one issued last week that would allow new housing west of Stearns Lake, prime raptor habitat in Boulder County, where a nesting pair of bald eagles has been struggling to hang on.” [Denver Post, 2/15/18]

## ***Bison***

**August 2018: Zinke Faced Allegations That He Forced The Superintendent Of Yellowstone National Park To Retire Early Over A Disagreement Regarding The Appropriate Bison Population In The Park.** The Denver Post reported, “National Park Service officials told Yellowstone’s departing superintendent that he wasn’t being forced out over a disagreement with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, but Dan Wenk said Thursday he still believes he is being punished by being forced to move up his retirement. Wenk, who will step down as Yellowstone’s top administrator on Sept. 29 after a 43 year park service career, spoke to reporters in a farewell telephone news conference that lasted nearly two hours as he fielded questions on controlling the park’s bison population, managing grizzly bears and the rise in park visitors. But the questions kept returning to Wenk’s relationship with Interior Department leaders and the circumstances surrounding his imminent departure. Wenk walked back his earlier comments that the Trump administration appeared to be forcing him out over a dispute with Zinke over how wild bison in the park should be managed. ‘I’ve been told by the Washington office that is not the reason for my removal,’ Wenk said. ‘I do believe that, while we did disagree on (bison) numbers and habitat, I do believe we were working through that issue.’ But Wenk also repeated that ‘it still feels a little punitive’ that he was ordered to transfer to the nation’s capital instead of being allowed to retire as Yellowstone’s superintendent next March, which he said he’d been planning since 2016. ‘Having it feel punitive and be punitive are two different things,’ he said. ‘It certainly felt punitive. I’m not saying it was.’ [...] Park officials have been trying to decrease the bison population since it peaked at about 5,500 animals at the end of 2016. The population is expected to be about 4,500 by the end of this year, which Wenk said is a sustainable population. Zinke favors a population target of 3,000 to 3,500 bison set previously by federal, state and tribal officials and contends that the higher numbers have led to overgrazing in the park.” [Denver Post, 8/12/18]

- **The Superintendent Originally Claimed That He Was Being Forced Out Of His Position After A 43-Year Career, But He Walked Back These Comments.** The Denver Post reported, “National Park Service officials told Yellowstone’s departing superintendent that he wasn’t being forced out over a disagreement with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, but Dan Wenk said Thursday he still believes he is being punished by being forced to move up his retirement. Wenk, who will step down as Yellowstone’s top administrator on Sept. 29 after a 43 year park service career, spoke to reporters in a farewell telephone news conference that lasted nearly two hours as he fielded questions on controlling the park’s bison population, managing grizzly bears and the rise in park visitors. But the questions kept returning to Wenk’s relationship with Interior Department leaders and the circumstances surrounding his imminent departure. Wenk walked back his earlier comments that the Trump administration appeared to be forcing him out over a dispute with Zinke over how wild bison in the park should be managed. ‘I’ve been told by the Washington office that is not the reason for my removal,’ Wenk said. ‘I do believe that, while we did disagree on (bison) numbers and habitat, I do believe we were working through that issue.’ But Wenk also repeated that ‘it still feels a little punitive’ that he was ordered to transfer to the nation’s capital instead of being allowed to retire as Yellowstone’s superintendent next March, which he said he’d been planning since 2016. ‘Having it feel punitive and be punitive are two different things,’ he said. ‘It certainly felt punitive. I’m not saying it was.’ [...] Park officials have been trying to decrease the bison population since it peaked at about 5,500 animals at the end of 2016. The population is expected to be about 4,500 by the end of this year, which Wenk said is a sustainable population. Zinke favors a population target of 3,000 to 3,500 bison set previously by federal, state and tribal officials and contends that the higher numbers have led to overgrazing in the park.” [Denver Post, 8/12/18]
- **The Superintendent Favored A Bison Population Of 4,500, While Zinke Favored A Population Of 3,000 To 3,500.** The Denver Post reported, “National Park Service officials told Yellowstone’s departing

superintendent that he wasn't being forced out over a disagreement with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, but Dan Wenk said Thursday he still believes he is being punished by being forced to move up his retirement. Wenk, who will step down as Yellowstone's top administrator on Sept. 29 after a 43 year park service career, spoke to reporters in a farewell telephone news conference that lasted nearly two hours as he fielded questions on controlling the park's bison population, managing grizzly bears and the rise in park visitors. But the questions kept returning to Wenk's relationship with Interior Department leaders and the circumstances surrounding his imminent departure. Wenk walked back his earlier comments that the Trump administration appeared to be forcing him out over a dispute with Zinke over how wild bison in the park should be managed. 'I've been told by the Washington office that is not the reason for my removal,' Wenk said. 'I do believe that, while we did disagree on (bison) numbers and habitat, I do believe we were working through that issue.' But Wenk also repeated that 'it still feels a little punitive' that he was ordered to transfer to the nation's capital instead of being allowed to retire as Yellowstone's superintendent next March, which he said he'd been planning since 2016. 'Having it feel punitive and be punitive are two different things,' he said. 'It certainly felt punitive. I'm not saying it was.' [...] Park officials have been trying to decrease the bison population since it peaked at about 5,500 animals at the end of 2016. The population is expected to be about 4,500 by the end of this year, which Wenk said is a sustainable population. Zinke favors a population target of 3,000 to 3,500 bison set previously by federal, state and tribal officials and contends that the higher numbers have led to overgrazing in the park." [Denver Post, 8/12/18]

**2018: Zinke Reportedly Ordered Yellowstone National Park's Superintended To Manage The Park's Bison "More Actively Like Cattle On A Ranch."** The Billings Gazette The Billings Gazette reported, "In May 2018, Yellowstone National Park's superintendent was ordered by then-Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to manage the park's bison 'more actively like cattle on a ranch,' according to a park briefing statement. About a month later, Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk was removed from his post. Wenk was replaced by current Superintendent Cam Sholly who took over in October 2018. Before being appointed to lead the Department of Interior, Zinke was Montana's lone representative in Congress. He left his Interior post at the beginning of 2019. The revelation of Zinke's order didn't surprise Darrell Geist, habitat coordinator for the Buffalo Field Campaign, a nonprofit bison advocacy group. 'These are things we've been saying for a long time ... that the herd is being managed for the good of the livestock industry and not the public trust,' Geist said." [Billings Gazette, 9/14/20]

- **One Month After Zinke's Order, The Superintended Of Yellowstone, Dan Wenk, Was Fired.** The Billings Gazette The Billings Gazette reported, "In May 2018, Yellowstone National Park's superintendent was ordered by then-Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to manage the park's bison 'more actively like cattle on a ranch,' according to a park briefing statement. About a month later, Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk was removed from his post. Wenk was replaced by current Superintendent Cam Sholly who took over in October 2018. Before being appointed to lead the Department of Interior, Zinke was Montana's lone representative in Congress. He left his Interior post at the beginning of 2019. The revelation of Zinke's order didn't surprise Darrell Geist, habitat coordinator for the Buffalo Field Campaign, a nonprofit bison advocacy group. 'These are things we've been saying for a long time ... that the herd is being managed for the good of the livestock industry and not the public trust,' Geist said." [Billings Gazette, 9/14/20]
- **Darrell Geist, Habitat Coordinator For The Buffalo Field Campaign: "These Are Things We've Been Saying For A Long Time ... That The Herd Is Being Managed For The Good Of The Livestock Industry And Not The Public Trust."** The Billings Gazette The Billings Gazette reported, "In May 2018, Yellowstone National Park's superintendent was ordered by then-Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to manage the park's bison 'more actively like cattle on a ranch,' according to a park briefing statement. About a month later, Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk was removed from his post. Wenk was replaced by current Superintendent Cam Sholly who took over in October 2018. Before being appointed to lead the Department of Interior, Zinke was Montana's lone representative in Congress. He left his Interior post at the beginning of 2019. The revelation of Zinke's order didn't surprise Darrell Geist, habitat coordinator for the Buffalo Field Campaign, a nonprofit bison advocacy group. 'These are things we've been saying for a long time ... that the

herd is being managed for the good of the livestock industry and not the public trust,' Geist said." [Billings Gazette, 9/14/20]

- **A Briefing By The Buffalo Field Campaign Argued, “Managing Yellowstone Bison More Intensively Like Livestock On A Ranch Would Be A Set-Back For Restoration And Would Likely Lead To Intense Negative Publicity, Civil Disobedience, Litigation, And Further Attempts To List Plains Bison As Threatened Pursuant To The Endangered Species Act Which Would Constrain Future Management Options.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Confirmation of the group’s theory came after a long court fight by BFC seeking the release of documents from the National Park Service through the Freedom of Information Act. In July, U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy ruled the NPS must release nine documents in their entirety. Buffalo Field Campaign recently made the documents available online, including the briefing statement. The group is also suing the Department of Interior for similar documents and hopes to receive the records by this fall. The Yellowstone briefing statement goes on to say, ‘Managing Yellowstone bison more intensively like livestock on a ranch would be a set-back for restoration and would likely lead to intense negative publicity, civil disobedience, litigation, and further attempts to list plains bison as threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act which would constrain future management options.’” [Billings Gazette, 9/14/20]

**A Scientific Paper By Three Yellowstone Wildlife Biologists Argued, “Declarations That Expanded Tolerance For Bison Managed... Would Threaten The... Livestock Industry Appear To Be Exaggerations Designed To Bolster Special Livestock Interests [...] The Current Management Approach For Yellowstone Bison Is... Serving... Specific Livestock Interests Based On Perpetuated Myths And Misperceptions.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “The documents released to Buffalo Field Campaign include a scientific paper co-authored by three Yellowstone wildlife biologists. The March 2018 paper, which was never published, is titled ‘Resolving intractable governance issues to recover wild bison while maintaining public and tribal trust.’ In the document, the biologists argued that ‘declarations that expanded tolerance for bison managed similarly to elk would threaten the economic interest and viability of the livestock industry appear to be exaggerations designed to bolster special livestock interests through fears of reprisal.’ [...] Together, the three biologists concluded, ‘The current management approach for Yellowstone bison is not serving the broader common good, but rather specific livestock interests based on perpetuated myths and misperceptions.’” [Billings Gazette, 9/14/20]

- **Records Of Zinke’s Comments Were Uncovered By A Freedom Of Information Act Request.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Confirmation of the group’s theory came after a long court fight by BFC seeking the release of documents from the National Park Service through the Freedom of Information Act. In July, U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy ruled the NPS must release nine documents in their entirety. Buffalo Field Campaign recently made the documents available online, including the briefing statement. The group is also suing the Department of Interior for similar documents and hopes to receive the records by this fall. The Yellowstone briefing statement goes on to say, ‘Managing Yellowstone bison more intensively like livestock on a ranch would be a set-back for restoration and would likely lead to intense negative publicity, civil disobedience, litigation, and further attempts to list plains bison as threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act which would constrain future management options.’” [Billings Gazette, 9/14/20]

## ***Elephants***

**March 2018: The Fish And Wildlife Service Issued A Memo Which Rolled Back An Obama-Era Ban On Americans Bringing Back Tusks And Elephant Parts As Trophies.** The Washington Post reported, “The Trump administration will allow Americans to bring tusks and other elephant body parts back to this country as trophies, in a pivot away from the support President Trump voiced last year for an Obama-era trophy ban. The decision, announced quietly in a March 1 memorandum from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, withdrew previous rulings on trophy hunting and said the agency would allow sport hunters to receive permits for the trophy items on a ‘case-by-case basis.’ The move contrasts sharply with the position taken by Trump in November.” [Washington Post, [3/6/18](#)]



- **March 2018: Zinke Put The Fish And Wildlife Service’s Elephant Trophy Ban Repeal On Hold For Further Review.** The Washington Post reported, “The move contrasts sharply with the position taken by Trump in November. After the Fish and Wildlife Service announced a repeal of the ban on the importation of elephant-hunt trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia, wide public outcry prompted Trump and Ryan Zinke, the secretary of the interior, which houses the wildlife agency, to put the repeal on hold until further review. Trump later called elephant hunting a ‘horror show’ and said that it would be very difficult for anyone to change his mind. African elephants have been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act since 1979.” [Washington Post, [3/6/18](#)]

**2022: A Letter To The Editor Accused Zinke Of Removing A Ban On Importing Ivory From Zimbabwe While He Was Interior Secretary In 2018.** According to a letter to the editor by Andy Roubik in the Ravalli Republic, “As Secretary of Interior, Ryan Zinke removed a ban on importing ivory from Zimbabwe in March of 2018 while Zimbabwe was in the middle of a military coup, complete with tanks in the streets! His claims that Zimbabwe was properly regulating trophy hunting during this time is laughable. Corruption is rampant in Zimbabwe’s government and elephant populations have plummeted rapidly in recent years. Why would Zinke do this? Perhaps he needs a new trophy for his California home!” [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 9/25/22]

- **Letter To The Editor: “Ryan Zinke Removed A Ban On Importing Ivory From Zimbabwe In March Of 2018 While Zimbabwe Was In The Middle Of A Military Coup, Complete With Tanks In The Streets! His Claims That Zimbabwe Was Properly Regulating Trophy Hunting During This Time Is Laughable.”** According to a letter to the editor by Andy Roubik in the Ravalli Republic, “As Secretary of Interior, Ryan Zinke removed a ban on importing ivory from Zimbabwe in March of 2018 while Zimbabwe was in the middle of a military coup, complete with tanks in the streets! His claims that Zimbabwe was properly regulating trophy hunting during this time is laughable. Corruption is rampant in Zimbabwe’s government and elephant populations have plummeted rapidly in recent years. Why would Zinke do this? Perhaps he needs a new trophy for his California home!” [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 9/25/22]
- **Letter To The Editor: “Corruption Is Rampant In Zimbabwe’s Government And Elephant Populations Have Plummeted Rapidly In Recent Years. Why Would Zinke Do This? Perhaps He Needs A New Trophy For His California Home!”** According to a letter to the editor by Andy Roubik in the Ravalli Republic, “As Secretary of Interior, Ryan Zinke removed a ban on importing ivory from Zimbabwe in March of 2018 while Zimbabwe was in the middle of a military coup, complete with tanks in the streets! His claims that Zimbabwe was properly regulating trophy hunting during this time is laughable. Corruption is rampant in Zimbabwe’s government and elephant populations have plummeted rapidly in recent years. Why would Zinke do this? Perhaps he needs a new trophy for his California home!” [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 9/25/22]

## ***Endangered Species Act***

**July 2018: Zinke’s Interior Department Announced A Rule That Would Strip Species Listed As Threatened Under The Endangered Species Act Of Similar Protections As Species Listed As Endangered Under The Act.** The Washington Post reported, “The Trump administration unveiled a proposal Thursday that would strip the Endangered Species Act of key provisions, a move that conservationists say would weaken a law enacted 45 years ago to keep plant and animal species in decline from going extinct. The proposal, announced jointly by the Interior and Commerce departments, which are charged with protecting endangered wildlife, would end the practice of extending similar protections to species regardless of whether they are listed as endangered or threatened. If the proposal is approved, likely by year’s end, protections for threatened plants and animals would be made on a case-by-case basis.” [Washington Post, [7/19/18](#)]

- **July 2018: Center For Biological Diversity Government Affairs Director Brett Hartl Criticized Zinke For The Proposed Endangered Species Rule Rollbacks, Which He Said Would “Slam A Wrecking Ball Into The Most Crucial Protections For Our Most Endangered Wildlife.”** The Washington Post reported,



“Advocacy groups see the pitch from the Trump administration, if enacted, as a boon to energy and agricultural firms that want to drill or farm in the habitat of endangered populations. When asked whether the proposal would save those businesses money, Bernhardt, a former lobbyist for those industries, said ‘it’s not as much a matter of cost savings by anyone’ as about ‘having a clear, timely process’ for listing decisions. But the administration’s opponents see the revisions differently. ‘These proposals would slam a wrecking ball into the most crucial protections for our most endangered wildlife,’ said Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity. ‘If these regulations had been in place in the 1970s, the bald eagle and the gray whale would be extinct today. If they’re finalized now, Zinke will go down in history as the extinction secretary.’” [Washington Post, [7/19/18](#)]

- **Hartl: “If These Regulations Had Been In Place In The 1970s, The Bald Eagle And The Gray Whale Would Be Extinct Today. If They’re Finalized Now, Zinke Will Go Down In History As The Extinction Secretary.”** The Washington Post reported, “Advocacy groups see the pitch from the Trump administration, if enacted, as a boon to energy and agricultural firms that want to drill or farm in the habitat of endangered populations. When asked whether the proposal would save those businesses money, Bernhardt, a former lobbyist for those industries, said ‘it’s not as much a matter of cost savings by anyone’ as about ‘having a clear, timely process’ for listing decisions. But the administration’s opponents see the revisions differently. ‘These proposals would slam a wrecking ball into the most crucial protections for our most endangered wildlife,’ said Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity. ‘If these regulations had been in place in the 1970s, the bald eagle and the gray whale would be extinct today. If they’re finalized now, Zinke will go down in history as the extinction secretary.’” [Washington Post, [7/19/18](#)]

**Zinke Oversaw The Promulgation Of New Rules That Weakened The Endangered Species Act, According To A Former Fish And Wildlife Service Official.** According to an op-ed by Gabriela Chavarria – who has a PhD in biology and was a Senior Science Advisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 2014 to 2017 – in the Denver Post, “The Endangered Species Act is the world’s preeminent conservation law and our nation’s most effective law for protecting wildlife in danger of extinction. [...] Yet, the Trump administration has finalized new rules that will severely weaken the act. The rules will: bias listing decisions with unreliable economic analyses; make it much more difficult to protect species impacted by climate change; make it more difficult to list a new species and easier to remove those now on the list; make it harder to designate critical habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife; reduce protections for threatened species; reduce voluntary conservation incentives; and weaken the consultation process. As plants and animals across our state are feeling the impacts of climate change and development, this is not the time to weaken protections. Former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke oversaw the writing of these rules.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/20/19]

- **The New Rules Made It Harder To List New Species As Endangered Or Threatened, Made It Easier To Remove Listed Species, Made It Harder To Designate Critical Habitat For Listed Species, Reduced Protection For Threatened Species, Reduced Voluntary Conservation Incentives, And More.** According to an op-ed by Gabriela Chavarria – who has a PhD in biology and was a Senior Science Advisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 2014 to 2017 – in the Denver Post, “The Endangered Species Act is the world’s preeminent conservation law and our nation’s most effective law for protecting wildlife in danger of extinction. [...] Yet, the Trump administration has finalized new rules that will severely weaken the act. The rules will: bias listing decisions with unreliable economic analyses; make it much more difficult to protect species impacted by climate change; make it more difficult to list a new species and easier to remove those now on the list; make it harder to designate critical habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife; reduce protections for threatened species; reduce voluntary conservation incentives; and weaken the consultation process. As plants and animals across our state are feeling the impacts of climate change and development, this is not the time to weaken protections. Former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke oversaw the writing of these rules.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 8/20/19]

## ***Grizzly Bears***

**June 2017: Zinke Removed The Yellowstone Grizzly Bear From The Endangered Species List After 42 Years.** The New York Times reported, “After 42 years on the endangered species list, the Yellowstone grizzly bear — whose numbers have grown to more than 700 from fewer than 150 — will lose its protected status, the Interior Department announced on Thursday. The move has long been debated, despite the bear’s increasing population in areas where it had not been seen in decades. The Fish and Wildlife Service tried to delist the bear in 2007 but was ordered by federal court decisions to reconsider because of a decline in white bark pine, an important bear food source decimated by insects as the region’s temperatures have risen. In deciding to lift the protection, Ryan Zinke, the secretary of the interior, remarked on the long-term efforts that have allowed the bear to thrive: ‘This achievement stands as one of America’s great conservation successes; the culmination of decades of hard work and dedication on the part of state, tribal, federal and private partners,’ Mr. Zinke said in a statement. ‘As a Montanan, I’m proud of what we’ve achieved together.’” [New York Times, 6/22/17]

- **June 2017: The Western Environmental Law Center’s Matt Bishop Said The Group Would Sue To Stop The Delisting Of The Yellowstone Grizzly Bear From The Endangered Species List.** The New York Times reported, “Delisting the bear, or *Ursus arctos horribilis*, is opposed by a number of conservation groups and Native American tribes that say climate change has cast the Yellowstone region into ecological uncertainty and could imperil the bear in the future. ‘We have to wait 60 days, but on the 61<sup>st</sup> day we will sue to stop the delisting,’ said Matt Bishop, of the Western Environmental Law Center, a Montana-based nonprofit that intervenes on behalf of conservation groups, referring to the waiting period for filing a lawsuit. Native Americans also consider the bear sacred. Dozens of Native American tribes, tribal associations and others from the United States and Canada have signed the Grizzly Treaty to oppose the delisting, saying the government failed to consult them. The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe is ‘one of the Associated Tribes of Yellowstone, and yet we were completely ignored in this delisting process, despite our declaration, our resolution and petition for inclusion,’ said Brandon Sazue, the tribe’s chairman.” [New York Times, 6/22/17]

**2017: Zinke Announced The Suspension Of Endangered Species Act Protections For 700 Grizzly Bears Around Yellowstone National Park.** The Denver Post reported, “Last year, Zinke announced that officials were lifting Endangered Species Act protections for about 700 grizzlies around Yellowstone National Park, opening the door to potential hunting in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. That decision is being challenged in court by conservation groups and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.” [Denver Post, 3/24/18]

**March 2018: Zinke Announced That The Interior Department Would Continue An Environmental Review Of A Decision To Restore Grizzly Bears To The North Cascade Mountains.** The Denver Post reported, “The federal government intends to restore grizzly bears in the remote North Cascade Mountains of Washington state, a goal that represents ‘the American conservation ethic come to life,’ Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Friday. Zinke made the announcement during a visit to North Cascades National Park’s headquarters in Sedro Woolley, about 75 miles north of Seattle. The Department of the Interior announced in 2014 that it would consider relocating grizzlies to aid their recovery in the Cascades. An environmental review has been underway, but in recent months there have been questions about whether it would continue. Zinke made clear it would, with a formal decision expected by the end of the year. ‘Restoring the grizzly bear to the North Cascades Ecosystem is the American conservation ethic come to life,’ Zinke said in a news release. ‘The loss of the grizzly bear in the North Cascades would disturb the ecosystem and rob the region of an icon.’” [Denver Post, 3/24/18]

**2023: Zinke Announced A Law To Remove Yellowstone Grizzly Bears From The Endangered Species List And Return Control Of The Population To The States.** The Independent Record reported, “A new attempt to remove Yellowstone-area grizzly bears from the endangered species list was rolled out Tuesday by Wyoming and Montana representatives in the U.S. House. Reps. Harriet Hageman and Ryan Zinke say the grizzlies are no longer at risk of extinction. Human and livestock encounters with the apex predators in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are increasing and dangerous, the Republicans say. A law proposed by the two would return population control of the grizzlies to the states. The legislation comes a few weeks after U.S. Fish and Wildlife announced it would again, under state pressure, launch a year-long study about delisting grizzlies in areas surrounding Yellowstone and Glacier national parks. A 2017 attempt by U.S. Fish and Wildlife to delist the bears failed a court

challenge brought by wildlife groups. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the delisting responded to political pressure, not scientific and commercial data.” [Independent Record, 2/28/23]

- **Zinke Issued A Rule Delisting The Yellowstone Grizzly Bear As Endangered In 2017 When He Was Interior Secretary, But The Rule Was Not Enacted; The Bill Was Meant To Reinstate The Rule.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke introduced a bill in February, alongside U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman, R-Wyoming, that looks to delist the greater Yellowstone grizzly as an endangered species. The bill would require the Department of the Interior to reinstate the 2017 rule removing Yellowstone grizzlies from the federal endangered species list within 180 days of enactment. Zinke issued the original rule in 2017 when he was Interior secretary. The line of questioning during the hearing ended with Zinke probing Tracy Stone-Manning, the director of the Bureau of Land Management, about the agency’s plans to mine critical minerals in the U.S. Zinke worries China is securing a stranglehold on minerals worldwide.” [Daily Inter Lake, 3/31/23]
- **Daily Inter Lake: “As Secretary Of The Interior... Zinke Effectively Removed The Yellowstone Grizzly From The Endangered Species List. By August 2018, However, A Federal Judge Had Restored The Protections.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke has long pushed to see grizzlies in Montana dropped from the Endangered Species Act. As secretary of the Interior under former President Donald Trump, Zinke effectively removed the Yellowstone grizzly from the endangered species list. By August 2018, however, a federal judge had restored the protections.” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/25/23]
- **2023: The U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Announced It Would Launch A Year-Long Study About Delisting Grizzly Bears In Yellowstone And Glacier National Parks Following A Previous Attempt From 2017 Which Failed After A Court Challenge From Wildlife Groups.** The Independent Record reported, “A new attempt to remove Yellowstone-area grizzly bears from the endangered species list was rolled out Tuesday by Wyoming and Montana representatives in the U.S. House. Reps. Harriet Hageman and Ryan Zinke say the grizzlies are no longer at risk of extinction. Human and livestock encounters with the apex predators in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are increasing and dangerous, the Republicans say. A law proposed by the two would return population control of the grizzlies to the states. The legislation comes a few weeks after U.S. Fish and Wildlife announced it would again, under state pressure, launch a year-long study about delisting grizzlies in areas surrounding Yellowstone and Glacier national parks. A 2017 attempt by U.S. Fish and Wildlife to delist the bears failed a court challenge brought by wildlife groups. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the delisting responded to political pressure, not scientific and commercial data.” [Independent Record, 2/28/23]
- **Zinke: “There Are Reams Of Data That Support The Population, Particularly The Yellowstone, As Recovered. It’s Not In Dispute... So Rather Than Everyone Saying ‘...the Endangered Species Act Worked...The Species Has Recovered. Let’s Celebrate A Win...’ Once You Get On The Highway, It Seems On Endangered Species There’s No Off Ramp.”** The Independent Record reported, “Hageman, the bill’s primary sponsor, said the expectation is that congressional action would avoid another court challenge. Zinke, who was secretary of the Department of The Interior during the last attempt to delist the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzlies, said the legislation relies on agency work already done. ‘There are reams of data that support the population, particularly the Yellowstone, as recovered. It’s not in dispute,’ Zinke said. ‘So rather than everyone saying “you know what, the Endangered Species Act worked, it shows by science the species has recovered. Let’s celebrate a win and look at species that are challenged and under duress.” Once you get on the highway, it seems on endangered species there’s no off ramp.’” [Independent Record, 2/28/23]
- **Kristin Combs, Director Of Wyoming Wildlife Advocates: “This (Delisting) Is Pretty Much Just About Hunting Bears, Which All States Have Made Known That’s The First Thing They’re Going To Do.”** The Independent Record reported, “‘There’s several things wrong with legislatively delisting a species. It’s simply not driven by science. It isn’t the experts making the decision, it’s politicians who don’t have a good grasp on the science,’ said Kristin Combs, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates director. [...] ‘This (delisting) is pretty much

just about hunting bears, which all states have made known that's the first thing they're going to do.'" [Independent Record, 2/28/23]

**2023: Zinke Introduced An Amendment To The Department Of Interior Appropriations Bill To Delist Grizzly Bears In Yellowstone As Endangered.** The Billings Gazette reported, "U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke of Western Montana advances and amendment and to delist grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Area.( Tom Lutey ) The Western District Republican had secured so many amendments to EPA and Department of Interior Appropriations that Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson, joked that the bill should be named after Zinke. Appropriations amendments are how lawmakers use the power of the purse by blocking spending on issues which they oppose. 'This is a measured response based on the science what we have and the studies are clear on the Greater Yellowstone grizzly population, that population has recovered we should celebrate the grizzlies,' Zinke said in streamed proceedings. 'The grizzlies are great, great grizzlies out there, but the ask we request, that the government to do the right thing on the grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone population.'" [Billings Gazette, 7/20/23]

- **Daily Inter Lake: "A Plethora Of Environmental And Conservation Groups Disagree With Zinke's Outlook."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "A plethora of environmental and conservation groups disagree with Zinke's outlook. While Montana is headed toward a recovered grizzly bear population, it's not there yet, said Lizzy Pennock, a carnivore coexistence attorney with conservation group WildEarth Guardians. 'What we want to see, and what recovery would really mean, is a connected population of grizzlies across the West,' Pennock said. While individual populations may seem recovered, the population as a whole is not at that point, according to Pennock. Delisting the Yellowstone bears would be detrimental to the species' survival and success. 'This is one more, in a series of efforts that we're seeing from Congress recently, to take what should be the Fish and Wildlife Services decisions into their own hands... But these people in Congress are not scientists, they are not experts,' she said." [Daily Inter Lake, 7/25/23]
- **2023: Lizzy Pennock, A Lawyer With WildEarth Guardians, Said The Yellowstone Grizzly Population Was Not Fully Recovered, And "What We Want To See, And What Recovery Would Really Mean, Is A Connected Population Of Grizzlies Across The West."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "A plethora of environmental and conservation groups disagree with Zinke's outlook. While Montana is headed toward a recovered grizzly bear population, it's not there yet, said Lizzy Pennock, a carnivore coexistence attorney with conservation group WildEarth Guardians. 'What we want to see, and what recovery would really mean, is a connected population of grizzlies across the West,' Pennock said. While individual populations may seem recovered, the population as a whole is not at that point, according to Pennock. Delisting the Yellowstone bears would be detrimental to the species' survival and success. 'This is one more, in a series of efforts that we're seeing from Congress recently, to take what should be the Fish and Wildlife Services decisions into their own hands... But these people in Congress are not scientists, they are not experts,' she said." [Daily Inter Lake, 7/25/23]
- **Pennock: "This Is One More, In A Series Of Efforts That We're Seeing From Congress Recently, To Take What Should Be The Fish And Wildlife Services Decisions Into Their Own Hands... But These People In Congress Are Not Scientists, They Are Not Experts."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "A plethora of environmental and conservation groups disagree with Zinke's outlook. While Montana is headed toward a recovered grizzly bear population, it's not there yet, said Lizzy Pennock, a carnivore coexistence attorney with conservation group WildEarth Guardians. 'What we want to see, and what recovery would really mean, is a connected population of grizzlies across the West,' Pennock said. While individual populations may seem recovered, the population as a whole is not at that point, according to Pennock. Delisting the Yellowstone bears would be detrimental to the species' survival and success. 'This is one more, in a series of efforts that we're seeing from Congress recently, to take what should be the Fish and Wildlife Services decisions into their own hands... But these people in Congress are not scientists, they are not experts,' she said." [Daily Inter Lake, 7/25/23]



- **Pennock Argued That Delisting Grizzly Bears Would Allow Them To Be Hunted, Preventing The Population From Actually Recovering.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “If grizzlies are delisted, they are going to be hunted, Pennock said. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the state management plan talk about all the different kinds of hunting that can happen under a mortality threshold, she said. If Montana allows for grizzly bear hunting, bears who are moving between populations, increasing connectivity, could be killed, preventing the population from actually recovering, Pennock said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/25/23]

**2018: Zinke Supported Reintroduction Of Grizzly Bears To North Cascades National Park, But Stopped Work On The Project In August.** The Seattle Times reported, “The on-again, off-again effort to return grizzly bears to North Cascades National Park is back on. Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke surprised wildlife advocates last year when he announced he was a fan of the bear and supported reintroduction to the North Cascades. However, he stopped work on the plan last August, with no plan for how it would be resumed.” [Seattle Times, 7/26/19]

- **Before Resigning, Zinke Had Committed To Finalizing A Plan To Return Grizzly Bears To The Park Before The End Of Summer 2018 And Began An Environmental Impact Statement Process To Do So.** The Seattle Times reported, “Zinke, who resigned in December, had committed to finalizing a plan to return grizzlies to the North Cascades Ecosystem before the end of last summer. He had restarted the North Cascade Grizzly Bear Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to analyze options to recover this state’s population of bears, allowing agencies to review the more than 126,000 public comments received in 2017.” [Seattle Times, 7/26/19]

## ***Migratory Birds***

**Daily Inter Lake: “As Interior Secretary, Zinke Helped Spearhead The Trump Administration’s Deregulation Effort, Weakening Protections On Migratory Birds.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “As Interior secretary, Zinke helped spearhead the Trump administration’s deregulation effort, weakening protections on migratory birds, opening up vast swaths of public land for oil and gas leases, and drastically shrinking the footprint of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

## ***Sage Grouse***

**November 2017: Interior Department Officials Were Finishing A Series Of Public Meetings For Comment On Zinke’s Order To Revise Land Management Amendments For The Greater Sage Grouse.** The Denver Post reported, “Federal scientists and land managers who’ve been crafting strategies to protect a ground dwelling bird’s habitat across the American West for nearly two decades are going back to the drawing board under a new Trump administration edict to reassess existing plans condemned by ranchers, miners and energy developers. Federal officials are wrapping up a series of public meetings with three sessions starting Tuesday in Utah ahead of a Nov. 27 cutoff for comment on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s order last month to consider revisions to land management amendments for the greater sage grouse that were adopted under the Obama administration. Zinke says he wants to make sure the amendments don’t harm local economies in 11 western states and allow the states to have maximum control over the efforts within their borders. Conservationists say it’s a thinly veiled attempt to allow more livestock grazing and drilling, similar to Trump’s efforts to roll back national monument designations, but on a much larger scale. They warn it could land the hen sized bird on the endangered species list in 2020 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is scheduled to review its 2015 decision not to list it.” [Denver Post, 11/12/17]

**2017: After Multiple Industry Lobbyists Wrote To The Interior Department Requesting A Rollback Of Federal Regulations Protecting Sage Grouse From The Impacts Of Fracking, Zinke Proposed A Policy Change That Reflected The Industry’s Demands.** The New York Times reported, “Trump-era rollbacks of Interior Department rules that govern methane releases, and a requirement that oil and gas companies disclose fracking chemicals they use on federal land, also followed intervention by industry. In July 2017, Kathleen M. Sgamma, the president of the Western Energy Alliance, wrote to the Interior Department, arguing that the Obama-



era sage grouse rules were far too protective. The measures included ‘overly expansive and burdensome’ buffers, such as a requirement that drilling not take place within 3.1 miles of areas where the male birds gather for their annual courtship displays. ‘These provisions are contrary to the president’s executive order’ to promote energy independence, Ms. Sgamma wrote. Ms. McDonald, then a top lobbyist at the Independent Petroleum Association of America, also intervened on behalf of oil companies like Chesapeake, ConocoPhillips and EOG Resources, pushing for specific changes in zones set up in Wyoming to protect sage grouse. ‘To ignore the problem,&#34; Ms. McDonald wrote in a July 2017 email, could ‘jeopardize several dozen projects in Wyoming.’ A top ConocoPhillips executive had reached out the previous day with a similar plea, reinforcing the industry’s demand. Ms. McDonald followed up the next month, asking Timothy Williams, a senior official at the Interior Department, if the bureau had ‘been able to resolve this map discrepancy in Wyoming yet?’ Two minutes later, he responded, ‘We are working on it. I have let the secretary know as well.’ The emails were obtained by the Western Values Project, a nonprofit public lands advocacy group that sued the agency to gain access to its correspondence. Last summer, Mr. Zinke proposed a new policy that reflected the change the oil companies had requested. A final action is expected soon.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

- **The Bureau Of Land Management Gave Final Approval To A 3,500-Well Drilling Project In Sage Grouse Territory, Even As The Species’ Population Was Declining.** The New York Times reported, “More recently, the Bureau of Land Management gave final approval to a 140,859-acre project in western Wyoming — one that will feature as many as 3,500 new wells — in an area that also includes one of the world’s most important winter habitats for sage grouse, said Tom Christiansen, who served as Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s sage grouse coordinator until last month. Drilling there will mean as much as \$2.2 billion in new federal revenue over the life of the project, the Bureau of Land Management said in its approval document signed at the end of August. But counts of sage grouse populations in Wyoming over the last two years have already declined about 30 percent, he said.” [New York Times, 10/27/18]

**December 2018: The Trump Administration Released A Plan That Would Reduce The Size Of A Protected Area For The Sage Grouse From 10.7 Million Acres To 1.8 Million Acres And Remove The Requirement That Companies Pay Into A Habitat Preservation Fund For The Bird.** The New York Times reported, “In reducing protections for the sage grouse, which has been a candidate for endangered-species protection in the past and has habitat in 10 oil-rich Western states, the government would be freeing up land that oil and gas companies have long thirsted after. Under a plan put forth in 2015, during the Obama administration, oil and gas drilling was banned or limited in 10.7 million acres where the bird lives, under a stringent designation known as ‘sagebrush focal areas.’ Known for its distinctive mating dance, the land-dwelling grouse has seen its numbers sharply decline in recent decades. In cases where drilling was permitted in the habitat, it came with restrictions such as bans on drilling during mating season. The Obama plan also limited construction of drilling infrastructure, such as pipelines and roads, in sage grouse habitat and required companies that drill in restricted areas to pay into a fund to preserve and protect other habitat areas. The new Trump proposal, which is expected to be finalized next year, would limit that highly protected area to 1.8 million acres and eliminate the requirement that companies pay into the habitat preservation fund, although companies could pay into it voluntarily.” [New York Times, 12/6/18]

- **Zinke Was Directly Responsible For Implementing The Plan.** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who would implement the revised sage grouse plan, has repeatedly said that the new plans would not harm the bird. ‘No one loves the sage grouse more than I do,’ Mr. Zinke said in response to a question in 2017.” [New York Times, 12/6/18]

## ***Wolverines***

**November 2023: Zinke Opposed The U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service’s Rule To Add The Wolverine To The Endangered Species List.** The Washington Post reported, “But now in much of the United States, the wolverine is at risk of disappearing as the climate warms, prompting federal wildlife officials to protect the animal under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday it is adding wolverines in the Lower 48 to the list of species threatened with extinction. As temperatures rise, the voracious carnivore will lose

much of the deep mountain snow it needs to dig its dens and protect its young during colder months, officials say. [...] ‘Once again, the Biden administration is trying to control Montana and I won’t stand for it,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), who led the Interior Department under President Donald Trump, said earlier this month as the agency prepared to announce its decision.” [Washington Post, [11/29/23](#)]

- **November 2023 – Zinke: “Once Again, The Biden Administration Is Trying To Control Montana And I Won’t Stand For It.”** The Washington Post reported, “ But now in much of the United States, the wolverine is at risk of disappearing as the climate warms, prompting federal wildlife officials to protect the animal under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday it is adding wolverines in the Lower 48 to the list of species threatened with extinction. As temperatures rise, the voracious carnivore will lose much of the deep mountain snow it needs to dig its dens and protect its young during colder months, officials say. [...] ‘Once again, the Biden administration is trying to control Montana and I won’t stand for it,’ Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), who led the Interior Department under President Donald Trump, said earlier this month as the agency prepared to announce its decision.” [Washington Post, [11/29/23](#)]

**2023: Zinke Wrote A Letter With Representative Matt Rosendale And Senator Steve Daines Asking The Biden Administration To Delay By 120 Days A Decision To List North American Wolverines Under The Endangered Species Act.** The Belgrade News reported, “Montana Republican U.S. Reps. Matt Rosendale and Ryan Zinke and U.S. Sen. Steve Daines want the Biden administration to delay a federal decision to potentially list North American wolverines under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). They are objecting to the Biden administration potentially using climate change concerns to list wolverines as a threatened species. Reduced snowfall and snowpacks adversely impact wolverine population, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and conservation groups. The GOP trio wrote U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Martha Williams Nov. 17 asking that a decision on whether to list wolverines as threatened under the ESA be delayed 120 days.” [Belgrade News, 11/20/23]

- **The Letter: “A Postponement Is Necessary Because The Proposal Is Based Largely On Faulty Conclusions Drawn From Climate Predictions Instead Of A Thorough Assessment Of Population Data. Any Decision About Placing Or Removing A Species On The ESA Must Be Based On Updated Population Data, Not Potential Climate Effects On A Portion Of The Habitat.”** The Belgrade News reported, “A postponement is necessary because the proposal is based largely on faulty conclusions drawn from climate predictions instead of a thorough assessment of population data. Any decision about placing or removing a species on the ESA must be based on updated population data, not potential climate effects on a portion of the habitat. Under federal statute, ESA determinations must (be) made ‘solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available...after conducting a review of the status of the species,’ Daines, Zinke and Rosendale said in their correspondence. There are an estimated 318 wolverines left in the continental U.S., according to a report from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in September.” [Belgrade News, 11/20/23]
- **Conservation And Environmental Groups Had Pushed For Listing Wolverines As Endangered Due To Climate Change Reducing Snowpacks, Which Wolverines Required To Raise Their Offspring.** The Belgrade News reported, “Conservation and environmental groups including Defenders of Wildlife, EarthJustice, Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Endangered Species Coalition have long pressed for federal protections for wolverines. They point to climate change and reduced snowpacks in the U.S. as part of the reason to give protections to wolverines, who require snowpacks to raise their offspring. The decision could foretell more federal ESA protections based on climate changes and extreme weather and more fights with Republicans and industries impacted by those moves.” [Belgrade News, 11/20/23]
- **Zinke: “Once Again, The Biden Administration Is Trying To Control Montana And I Won’t Stand For It... Montana Knows Better Than D.C. Bureaucrats How To Manage Our Wildlife And Habitat. This Overreach... Is Not Based On Science, It’s Based On Their Agenda To Control Our Land, Water, Wildlife, And Way Of Life.”** The Belgrade News reported, “Zinke, who served as U.S. Interior Secretary in the Trump administration from 2017 to 2019, said the wolverine push is a federal overstep. ‘Once again, the

Biden administration is trying to control Montana and I won't stand for it. Just like with the grizzly I believe Montana knows better than D.C. bureaucrats how to manage our wildlife and habitat. This overreach by the Biden admin is not based on science, it's based on their agenda to control our land, water, wildlife, and way of life,' Zinke said." [Belgrade News, 11/20/23]

## Flathead Lake

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**2023: Zinke Called For The Bureau Of Reclamation To Release Water From Hungry Horse Reservoir To Bring Flathead Lake Back To Its Typical Summer Water Elevation, Calling The Dry Lake An “Oncoming Crisis.”** The Hungry Horse News reported, “Flathead Lake’s low water level this summer has drawn the attention of Western Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, who called the situation an ‘oncoming crisis.’ Zinke and fellow Montana Republican Sen. Steve Daines are lobbying the Bureau of Reclamation to release water from Hungry Horse Reservoir to bring Flathead Lake to its typical summer water elevation. A water expert advising Zinke told the Hungry Horse News that the reservoir would have to be lowered about 3 to 4 feet to make up for the low water levels in Flathead Lake.” [Hungry Horse News, 7/5/23]

- **Zinke: “I’m Urging The Commissioner To Use That Authority And Take Action Now To Prevent Irreversible Damage To The Greater Flathead Lake Community.”** The Hungry Horse News reported, “In asking for increased flows from Hungry Horse Reservoir, the letter notes that a similar action was taken in 2001 when the bureau released water from the reservoir to aid salmon flows on the Columbia River system, ‘thus partially mitigating the drop in Flathead lake water levels.’ Zinke said that decision set a precedent. ‘I’m urging the commissioner to use that authority and take action now to prevent irreversible damage to the greater Flathead Lake community,’ the congressman from Whitefish said in a press statement.” [Hungry Horse News, 7/5/23]
- **Zinke: “There’s Too Much At Stake Economically, Environmentally, And For Public Safety For The Federal Government To Ignore This Oncoming Crisis.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Rep. Ryan Zinke and Sen. Steve Daines, both Republicans, asked the commissioner to increase flow from Hungry Horse Dam along the South Fork Flathead River to prevent Flathead Lake from reaching a predicted July water level of 22 inches below full pool — a historically low level that has given rise to concerns by businesses and boat owners whose livelihoods turn on the health of the lake. ‘There’s too much at stake economically, environmentally, and for public safety for the federal government to ignore this oncoming crisis,’ Zinke said in a press release accompanying the letter. ‘Luckily, Reclamation has the authority, and precedence (sic) has been set, to increase flow from Hungry Horse Reservoir to stabilize Flathead Lake levels. I’m urging the commissioner to use that authority and take action now to prevent irreversible damage to the greater Flathead Lake community.’” [Billings Gazette, 7/6/23]
- **Zinke: “Luckily, Reclamation Has The Authority, And Precedence (Sic) Has Been Set, To Increase Flow From Hungry Horse Reservoir To Stabilize Flathead Lake Levels.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Rep. Ryan Zinke and Sen. Steve Daines, both Republicans, asked the commissioner to increase flow from Hungry Horse Dam along the South Fork Flathead River to prevent Flathead Lake from reaching a predicted July water level of 22 inches below full pool — a historically low level that has given rise to concerns by businesses and boat owners whose livelihoods turn on the health of the lake. ‘There’s too much at stake economically, environmentally, and for public safety for the federal government to ignore this oncoming crisis,’ Zinke said in a press release accompanying the letter. ‘Luckily, Reclamation has the authority, and precedence (sic) has been set, to increase flow from Hungry Horse Reservoir to stabilize Flathead Lake levels. I’m urging the commissioner to use that authority and take action now to prevent irreversible damage to the greater Flathead Lake community.’” [Billings Gazette, 7/6/23]

**2023: Zinke’s 2022 Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Criticized Him For Calling For A Water Release To Address Flathead Lake’s Low Water Levels, Saying It Was “Not A Real Solution,” Was Akin To “Bury[ing] Your Head In The Sand,” And Was A “Band Aid That Ignores The Problem Of Extreme**



**Drought.**” The Billings Gazette reported, “Tranel pointed to population growth in western Montana increasing demand on natural resources like Flathead Lake, which is seeing concerning low water levels. While Zinke has joined others in calling for a release of water from the Hungry Horse Dam to increase flows, Tranel called that a ‘not a real solution’ and a ‘Band Aid that ignores the problem of the extreme drought. We are seeing the reality and the impact of the use of fossil fuel over the last 100 years.’ Looking at places in the state like Lincoln County, Tranel said part of the solution will be logging projects to pull out some forest growth, adding that after years of extreme drought not doing so is ‘borrowing trouble.’ ‘And we need to talk about solutions, and figure out how we’re going to solve these problems and not just bury your head in the sand,’ Tranel continued.” [Billings Gazette, 7/10/23]

- **Tranel: “We Are Seeing The Reality And The Impact Of The Use Of Fossil Fuel Over The Last 100 Years.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Tranel pointed to population growth in western Montana increasing demand on natural resources like Flathead Lake, which is seeing concerning low water levels. While Zinke has joined others in calling for a release of water from the Hungry Horse Dam to increase flows, Tranel called that a ‘not a real solution’ and a ‘Band Aid that ignores the problem of the extreme drought. We are seeing the reality and the impact of the use of fossil fuel over the last 100 years.’ Looking at places in the state like Lincoln County, Tranel said part of the solution will be logging projects to pull out some forest growth, adding that after years of extreme drought not doing so is ‘borrowing trouble.’ ‘And we need to talk about solutions, and figure out how we’re going to solve these problems and not just bury your head in the sand,’ Tranel continued.” [Billings Gazette, 7/10/23]

**2023: Zinke Introduced Legislation To Require The Department Of The Interior To Keep Flathead Lake Filled At Between 2,892 And 2,893 Feet Above Sea Level During The Summer Using Water From The Hungry Horse Reservoir.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke on Tuesday introduced legislation in Congress aimed at ensuring Flathead Lake avoids another year of abnormally low water levels. The Fill the Lake Act would require the Department of the Interior to ensure full pool levels of Flathead Lake for most of the summer season. ‘It’s a made in Montana solution,’ Zinke said Nov. 14. The legislation would direct the secretary of the Interior to maintain Flathead Lake between 2,892 and 2,893 feet above sea level from June 15 to Sept. 15. The level would be maintained through releases of water from the Hungry Horse Reservoir, located upriver of Flathead Lake.” [Daily Inter Lake, 11/15/23]

**2023: After A Recommendation Was Made By A Technical Team Not To Fill The Lake In July 2023 Over Ecological Concerns, Zinke Said, “The Commissioner Of Reclamation Has The Authority To Make The Executive Decision And Does Not Need To Bow To The Unelected Bureaucrats... Who Care More About Fish Than People.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “In mid-July, a Technical Management Team, tasked with finding a solution to the issue, opted against taking action, dampening calls to increase the flow from the upriver dam. The management team cited ecological concerns for its decision. ‘Let’s be clear, the commissioner of reclamation has the authority to make the executive decision and does not need to bow to the unelected bureaucrats at the [Technical Management Team] who care more about fish than people,’ Zinke said in July following the decision. ‘[The Bureau of Reclamation] does not lack authority. The only thing they lack is leadership.’ Zinke’s Fill the Lake Act would prove a boon for the county if passed by Congress, said Flathead County Commissioner Brad Abell.” [Daily Inter Lake, 11/15/23]

**2023: After Zinke Introduced A Bill Requiring Flathead Lake To Be Filled, Brian Lipscomb, The CEO Of Energy Keepers, Which Operated The SKQ Dam On The Southern End Of The Lake For The Salish And Kootenai Tribes, Said The Legislation Was “Not Something In My Mind That Is Doable.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Shortly after Rep. Ryan Zinke introduced legislation aimed at keeping Flathead Lake at full pool during the height of summer, operators of the SKQ Dam called the congressman’s proposal unworkable. ‘It really is not something in my mind that is doable,’ said Brian Lipscomb, CEO of Energy Keepers, Inc., which operates the SKQ Dam on the southern end of Flathead Lake for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The Fill the Lake Act, introduced into the House of Representatives on Nov. 15, would direct the Interior Department to maintain





water levels in the lake between 2,892 and 2,893 feet from June 15 to Sept. 15. Zinke crafted the legislation following a summer that saw Flathead Lake fall more than two feet below full pool.” [Daily Inter Lake, 11/24/23]

**2023: Darcy Thomas, President Of The Flathead Audubon Society, Criticized Zinke’s Bill, Saying, “It’s A Shame When Lake Levels Drop And People Can’t Recreate And Businesses Suffer Financially, But It Would Be An Even Bigger Mess To Harm Fish Populations And Not Have Enough Water For Agricultural Purposes.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Darcy Thomas, president of the Flathead Audubon Society speaking personally and not on behalf of the audubon, described Zinke’s legislation as driven by the dollar and not the environment. ‘It’s a shame when lake levels drop and people can’t recreate and businesses suffer financially, but it would be an even bigger mess to harm fish populations and not have enough water for agricultural purposes,’ Thomas said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 11/24/23]

**2024: Energy Keepers Inc., The Tribal Manager Of The SKQ Dam At The Foot Of Flathead Lake, Responded To A Request To Release Water Into The Lake By The Lake County Commissioners By Arguing That “The County’s Petition Is Nothing More Than An Effort To Ensure A Constant Summer Lake Level To Benefit A Small Group Of Lakefront Dock Owners.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Last month, the Lake County commissioners petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission about ‘a real and dangerous public safety threat’ due to the ‘dangerously low level of the lake during western Montana’s wildfire season.’ The commissioners blamed Energy Keepers Inc., which operates the Séliš Ksanka Qlispè (SKQ) Dam at the foot of Flathead Lake, for putting more emphasis on protecting fisheries in the wider Columbia River Basin than it did on ‘protection of human life.’ Energy Keepers responded on March 20 that ‘quite simply, the county’s petition is nothing more than an effort to ensure a constant summer lake level to benefit a small group of lakefront dock owners. ... Moreover, through this petition, the county further attempts to improperly shirk its own responsibilities to address wildfire safety and evacuation routes through its planning and zoning.’” [Ravalli Republic, 4/5/24]

- **Complaint Response From Energy Keepers: “Lake County’s Petition Not Only Requests Relief That Cannot Be Granted, But The Concerns It Identifies Are Self-Inflicted And Its Solutions Are Meritless... (It’s) Nothing More Than A Transparent Attempt To Disguise The Recreational Interests Of An Elite Select Few In The Cloak Of A Public Safety Concern.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “‘Lake County’s petition not only requests relief that cannot be granted, but the concerns it identifies are self-inflicted and its solutions are meritless,’ the EKI response concluded. ‘(It’s) nothing more than a transparent attempt to disguise the recreational interests of an elite select few in the cloak of a public safety concern.’” [Ravalli Republic, 4/5/24]

**2024: Zinke’s Spokesperson Criticized The Technical Management Team Overseeing The Lake, Saying That The Bureau Of Reclamation “Continues To Listen To The TMT That Is Stacked With Out-Of-State Interests And Is Unaffected At The Loss Of Revenue To Local Businesses, Farmers’ Crops, And Recreational Opportunities The Lake Provides To Montanans.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “All of that involves a complex mesh of irrigation rights, hydropower contracts, federally protected fish habitat, flood control safeguards and recreation wishes. The Technical Management Team overseeing that combines five federal agencies, seven state governments, seven Tribal nations, and representatives from several utility companies. As a result, every drop of water running through those two dams gets checked, licensed and authorized by a long list of authorities before anyone launches a sailboat. ‘(The Bureau of Reclamation) continues to listen to the TMT that is stacked with out-of-state interests and is unaffected at the loss of revenue to local businesses, farmers’ crops, and recreational opportunities the lake provides to Montanans,’ Zinke spokesman Colton Snedecor said on Wednesday. Asked how that federal agency overseeing a multi-state network of dams is supposed to balance Montana concerns, Snedecor replied, ‘It’s obvious; we need more upstream Montana voices on the TMT.’” [Ravalli Republic, 4/5/24]

**2024: Zinke Praised The Decision To Keep Flathead Lake At A Higher Water Level Than Normal, Saying, “I’m Glad To See The Dam Operators Are Making This Adjustment And Heeding The Warnings Raised By Lake County Residents And Officials And My Office. It’s Clear To See By Looking At The Moisture Content, A Pivot Was Needed.”** The Bigfork Eagle reported, “Republican U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke applauded



Monday a plan to hold more water in Flathead Lake this spring. The aim of the change, undertaken by the operators of the Séliš Ksanka Q̄lispé Dam and approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is to mitigate the low water levels that plagued the lake last summer, a phenomenon that many hydrologists and scientists anticipate will likely reoccur this year. ‘I’m glad to see the dam operators are making this adjustment and heeding the warnings raised by Lake County residents and officials and my office. It’s clear to see by looking at the moisture content, a pivot was needed,’ Zinke said in a statement. The operators of the dam Energy Keepers, Inc. got the go-ahead in March to keep more water in Flathead Lake. The water level is typically drawn down to 2,883 feet each spring as per the dam’s flood management plan. The deviation will keep the water level at 2,885 feet, two feet higher than in a typical year.” [Bigfork Eagle, 4/9/24]

- **Zinke: “The Communities That Rely On The Revenue From Summer Tourism Will Hopefully Not Suffer Losses Now... It Was A Commonsense Step In The Right Direction.”** The Bigfork Eagle reported, “Last summer, Flathead Lake saw record-low water levels, prompting outcry from shoreline residents and business owners. In response, Zinke introduced the Fill the Lake Act late last year, which would require the federal government to maintain lake levels during the summer by releasing water from the Hungry Horse Reservoir. ‘The communities that rely on the revenue from summer tourism will hopefully not suffer losses now,’ Zinke said. ‘It was a commonsense step in the right direction.’ After being introduced into Congress in November 2023, the Fill the Lake Act was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, where it remains. Zinke said he will continue to lobby Congress to take up the proposal.” [Bigfork Eagle, 4/9/24]

## Glacier National Park

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**2023: Zinke Slammed Glacier National Park’s Reservation System, Saying, “Attention Locals, The Federal Government Is Announcing When You Can Try — And Likely Fail — To Get Permission To Access Your Public Lands. The Reservation System Has To Go.”** The Hungry Horse News reported, “Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke has concerns about Glacier National Park’s reservation system, claiming it locks out locals. Instead of ticketed entry, the Republican is suggesting investment in a more robust shuttle system that accesses the entire park. ‘Attention locals, the federal government is announcing when you can try — and likely fail — to get permission to access your public lands. The reservation system has to go,’ Zinke tweeted recently. In an interview with the Hungry Horse News on Wednesday, Zinke expanded on his concerns, claiming that a person competes with 330 million other Americans for a chance to secure a vehicle reservation to enter Glacier Park. ‘They don’t stand a chance, statistically,’ he said, adding the reservation system ‘primarily puts a burden on locals, who no longer have access to the park.’” [Hungry Horse News, 3/2/23]

- **Zinke Argued That Locals Had To Compete With 330 Million Other Americans For A Vehicle Reservation To Enter The Park, Claiming, “They Don’t Stand A Chance, Statistically.”** The Hungry Horse News reported, “Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke has concerns about Glacier National Park’s reservation system, claiming it locks out locals. Instead of ticketed entry, the Republican is suggesting investment in a more robust shuttle system that accesses the entire park. ‘Attention locals, the federal government is announcing when you can try — and likely fail — to get permission to access your public lands. The reservation system has to go,’ Zinke tweeted recently. In an interview with the Hungry Horse News on Wednesday, Zinke expanded on his concerns, claiming that a person competes with 330 million other Americans for a chance to secure a vehicle reservation to enter Glacier Park. ‘They don’t stand a chance, statistically,’ he said, adding the reservation system ‘primarily puts a burden on locals, who no longer have access to the park.’” [Hungry Horse News, 3/2/23]
- **Zinke Said He Supported Eliminating Reservations And Replacing The System With Electric Shuttle Buses Integrated With The Trail System.** The Hungry Horse News reported, “In speaking with the Hungry Horse News, Zinke said he did appreciate that the park eased back the reservation window this summer, allowing people to access the park without a ticket before 6 a.m. and after 3 p.m. Montana has long days during the summer months, when it can stay light until after 10 p.m. in June and early July. Still, he said he’d rather see Glacier do away with the reservation system entirely and go to a system of shuttles parkwide. He said he



envisioned electric shuttles with the ability to open the top so people could enjoy the vistas and fresh air. It would be integrated with the trail system, so that if a trail were at capacity, the bus wouldn't make a stop there, but would go to another location." [Hungry Horse News, 3/2/23]

**2023: Zinke Asked The Director Of The National Park Service To Allow Non-Reservation Entries In To Glacier National Park After 1pm Instead Of After 3pm, Saying, "...I Appreciate It Went To 3 O'clock ...If You Would Look Sir At Maybe Moving It To 1 ... At Least It Gives An Opportunity For People Who've Got Kids To Run To The Park, Do The Hike And Come Back Before It Gets Dark."** The Hungry Horse News reported, "Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke on Wednesday asked the Park Service to back up the non-reservation entry to Glacier National Park to 1 p.m. This season Glacier is again requiring visitors who enter the park at most entrances to have a reservation from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. through the summer months. Last year visitors needed a reservation between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. to enter the Going-to-the-Sun Road — the Park Service backed up the requirement an hour this year. '...I appreciate it went to 3 o'clock ...if you would look sir at maybe moving it to 1 ... at least it gives an opportunity for people who've got kids to run to the park, do the hike and come back before it gets dark,' Zinke asked Park Service Director Charles F. 'Chuck' Sams III during a House Appropriations Committee meeting." [Hungry Horse News, 3/30/23]

- **Zinke's Complaints Over The Park's Reservation System Were Due To Reservations Online Being Sold Out In Minutes.** The Hungry Horse News reported, "As far as Montanans go, approximately 53% of advance May and June reservations and 33% of July reservations were obtained by Montanans, making Montana the state with the highest percentage of reservations booked for both releases, Glacier officials have said previously. But advanced reservations, available online through Recreation.gov, have gone very quickly, selling out in a matter of minutes. That has brought the ire of Zinke." [Hungry Horse News, 3/30/23]
- **Zinke: "I Am Absolutely Against Locking Out Locals, And The Reservation System Unfortunately Does That."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "Zinke said he appreciates that park officials eased back the window when reservations are required this summer, meaning people can access Glacier without a reservation before 6 a.m. and after 3 p.m. However, he said he would like to see it reduced to 1 p.m. or noon. 'I am absolutely against locking out locals, and the reservation system unfortunately does that,' Zinke said." [Daily Inter Lake, 3/31/23]

**2023: Zinke Called For A Federal Investigation Into Booz Allen Hamilton, The Contractor That Received \$140 Million To Manage Glacier National Park's Reservation System, Among Other Services.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "Congressman Ryan Zinke called for a federal investigation into the government contractor managing the online vehicle reservation system at Glacier National Park just hours after meeting with stakeholders on the topic in Columbia Falls on Tuesday. Zinke, who previously served as secretary of the Interior under former President Donald Trump, is asking the National Park Service to investigate the details of the Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. contract that manages recreation.gov, the website where people can secure reservations for national parks, including Glacier. [...] Zinke, a Republican, pointed to a recent Wall Street Journal article looking into Booz Allen's multimillion dollar contract to oversee the reservation system in a letter submitted to the National Park Service's director. The article detailed a \$140 million contract between Booz Allen and the government from October 2018 to November 2022. According to the article, the company and federal agency work together on a number of services, which has led to criticism." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/11/23]

**2023: Zinke Introduced Legislation To Encourage People To Visit Less Congested National Parks, Streamline National Park Permits And Passes, Require National Parks To Consult With Local Communities Before Restricting Park Access, And More.** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, "Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke has teamed with Mary Peltola (D-Alaska) to introduce bipartisan legislation to aid communities adjacent to national parks deal with the impacts of skyrocketing visitation. The Gateway Communities and Recreation Enhancement Act was introduced on Wednesday and is a companion bill to one introduced by Sens. Steve Daines and Angus King (I-Maine) in February. The bill would create a pilot program to encourage people visiting more congested national parks to explore lesser-known and lesser-visited recreation sites on adjacent public land; it would create a

streamlined digital recreational pass that would make it easier for people to access public land without having to get multiple permits or passes; and it would call for the creation of a system to capture real-time data on land use and give that to the public so that they can better plan their own visits. Perhaps most notably, the bill would also require the National Park Service to consult with local communities before restricting access to the park.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 5/12/23]

- **2024: Zinke’s Gateway Communities And Recreation Enhancement Act Passed The House Of Representatives.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke’s bipartisan Gateway Communities and Recreation Enhancement Act passed the House of Representatives last week as part of a larger outdoor recreation policy package. The Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act landed in the Senate on April 10 after earning House approval. The package, co-sponsored by Zinke, a Republican, is aimed at improving public land access, modernizing technology uses, streamlining permitting processes, creating and restoring trails and campgrounds, increasing accessibility and supporting gateway communities. [...] Zinke’s legislation would create a digital America the Beautiful National Parks and public lands pass, develop a program to track visitation data in congested areas, require public land agencies to work with local stakeholders to address economic needs and mandate that the National Park Service consult with nearby communities before restricting or changing access to parks. ‘The Gateway Communities and Recreation Enhancement Act seeks to solve some of these problems by bringing federal and local stakeholders to the table to collaborate on access and opportunities,’ Zinke said in a statement.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/16/24]

**2023: Zinke Secured An Amendment To Block Funding For Glacier National Park’s Vehicle Reservation Program.** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘Now the history of this mine goes back a long way. Most recently, our Secretary of Interior, when asked when she did do the moratorium, ‘what mineral was in the mine?’ I think that’s a fair question, don’t you? Did anyone on this committee find it surprising that not one mineral could be named?’ Zinke said. ‘That maybe perhaps nickel is important to batteries, to the opposition’s desire to make everything EV. How are you going to do that without batteries? This mine is the largest nickel deposit on the face of the planet that we know of. This mine has critical minerals that are necessary in combat in defense of this country.’ Zinke also secured a block on funding for a vehicle reservation program at Glacier National Park. The program has been in place since 2021 to limit congestion on park roads.” [Billings Gazette, 7/20/23]

**2023: President Biden Said He Would Veto The Appropriations Bill Containing A Massive Funding Cut To The EPA Which Also Included Zinke’s Amendment To Kill The Glacier National Park Vehicle Reservation System.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “A funding bill containing Congressman Ryan Zinke’s proposal to kill the Glacier National Park pilot vehicle reservation system passed the House last week, but may not get much further. H.R. 4821, an appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency, includes a measure backed by Zinke to starve the vehicle reservation system of funding. It’s a move that Zinke, who has been an outspoken critic of the reservation system since returning to Congress, proposed in the summer months. While the appropriations bill passed the House 213 to 203 on Nov. 3, sending it over to the Senate, the White House already has said that President Joe Biden will veto the legislation if it comes before his desk, citing concerns with proposed funding cuts to federal agencies, particularly the EPA.” [Daily Inter Lake, 11/7/23]

- **Zinke’s Amendment Was Reportedly Legally Meaningless, As The Park Had No Budget For The Operation Of Its Vehicle Reservation System And Already Had A Functioning Shuttle System.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke has argued that Glacier’s vehicle reservation system limits park access to area residents. His provision in the appropriations bill blocks the park ‘from using funds to implement a vehicle rationing system and prioritizes the adoption of a functional shuttle system for visitors,’ according to a release from his office, though the bill does not include any language about the latter initiative. But the park doesn’t specifically budget for operation of the vehicle reservation system, according to spokesperson Brandy Burke. The park also has a functional shuttle system and expanding its capacity has been previously discussed by officials.” [Daily Inter Lake, 11/7/23]

**2023: Zinke Praised Forthcoming Changes To Glacier National Park’s Reservation System As A “Giant Positive Step Forward” After The Park Announced That In 2024, It Would Not Require Reservations At One Of The Entrances To The Park.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Stakeholders and some previous critics of Glacier National Park’s vehicle reservation system are largely in favor of new changes coming next summer. Rep. Ryan Zinke called the changes a ‘giant positive step forward’ after petitioning for the removal of the reservation system since last year, saying it created unfair barriers for locals to visit the park. Beginning next summer, no reservations will be required at the St. Mary entrance of the Going-to-the-Sun Road, or at the Two Medicine entrance. A filter station for the west entrance of Going-to-the-Sun Road will be moved past Apgar to allow access to the village and Lake McDonald. ‘I’m glad to say that there’s a lot of wins for locals on this, as there should be, for them to enjoy the park, particularly access on the east side,’ Zinke said. ‘And now we’ll ask for a transportation plan and work with the park to look at how to address a robust, working, experience-enriching transportation system in the park.’” [Daily Inter Lake, 11/26/23]

## **Interior Department Grant Suspension**

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**April 2017: Zinke Issued A Memo To Assistant Interior Secretaries Instructing Them To Delay And Report All Distributions Over \$100,000 To “Assess How We Are Aligning Our Grants And Cooperative Agreements To Department Priorities.”** The Denver Post reported, “The Department of the Interior’s review of all grants over \$100,000 has stopped the flow of federal money to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, threatening the agency’s ability to manage wildlife and support its various conservation programs. An April memo sent by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to his assistant secretaries directed them to delay and report all distributions over \$100,000 in order to ‘assess how we are aligning our grants and cooperative agreements to department priorities.’” [Denver Post, 5/20/17]

- **May 2017: Zinke’s Review Of Interior Department Grants Stopped The Flow Of Federal Money To Colorado Parks And Wildlife During A Financial Crisis.** The Denver Post reported, “The Department of the Interior’s review of all grants over \$100,000 has stopped the flow of federal money to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, threatening the agency’s ability to manage wildlife and support its various conservation programs. An April memo sent by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to his assistant secretaries directed them to delay and report all distributions over \$100,000 in order to ‘assess how we are aligning our grants and cooperative agreements to department priorities.’ [...] The suspension of federal support comes as Colorado Parks and Wildlife faces a financial crisis. The agency pushed a financial sustainability bill in the recent legislative session that would have allowed the wildlife commission to raise residential hunting and fishing fees to prevent a looming \$15 million to \$20 million shortfall by 2023. The bill died in a Senate committee, but the agency’s financial challenges remain.” [Denver Post, 5/20/17]

**April 2017: Zinke Released \$1.1 Billion In Funds That Were Previously Held By The Interior Department, Including \$28 Million For Colorado.** The Denver Post reported, “U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Wednesday he would be releasing \$1.1 billion in funds collected for state fish and wildlife restoration efforts, including \$28 million for Colorado. Zinke in April ordered the delay and review of all grants larger than \$100,000, threatening state fish and wildlife agencies that rely on taxes collected on the sales of hunting, fishing, boating and shooting equipment. Colorado Parks and Wildlife receives about 20 percent of its funding nearly \$30 million from federal grant programs, including the venerable Pittman Robertson and Dingell Johnson funds that support fish and wildlife restoration. Colorado will receive a total of \$28 million, including \$9 million for sport fish restoration and \$19 million for wildlife restoration programs.” [Denver Post, 6/15/17]

**May 2017: Sen. Michael Bennet Called On Zinke’s Interior Department To Reverse A Suspension Of Advisory Committees And Local Boards Which Deliver Input To The Bureau Of Land Management.** The Denver Post reported, “Sen. Michael Bennet on Thursday joined a group of Western senators in asking the Department of the Interior to lift its sudden suspension of advisory committees and local boards that deliver public input to the Bureau of Land Management’s policy decisions. ‘These meetings are an invaluable way to ensure rural and local voices in Colorado are heard and considered in conversations about the use of our public lands,’ Bennet said in a statement. ‘The administration should not block community input on BLM actions. These meetings should





be reinstated immediately.’ Last week, members of Colorado’s four Resource Advisory Councils were told by BLM officials that all meetings were suspended until September. The councils typically 15 citizen nominated members who meet four times a year are made up of public land management stakeholders, including conservationists, ranchers, outdoor recreation users, energy representatives and local politicians. A statement from the BLM said the agency is reviewing more than 200 board, councils and committees and the review ‘necessitates the postponement of all advisory committee meetings.’” [Denver Post, 5/12/17]

## Mining

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**December 2017: Zinke’s Interior Department Released A Legal Decision Which Renewed Leases For Copper And Nickel Mining On The Border Of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Which Had Been Ruled Out By The Obama Administration.** The Washington Post reported, “The Trump administration moved Friday to renew leases for a copper and nickel mining operation on the border of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, reversing a decision made in the final weeks of Barack Obama’s tenure in office. The action, made public in an Interior Department legal decision, marks a win for the Chilean mining firm belonging to the family of billionaire Andrónico Luksic, who rents a home to Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, in Washington.” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]

- **December 2017: The Mining Company Which Held The Lease Was Owned By Andrónico Luksic, Who Rented A Home To Ivanka Trump And Jared Kushner In Washington, D.C.** The Washington Post reported, “The Trump administration moved Friday to renew leases for a copper and nickel mining operation on the border of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, reversing a decision made in the final weeks of Barack Obama’s tenure in office. The action, made public in an Interior Department legal decision, marks a win for the Chilean mining firm belonging to the family of billionaire Andrónico Luksic, who rents a home to Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, in Washington.” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]

**December 2017: Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) Said That Zinke Had Assured Her Earlier That Week That He Was Committed To Letting Science Guide The Federal Mining Decision.** The Washington Post reported, “As recently as Thursday, Zinke had told Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) that he was committed to letting environmental science guide federal decisions on whether to allow mining in places such as a site near Boundary Waters. Late Friday, McCollum accused Zinke of deliberately misleading her in their latest call. ‘He reiterated to me directly just how precious the waters of the BWCA are and the need for ongoing environmental study,’ McCollum said in a statement. ‘Twenty-four hours later, he broke his word and issued mining leases footsteps from the BWCA to a foreign-owned mining company. Clearly, the numerous assurances I received from Secretary Zinke about protecting the BWCA were worthless and deceitful.’” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]

- **December 2017 – Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN): “[Zinke] Reiterated To Me Directly Just How Precious The Waters Of The BWCA Are And The Need For Ongoing Environmental Study.”** The Washington Post reported, “As recently as Thursday, Zinke had told Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) that he was committed to letting environmental science guide federal decisions on whether to allow mining in places such as a site near Boundary Waters. Late Friday, McCollum accused Zinke of deliberately misleading her in their latest call. ‘He reiterated to me directly just how precious the waters of the BWCA are and the need for ongoing environmental study,’ McCollum said in a statement. ‘Twenty-four hours later, he broke his word and issued mining leases footsteps from the BWCA to a foreign-owned mining company. Clearly, the numerous assurances I received from Secretary Zinke about protecting the BWCA were worthless and deceitful.’” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]
- **December 2017 – Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN): “Twenty-Four Hours Later, [Zinke] Broke His Word And Issued Mining Leases Footsteps From The BWCA To A Foreign-Owned Mining Company.”** The Washington Post reported, “As recently as Thursday, Zinke had told Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) that he was committed to letting environmental science guide federal decisions on whether to allow mining in places such as a site near Boundary Waters. Late Friday, McCollum accused Zinke of deliberately misleading her in their latest call. ‘He reiterated to me directly just how precious the waters of the BWCA are and the need for



ongoing environmental study,' McCollum said in a statement. 'Twenty-four hours later, he broke his word and issued mining leases footsteps from the BWCA to a foreign-owned mining company. Clearly, the numerous assurances I received from Secretary Zinke about protecting the BWCA were worthless and deceitful.'" [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]

- **December 2017 – Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN): “Clearly, The Numerous Assurances I Received From Secretary Zinke About Protecting The BWCA Were Worthless And Deceitful.”** The Washington Post reported, “As recently as Thursday, Zinke had told Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) that he was committed to letting environmental science guide federal decisions on whether to allow mining in places such as a site near Boundary Waters. Late Friday, McCollum accused Zinke of deliberately misleading her in their latest call. ‘He reiterated to me directly just how precious the waters of the BWCA are and the need for ongoing environmental study,’ McCollum said in a statement. ‘Twenty-four hours later, he broke his word and issued mining leases footsteps from the BWCA to a foreign-owned mining company. Clearly, the numerous assurances I received from Secretary Zinke about protecting the BWCA were worthless and deceitful.’” [Washington Post, [12/23/17](#)]

**2021: Zinke Said He Was “Pro-Mining, But There’s A Place To Mine, And That’s Not Adjacent To Yellowstone.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “He said that even though political distractions sometimes followed him, ‘no one can touch my record’ for outdoors, including the Great American Outdoors Act. Zinke is proud that more land went to hunting, and the Bureau of Land Management moved westward from Washington, D. C., to Grand Junction, Colorado. ‘They should be in the West,’ Zinke said. However, he also pointed that he fought to keep mining away from Yellowstone National Park. ‘I am pro-mining, but there’s a place to mine, and that’s not adjacent to Yellowstone,’ he said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

**2023: Zinke Introduced An Amendment To Block The Department Of Interior From Imposing A 20-Year Mining Ban In Northeast Minnesota Where There Was A Large Nickel Deposit.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke also advanced an amendment blocking The Interior from imposing a 20-year mining ban in northeast Minnesota where there is a large nickel deposit. The Trump administration has supported the mine, but Biden administration considered the environmental risks too high. ‘Now the history of this mine goes back a long way. Most recently, our Secretary of Interior, when asked when she did do the moratorium, ‘what mineral was in the mine?’ I think that’s a fair question, don’t you? Did anyone on this committee find it surprising that not one mineral could be named?’ Zinke said. ‘That maybe perhaps nickel is important to batteries, to the opposition’s desire to make everything EV. How are you going to do that without batteries? This mine is the largest nickel deposit on the face of the planet that we know of. This mine has critical minerals that are necessary in combat in defense of this country.’” [Billings Gazette, 7/20/23]

- **Zinke: “Now The History Of This Mine Goes Back A Long Way. Most Recently, Our Secretary Of Interior, When Asked When She Did Do The Moratorium, ‘What Mineral Was In The Mine?’... Did Anyone On This Committee Find It Surprising That Not One Mineral Could Be Named? [...] This Mine Is The Largest Nickel Deposit On The Face Of The Planet That We Know Of. This Mine Has Critical Minerals That Are Necessary In Combat In Defense Of This Country.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke also advanced an amendment blocking The Interior from imposing a 20-year mining ban in northeast Minnesota where there is a large nickel deposit. The Trump administration has supported the mine, but Biden administration considered the environmental risks too high. ‘Now the history of this mine goes back a long way. Most recently, our Secretary of Interior, when asked when she did do the moratorium, “what mineral was in the mine?” I think that’s a fair question, don’t you? Did anyone on this committee find it surprising that not one mineral could be named?’ Zinke said. ‘That maybe perhaps nickel is important to batteries, to the opposition’s desire to make everything EV. How are you going to do that without batteries? This mine is the largest nickel deposit on the face of the planet that we know of. This mine has critical minerals that are necessary in combat in defense of this country.’” [Billings Gazette, 7/20/23]

## National Monuments

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## ***Antiquities Act Review***

**April 2017: Trump Signed An Executive Order Directing Zinke To Review All National Monuments Created After 1996 That Were Either Larger Than 100,000 Acres Or Were Expanded “Without Adequate Public Outreach” In The Hopes Of Shrinking Or Revoking Some Of The Monuments.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “California’s attorney general argued Thursday that President Trump has no legal authority to revoke or modify national monuments created by previous administrations. In an 11-page letter to the Interior Department, state Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra vowed ‘to take any and all legal action necessary’ to preserve six California monuments, including one in Los Angeles’ backyard, that the Trump Administration may attempt to revoke or shrink. In April, Trump signed an executive order directing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review all national monuments that were created since 1996 and are larger than 100,000 acres, or were expanded ‘without adequate public outreach.’” [Los Angeles Times, 6/9/17]

- **May 2017: Zinke’s Interior Department Released A List Of 27 National Monuments That Would Be Reviewed Under The Department’s Directed Review Of The Antiquities Act.** The Denver Post reported, “Canyons of the Ancients in southwest Colorado is up for review by the Interior Department, despite assurances from Gov. John Hickenlooper that it was unlikely any state monument designations since 1996 would be scrutinized. Last week, Hickenlooper met with Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke to discuss public lands. ‘I am confident that the federal administration will work with the State of Colorado and our federal delegation to ensure our national monuments remain protected,’ Hickenlooper posted on his Facebook page the next day. The Interior Department on Friday issued a list of 27 national monuments that would be reviewed. The department also said it would solicit public comment on the national monument designations. Public comment is not required when presidents create monuments under the Antiquities Act.” [Denver Post, 5/6/17]

**May 2017: Environmental Law Firm Earth Justice Managing Attorney Heidi McIntosh Criticized Zinke’s Review Of Federal Monuments.** The Denver Post reported, “It also asks the department to weigh whether the designation includes ‘historic landmarks, historic or prehistoric structures (or) other objects of historic or scientific interest.’ Canyons of the Ancients, which draws about 30,000 visitors a year to the Four Corners region, includes an estimated 6,000 Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings and rock paintings. ‘It is clear that neither the president nor Zinke have a very good understanding of the Antiquities Act or the importance of the Antiquities Act in protecting places like Canyons of the Ancients,’ said Heidi McIntosh, managing attorney for the Denver office of environmental law firm Earth justice. ‘I think they will get an earful from Coloradans and people from other places about how precious these places really are.’” [Denver Post, 5/6/17]

- **McIntosh: “It Is Clear That Neither The President Nor Zinke Have A Very Good Understanding Of The Antiquities Act Or The Importance Of The Antiquities Act In Protecting Places Like Canyons Of The Ancients.”** The Denver Post reported, “It also asks the department to weigh whether the designation includes ‘historic landmarks, historic or prehistoric structures (or) other objects of historic or scientific interest.’ Canyons of the Ancients, which draws about 30,000 visitors a year to the Four Corners region, includes an estimated 6,000 Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings and rock paintings. ‘It is clear that neither the president nor Zinke have a very good understanding of the Antiquities Act or the importance of the Antiquities Act in protecting places like Canyons of the Ancients,’ said Heidi McIntosh, managing attorney for the Denver office of environmental law firm Earth justice. ‘I think they will get an earful from Coloradans and people from other places about how precious these places really are.’” [Denver Post, 5/6/17]

**August 2017: The Interior Department Received Over 2.4 Million Public Comments Regarding The Review Of National Monument Status, With The Majority Supporting Current Designations.** The Denver Post reported, “The order targeted designations of at least 100,000 acres made by former presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Zinke later added a monument in Maine. Trump is no fan of the 1906 Antiquities Act, declaring in April that it ‘does not give the federal government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it’s time that we ended this abusive practice.’ But Interior’s review has come up against vehement



pushback. The department received more than 2.4 million public comments with an overwhelming majority supporting the current designations. Zinke recently announced he would recommend no changes for six of the monuments on the list. These are among the most vulnerable to revision, reduction or even reversal.” [Denver Post, 8/23/17]

**August 2017: Zinke Recommended Shrinking Four National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, “Parts of this sprawling region of red-rock canyons and at least three other national monuments would lose their strict protection and could be reopened for new mining or drilling under proposals submitted to President Trump by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday, according to congressional aides and others who have been briefed on the report. Environmentalists, ranchers, tribal governments and Western lawmakers had been watching closely to see if Mr. Zinke would propose changing the borders of the Bears Ears National Monument, which President Barack Obama established at the end of his term, and other scenic and historic areas under federal protection. In recent days, Mr. Zinke had been considering a dramatic reduction to Bears Ears, to approximately 160,000 acres from 1.35 million, according to multiple people familiar with the process. No president has ever reduced a monument by such a large amount.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]

- **New York Times: “Parts Of This Sprawling Region Of Red-Rock Canyons And At Least Three Other National Monuments Would Lose Their Strict Protection And Could Be Reopened For New Mining Or Drilling Under Proposals Submitted To President Trump By Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.”** The New York Times reported, “Parts of this sprawling region of red-rock canyons and at least three other national monuments would lose their strict protection and could be reopened for new mining or drilling under proposals submitted to President Trump by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday, according to congressional aides and others who have been briefed on the report. Environmentalists, ranchers, tribal governments and Western lawmakers had been watching closely to see if Mr. Zinke would propose changing the borders of the Bears Ears National Monument, which President Barack Obama established at the end of his term, and other scenic and historic areas under federal protection. In recent days, Mr. Zinke had been considering a dramatic reduction to Bears Ears, to approximately 160,000 acres from 1.35 million, according to multiple people familiar with the process. No president has ever reduced a monument by such a large amount.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]
- **August 2017: Zinke Proposed Reducing The Size Of Bears Ears National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, And Two Others.** The New York Times reported, “Shrinking the monuments would be widely seen as a direct blow to Mr. Obama’s environmental legacy, and would probably prompt the first major legal test of a century-old conservation law. Mr. Zinke was believed to be leaning toward such a step. But when he submitted his recommendations on Thursday, he declined to announce specifically what he had proposed for Bears Ears or the other monuments under review. He referred to his recommendations only in general terms, saying they would ‘provide a much-needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands.’ The people briefed on the plans said that along with Bears Ears, Mr. Zinke had proposed reducing the size of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, also in southern Utah, and two others.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]

**August 2017: Zinke Formally Recommended That Trump Alter At Least Three Monuments, Including Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, And Oregon’s Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended Thursday that President Trump alter at least three national monuments established by his immediate predecessors, including two in Utah, a move expected to reshape federal land and water protections and certain to trigger major legal fights. In a report Zinke submitted to the White House, the secretary recommended reducing the size of Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments, as well as Oregon’s Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, according to multiple individuals briefed on the decision. President Bill Clinton declared the Grand Staircase Escalante in 1996, while President Barack Obama designated the Bears Ears last year. Cascade Siskiyou, which now encompasses more than 113,000 acres, was established by Clinton shortly before leaving office and expanded by Obama in January.” [Denver Post, 8/25/17]

**August 2017: Wilderness Society Acting California Director Daniel Rossman Criticized Zinke For Placing California Monuments On The List For Review Despite Never Visiting California.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Zinke’s assurance that no monuments would be eliminated was little solace to advocates who expected to get clarity on Trump’s plan Thursday. Instead, they were told no further details would be disclosed about which monuments would be downsized and how significantly. The secrecy added yet more public confusion to what has often seemed a scattershot review. Throughout it, Zinke has made a very public show of riding on horseback to inspect some lands threatened, and ignoring others altogether, despite pleas from local politicians to visit and hear them out about why changing the borders would be detrimental. ‘Despite placing six of our national monuments in the cross-hairs, he never visited California,’ said Daniel Rossman, acting California director for the Wilderness Society. ‘It is unconscionable, on this deadline for final recommendations, that Secretary Zinke continues to leave the American people in the dark.’” [Los Angeles Times, 8/25/17]

- **Rossman: “Despite Placing Six Of Our National Monuments In The Cross-Hairs, He Never Visited California. It Is Unconscionable, On This Deadline For Final Recommendations, That Secretary Zinke Continues To Leave The American People In The Dark.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Zinke’s assurance that no monuments would be eliminated was little solace to advocates who expected to get clarity on Trump’s plan Thursday. Instead, they were told no further details would be disclosed about which monuments would be downsized and how significantly. The secrecy added yet more public confusion to what has often seemed a scattershot review. Throughout it, Zinke has made a very public show of riding on horseback to inspect some lands threatened, and ignoring others altogether, despite pleas from local politicians to visit and hear them out about why changing the borders would be detrimental. ‘Despite placing six of our national monuments in the cross-hairs, he never visited California,’ said Daniel Rossman, acting California director for the Wilderness Society. ‘It is unconscionable, on this deadline for final recommendations, that Secretary Zinke continues to leave the American people in the dark.’” [Los Angeles Times, 8/25/17]

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**September 2017: Over 90 Percent Of The 2.7 Million Americans Who Provided Public Comment On Zinke’s Monument Review Opposed Shrinking Monument Borders.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “At stake are millions of acres of unique geological formations, rare archaeological artifacts and pristine landscapes and seascapes. Trump had complained that past presidents abused their authority to put land off-limits to development and designated ever-growing swaths of property as monuments at the behest of environmentalists. The review of the monuments undertaken by Zinke drew fury from Native American groups, conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts and political leaders. More than 90% of the 2.7 million Americans who weighed in on the monument review in written comments to the Interior Department were opposed to shrinking borders. Zinke acknowledged the intense opposition in his report to Trump, but attributed it to ‘a well-orchestrated national campaign organized by multiple organizations.’” [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

**September 2017: Wilderness Society President Jamie Williams Criticized Zinke’s Recommendations To Shrink National Monument Protections As “An Unprecedented Assault On Our Parks And Public Lands.”** The Denver Post reported, “President Donald Trump ordered a review of 27 sites earlier this year after complaining about a ‘massive land grab’ by Obama and other former presidents. ‘It’s gotten worse and worse and worse, and now we’re going to free it up, which is what should have happened in the first place,’ Trump said in April. National monument designations add protections for lands known for their natural beauty with the goal of preserving them for future generations. The restrictions aren’t as stringent as for national parks but include limits on mining, timber cutting and recreational activities such as riding off road vehicles. No president has tried to eliminate a monument, but boundaries have been trimmed or redrawn 18 times, according to the National Park Service. Zinke’s recommendations ‘represent an unprecedented assault on our parks and public lands,’ said Jamie Williams, president of the Wilderness Society.” [Denver Post, 9/19/17]

**December 2017: The New York Times Editorial Board Criticized Zinke For Revoking Nearly Two Million Acres From Federal Protection.** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “The lawsuits have already begun, pursued not only by Native American tribes and environmental groups, but also by Patagonia, the big outdoors company. The outcome of these suits (and they will take time) will affect not only the Utah monuments but also eight others Mr. Zinke has recommended for more modest downsizing or for changes in the way they are managed. Among these are a marine monument in the Pacific that was established by Mr. Bush and added to by Mr. Obama, and another in the Atlantic, established by Mr. Obama. The order has also shredded what little is left of Mr. Zinke’s reputation in the environmental community. Mr. Zinke, it will be recalled, rode a horse to work at the Interior Department on his first day on the job, in plain imitation of Teddy Roosevelt, a comparison that he has since invoked several times but that now seems ludicrous. As president, Mr. Roosevelt gave federal protection to 230 million acres (including 18 national monuments). Mr. Zinke, only 10 months into the job, is already in negative territory to the tune of about two million acres, with more coming.” [New York Times, Editorial, 12/9/17]

- **NYT Editorial Board: “The Outcome Of These Suits (And They Will Take Time) Will Affect Not Only The Utah Monuments But Also Eight Others Mr. Zinke Has Recommended For More Modest Downsizing Or For Changes In The Way They Are Managed.”** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “The lawsuits have already begun, pursued not only by Native American tribes and environmental groups, but also by Patagonia, the big outdoors company. The outcome of these suits (and they will take time) will affect not only the Utah monuments but also eight others Mr. Zinke has recommended for more modest downsizing or for changes in the way they are managed. Among these are a marine monument in the Pacific that was established by Mr. Bush and added to by Mr. Obama, and another in the Atlantic, established by Mr. Obama. The order has also shredded what little is left of Mr. Zinke’s reputation in the environmental community. Mr. Zinke, it will be recalled, rode a horse to work at the Interior Department on his first day on the job, in plain imitation of Teddy Roosevelt, a comparison that he has since invoked several times but that now seems ludicrous. As president, Mr. Roosevelt gave federal protection to 230 million acres (including 18 national monuments). Mr. Zinke, only 10 months into the job, is already in negative territory to the tune of about two million acres, with more coming.” [New York Times, Editorial, 12/9/17]



- **NYT Editorial Board: “The Order Has Also Shredded What Little Is Left Of Mr. Zinke’s Reputation In The Environmental Community. Mr. Zinke, It Will Be Recalled, Rode A Horse To Work At The Interior Department On His First Day On The Job, In Plain Imitation Of Teddy Roosevelt, A Comparison That He Has Since Invoked Several Times But That Now Seems Ludicrous.”** According to the editorial board of the New York Times, “The lawsuits have already begun, pursued not only by Native American tribes and environmental groups, but also by Patagonia, the big outdoors company. The outcome of these suits (and they will take time) will affect not only the Utah monuments but also eight others Mr. Zinke has recommended for more modest downsizing or for changes in the way they are managed. Among these are a marine monument in the Pacific that was established by Mr. Bush and added to by Mr. Obama, and another in the Atlantic, established by Mr. Obama. The order has also shredded what little is left of Mr. Zinke’s reputation in the environmental community. Mr. Zinke, it will be recalled, rode a horse to work at the Interior Department on his first day on the job, in plain imitation of Teddy Roosevelt, a comparison that he has since invoked several times but that now seems ludicrous. As president, Mr. Roosevelt gave federal protection to 230 million acres (including 18 national monuments). Mr. Zinke, only 10 months into the job, is already in negative territory to the tune of about two million acres, with more coming.” [New York Times, Editorial, 12/9/17]
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**January 2018: New York Times Opinion Columnist Timothy Egan Criticized Zinke For “Upending A Century Of Bipartisan Values” Toward Conservation For A “Trumpian Culture War.”** According to NYT opinion columnist Timothy Egan, reported, “Last month, the secretary attacked Patagonia, the outdoor retailer, after it protested the largest rollback of public land protection in our history with a website home page of a black screen and stark message: ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ It is your land, all 400 million acres of it, though you wouldn’t know by the way the Trump administration has ceded control to the private predators from the oil, gas, coal and uranium industries. It is also your water, the near entirety of the outer continental shelf that Trump is opening to extractive drilling. Almost a dozen states have protested. The waters off the coast of Mar-a-Lago, in Florida, were given an exemption after Zinke met with the governor, who said drilling was bad for tourism. Your public servant at work. Zinke is upending a century of bipartisan values as part of a Trumpian culture war. When asked why the president shrank national monuments in the Southwest by two million acres, Zinke said it was a way to strike back against ‘an elitist sort of hunter and fisherman.’ Huh?” [New York Times, Column, 1/19/18]

- **Egan: “It Is Your Land, All 400 Million Acres Of It, Though You Wouldn’t Know By The Way The Trump Administration Has Ceded Control To The Private Predators From The Oil, Gas, Coal And Uranium Industries. It Is Also Your Water, The Near Entirety Of The Outer Continental Shelf That Trump Is Opening To Extractive Drilling”** According to NYT opinion columnist Timothy Egan, reported, “Last month, the secretary attacked Patagonia, the outdoor retailer, after it protested the largest rollback of public land protection in our history with a website home page of a black screen and stark message: ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ It is your land, all 400 million acres of it, though you wouldn’t know by the way the Trump administration has ceded control to the private predators from the oil, gas, coal and uranium

industries. It is also your water, the near entirety of the outer continental shelf that Trump is opening to extractive drilling. Almost a dozen states have protested. The waters off the coast of Mar-a-Lago, in Florida, were given an exemption after Zinke met with the governor, who said drilling was bad for tourism. Your public servant at work. Zinke is upending a century of bipartisan values as part of a Trumpian culture war. When asked why the president shrank national monuments in the Southwest by two million acres, Zinke said it was a way to strike back against ‘an elitist sort of hunter and fisherman.’ Huh?” [New York Times, Column, 1/19/18]

- **Egan: “When Asked Why The President Shrank National Monuments In The Southwest By Two Million Acres, Zinke Said It Was A Way To Strike Back Against ‘An Elitist Sort Of Hunter And Fisherman.’ Huh?”** According to NYT opinion columnist Timothy Egan, reported, “Last month, the secretary attacked Patagonia, the outdoor retailer, after it protested the largest rollback of public land protection in our history with a website home page of a black screen and stark message: ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ It is your land, all 400 million acres of it, though you wouldn’t know by the way the Trump administration has ceded control to the private predators from the oil, gas, coal and uranium industries. It is also your water, the near entirety of the outer continental shelf that Trump is opening to extractive drilling. Almost a dozen states have protested. The waters off the coast of Mar-a-Lago, in Florida, were given an exemption after Zinke met with the governor, who said drilling was bad for tourism. Your public servant at work. Zinke is upending a century of bipartisan values as part of a Trumpian culture war. When asked why the president shrank national monuments in the Southwest by two million acres, Zinke said it was a way to strike back against ‘an elitist sort of hunter and fisherman.’ Huh?” [New York Times, Column, 1/19/18]

**Washington Post: “The Thousands Of Pages Of Email Correspondence Chart How Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke And His Aides Instead Tailored Their Survey Of Protected Sites To Emphasize The Value Of Logging, Ranching And Energy Development That Would Be Unlocked If They Were Not Designated National Monuments.”** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Department officials intentionally dismissed evidence of the benefits of national monuments last year as they sought to justify shrinking them. Juliet Eilperin reports: ‘The thousands of pages of email correspondence chart how Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and his aides instead tailored their survey of protected sites to emphasize the value of logging, ranching and energy development that would be unlocked if they were not designated national monuments. ... Estimates of increased tourism revenue, analyses showing that existing restrictions had not hurt fishing operators and agency reports finding that less vandalism occurred as a result of monument designations were all set aside.’” [Washington Post, [7/24/18](#)]

- **Washington Post: “Estimates Of Increased Tourism Revenue, Analyses Showing That Existing Restrictions Had Not Hurt Fishing Operators And Agency Reports Finding That Less Vandalism Occurred As A Result Of Monument Designations Were All Set Aside.”** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Department officials intentionally dismissed evidence of the benefits of national monuments last year as they sought to justify shrinking them. Juliet Eilperin reports: ‘The thousands of pages of email correspondence chart how Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and his aides instead tailored their survey of protected sites to emphasize the value of logging, ranching and energy development that would be unlocked if they were not designated national monuments. ... Estimates of increased tourism revenue, analyses showing that existing restrictions had not hurt fishing operators and agency reports finding that less vandalism occurred as a result of monument designations were all set aside.’” [Washington Post, [7/24/18](#)]

**July 2018: Emails Mistakenly Released By The Department Of The Interior Revealed That Zinke Deliberately Omitted Information Supporting The Tourism, Cultural, And Archaeological Value Of National Monuments In A Survey Of The Monuments.** The Denver Post reported, “Then, based on emails mistakenly released by the Interior Department, you exposed Secretary Ryan Zinke’s true identity: the Once ler, the greedy antagonist who cuts down all the Truffula Trees. The emails confirmed that information supporting the tourism, cultural and archaeological value of our national monuments was intentionally left out of the survey of monuments. Instead, ‘Ryan Zinke and his aides tailored their survey of protected sites to emphasize the value of logging, ranching and energy development that would be unlocked,’ should these lands lose their monument designation. They even admitted that they kept these ‘references out of public view because they were ‘revealing



(the) strategy' behind the review.' Anyone who wants to get a glimpse of what our national monuments will look like once Ryan 'Once ler' Zinke has extracted and exploited their resources (unless our modern Lorax fares better than Dr. Seuss' ... unless) should have a look at the last few pages of The Lorax ." [Denver Post, 7/29/18]

- **Zinke And His Aides Instead Used The Survey To “Emphasize The Value Of Logging, Ranching, And Energy Development That Would Be Unlocked” If The Sites Were Reclassified.** The Denver Post reported, “Then, based on emails mistakenly released by the Interior Department, you exposed Secretary Ryan Zinke’s true identity: the Once ler, the greedy antagonist who cuts down all the Truffula Trees. The emails confirmed that information supporting the tourism, cultural and archaeological value of our national monuments was intentionally left out of the survey of monuments. Instead, ‘Ryan Zinke and his aides tailored their survey of protected sites to emphasize the value of logging, ranching and energy development that would be unlocked,’ should these lands lose their monument designation. They even admitted that they kept these ‘references out of public view because they were ‘revealing (the) strategy’ behind the review.’ Anyone who wants to get a glimpse of what our national monuments will look like once Ryan ‘Once ler’ Zinke has extracted and exploited their resources (unless our modern Lorax fares better than Dr. Seuss’ ... unless) should have a look at the last few pages of The Lorax .” [Denver Post, 7/29/18]

**As Interior Secretary, Zinke Reviewed 27 National Monuments For Possible Reduction Or Elimination.** The Orange County Register reported, “Under former President Donald Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reviewed 22 land and five water national monuments designated by Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama for possible reduction or elimination.” [Orange County Register, 3/1/21]

## ***Bears Ears & Grand Staircase-Escalante***

**May 2017: Zinke Took A Trip To Utah While Re-Evaluating Bears Ears National Monument Under The Interior Department’s Antiquities Act Review, Saying That He Might Not Recommend Shrinking The Monument.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said he might not necessarily recommend that President Donald Trump rescind or shrink two Utah national monuments, and it’s possible that once he views the red rock areas, he could decide the monuments need to be larger. Zinke started a four day Utah trip Sunday to assess whether 3.2 million acres of national monuments in the state’s southern red rock region should be scaled down or even rescinded. The re evaluation of the new Bears Ears National Monument on sacred tribal lands and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, created in 1996, is part of an executive order signed last month by President Donald Trump’s calling for a review of 27 national monuments established by several former presidents. Zinke told reporters Sunday in Salt Lake City that his visit is a listening tour and he wants to ensure that the Antiquities Act was used as intended when Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante monuments were declared. He spoke to reporters after a closed door meeting with leaders of a tribal coalition that campaigned for the monument.” [Denver Post, 5/8/17]

**New York Times: “Mr. Zinke Had Been Considering A Dramatic Reduction To Bears Ears, To Approximately 160,000 Acres From 1.35 Million, According To Multiple People Familiar With The Process. No President Has Ever Reduced A Monument By Such A Large Amount.”** The New York Times reported, “Parts of this sprawling region of red-rock canyons and at least three other national monuments would lose their strict protection and could be reopened for new mining or drilling under proposals submitted to President Trump by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday, according to congressional aides and others who have been briefed on the report. Environmentalists, ranchers, tribal governments and Western lawmakers had been watching closely to see if Mr. Zinke would propose changing the borders of the Bears Ears National Monument, which President Barack Obama established at the end of his term, and other scenic and historic areas under federal protection. In recent days, Mr. Zinke had been considering a dramatic reduction to Bears Ears, to approximately 160,000 acres from 1.35 million, according to multiple people familiar with the process. No president has ever reduced a monument by such a large amount.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]

**June 2017: Zinke Proposed Scaling Back The Borders Of The Bears Ears National Monument, Which Was A 1.3-Million-Acre Conservation Area Designated By President Obama In The Days Before He Left Office.**

The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday proposed significantly scaling back the borders of a national monument in southeastern Utah, in a legally unprecedented move that opponents say violates a century-old law signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. Bears Ears National Monument is a 1.3-million-acre conservation area that was designated by President Barack Obama in his final days in office. President Trump had called for a review of that decision, and Mr. Zinke’s recommendation is being watched closely as an indicator of how the Trump administration will treat public lands. Mr. Zinke made his recommendation in a report that also requests Congress give local tribes the authority to co-manage ‘designated cultural resources’ within the monument’s new boundaries. But he suggests that the president hold off on a final decision on the region until a review of 26 other monuments is complete in late August.” [New York Times, 6/12/17]

- **June 2017: Zinke Said In A Statement That The Bears Ears National Monument’s Monument Designation Was “Not The Best Use Of The Land.”** The New York Times reported, “The Bears Ears designation was supported by environmentalists and the leaders of many native tribes in the region, including the Navajo Nation, but was opposed by Utah’s governor, the state’s congressional delegation, and some local residents who said they did not want tighter federal restrictions on land near their homes. In a statement, Mr. Zinke said monument designation was ‘not the best use of the land.’ Mr. Zinke recommended that Mr. Trump roll back the boundaries to protect only areas that include historic and prehistoric structures, such as archaeological sites and remains of dwellings. The monument, as it stands, is a vast canyon region of red rocks named for two towering buttes called the Bears Ears. It is home to some 100,000 archaeological sites.” [New York Times, 6/12/17]
- **June 2017: Zinke Recommended That Trump Roll Back The Boundaries Of Bears Ears National Monument To Include Only Areas With Historic Or Prehistoric Structures, Including Archaeological Sites.** The New York Times reported, “The Bears Ears designation was supported by environmentalists and the leaders of many native tribes in the region, including the Navajo Nation, but was opposed by Utah’s governor, the state’s congressional delegation, and some local residents who said they did not want tighter federal restrictions on land near their homes. In a statement, Mr. Zinke said monument designation was ‘not the best use of the land.’ Mr. Zinke recommended that Mr. Trump roll back the boundaries to protect only areas that include historic and prehistoric structures, such as archaeological sites and remains of dwellings. The monument, as it stands, is a vast canyon region of red rocks named for two towering buttes called the Bears Ears. It is home to some 100,000 archaeological sites.” [New York Times, 6/12/17]

**At Trump’s Request, Zinke Shrunk The Bear Ears National Monument By 85 Percent And The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument By 50 Percent.** According to an op-ed by Jon Waterman, a former National Park Ranger, in the New York Times, “At the president’s bidding Mr. Zinke had shrunk two national monuments in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, by 85 percent and about 50 percent, which will open the way for the newly unprotected land to be exploited by mining and fossil fuel companies. Despite his departure, these pro-development park policies remain unchanged.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 11/22/19]

**June 2017: House Natural Resources Committee Democratic Spokesman Adam Sarvana Criticized Zinke’s Recommendation To Scale Back Bears Ears National Monument For Keeping Only “About Five Percent Of The Monument Area.”** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday proposed significantly scaling back the borders of a national monument in southeastern Utah, in a legally unprecedented move that opponents say violates a century-old law signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. [...] But opponents of the boundary reductions said that Mr. Zinke’s description of the area that would still be eligible for protection appeared to account only for a small fraction of the acres designated by Mr. Obama. ‘If you look at a map, that area is only about 5 percent of the monument area,’ said Adam Sarvana, a spokesman for Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee. ‘It seems like what they’re describing is a few stops on a boardwalk arcade, a few isolated areas, rather than a professionally conserved landscape the way national monuments are typically designated,’ Mr. Sarvana said.” [New York Times, 6/12/17]



- **Sarvana: “It Seems Like What They’re Describing Is A Few Stops On A Boardwalk Arcade, A Few Isolated Areas, Rather Than A Professionally Conserved Landscape The Way National Monuments Are Typically Designated.”** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday proposed significantly scaling back the borders of a national monument in southeastern Utah, in a legally unprecedented move that opponents say violates a century-old law signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. [...] But opponents of the boundary reductions said that Mr. Zinke’s description of the area that would still be eligible for protection appeared to account only for a small fraction of the acres designated by Mr. Obama. ‘If you look at a map, that area is only about 5 percent of the monument area,’ said Adam Sarvana, a spokesman for Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee. ‘It seems like what they’re describing is a few stops on a boardwalk arcade, a few isolated areas, rather than a professionally conserved landscape the way national monuments are typically designated,’ Mr. Sarvana said.” [New York Times, 6/12/17]

**June 2017: Heidi McIntosh, A Lawyer For The Environmental Group Earthjustice, Criticized Zinke’s Recommendation To Scale Back Bears Ears National Monument As A “Slap In The Face To The Five Sovereign Tribes Who Share Sacred Ties To This Land.”** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday proposed significantly scaling back the borders of a national monument in southeastern Utah, in a legally unprecedented move that opponents say violates a century-old law signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. [...] ‘Make no mistake: Unilaterally shrinking the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument would not only be a slap in the face to the five sovereign tribes who share sacred ties to this land, it would violate both the Antiquities Act and the separation of powers doctrine,’ said Heidi McIntosh, a lawyer for the advocacy group Earthjustice. ‘The president simply lacks the authority to change a national monument designation under the Antiquities Act, our country’s century-old law that protects some of our most scenic and historic landscapes.’” [New York Times, 6/12/17]

- **McIntosh: “Unilaterally Shrinking The Boundaries [...] Would Not Only Be A Slap In The Face To The Five Sovereign Tribes Who Share Sacred Ties To This Land, It Would Violate Both The Antiquities Act And The Separation Of Powers Doctrine.”** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday proposed significantly scaling back the borders of a national monument in southeastern Utah, in a legally unprecedented move that opponents say violates a century-old law signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. [...] ‘Make no mistake: Unilaterally shrinking the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument would not only be a slap in the face to the five sovereign tribes who share sacred ties to this land, it would violate both the Antiquities Act and the separation of powers doctrine,’ said Heidi McIntosh, a lawyer for the advocacy group Earthjustice. ‘The president simply lacks the authority to change a national monument designation under the Antiquities Act, our country’s century-old law that protects some of our most scenic and historic landscapes.’” [New York Times, 6/12/17]

**June 2017: Author Stephen Trimble Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For His Recommendation To Shrink Bears Ears National Monument As “One More Act Of Disrespect And Arrogance In A Story That Began In 1492.”** According to an op-ed by author Stephen Trimble in the Los Angeles Times, “Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke plans to advise President Trump to shrink Utah’s Bears Ears National Monument to a scatter of isolated sites. The secretary’s recommendation, announced last week, is one more act of disrespect and arrogance in a story that began in 1492. In December, President Obama proclaimed the Bears Ears monument, adding new protections for cultural resources on 1.35 million acres of public land in San Juan County, Utah, while preserving traditional uses for both Indians and ranchers. Native nations—especially the Hopi, Navajo, Zuni and two Ute tribes that make up the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition—led the campaign for the creation of the monument on what for them is ancestral, sacred land.” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 6/19/17]

- **Trimble: “When Zinke Came To Utah In May On A ‘Listening Tour,’ He Spent Just One Hour With The Leaders Of The Inter-Tribal Coalition And Several Days With Politicians Ferociously Intent On Undoing Obama’s Legacy.”** According to an op-ed by author Stephen Trimble in the Los Angeles Times, “When Zinke came to Utah in May on a ‘listening tour,’ he spent just one hour with the leaders of the Inter-



Tribal Coalition and several days with politicians ferociously intent on undoing Obama's legacy. One of them, Utah Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, dismissed seven years of grass-roots work by Indian people, in Indian country, who gathered the data necessary to propose significant protection for Bears Ears. The tribes, the GOP senator said, were 'manipulated' by the 'far left.' 'The Indians,' he said, 'they don't fully understand that a lot of the things that they currently take for granted on those lands, they won't be able to do.... Just take my word for it.'" [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 6/19/17]

- **Trimble Criticized Zinke For Meeting With Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, Who Claimed That “The Indians... They Don’t Fully Understand That A Lot Of The Things That They Currently Take For Granted On those Lands, They Won’t Be Able To Do... Just Take My Word For It.”** According to an op-ed by author Stephen Trimble in the Los Angeles Times, “When Zinke came to Utah in May on a ‘listening tour,’ he spent just one hour with the leaders of the Inter-Tribal Coalition and several days with politicians ferociously intent on undoing Obama’s legacy. One of them, Utah Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, dismissed seven years of grass-roots work by Indian people, in Indian country, who gathered the data necessary to propose significant protection for Bears Ears. The tribes, the GOP senator said, were ‘manipulated’ by the ‘far left.’ ‘The Indians,’ he said, ‘they don’t fully understand that a lot of the things that they currently take for granted on those lands, they won’t be able to do.... Just take my word for it.’” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 6/19/17]
- **Trimble: “But The Most Important Reason To Decry Zinke’s Capitulation To Utah’s Anti-Public-Lands Politicians Is That Diminishing The Monument Would Break Yet Another Government Commitment To The Native Nations.”** According to an op-ed by author Stephen Trimble in the Los Angeles Times, “Many reasons exist to cherish and sustain Bears Ears National Monument. Until the monument designation, this was the most important unprotected archaeological district in North America. It’s an untapped treasure of recreational, paleontological and ecologic resources, and conservation biologists have clearly established the importance of preserving it as a large landscape rather than isolated parcels. But the most important reason to decry Zinke’s capitulation to Utah’s anti-public-lands politicians is that diminishing the monument would break yet another government commitment to the Native nations. The American people, Congress and the president should insist that Bears Ears remains the monument envisioned by Navajo leader Willie Grayeyes, a place for Native people ‘to be respected, to be heard and to be understood.’” [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 6/19/17]

**August 2017: Utah Republican State Rep. Mike Noel Said That Shrinking Bears Ears Monument Would Be A Victory For The State.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Trump said in April that the goal of the review was to end ‘another egregious use of federal power’ and give the states more say in how public lands are used. Mike Noel, a Republican state representative in Utah, said that shrinking Bears Ears would be ‘a victory for our state.’ Federal management of land in his state had constrained drilling, mining and grazing, he said, adding that Washington had no business setting aside so much land. ‘When you turn the management over to the tree-huggers, the bird and bunny lovers and the rock lickers, you turn your heritage over,’ Mr. Noel said. Democratic lawmakers who oversee federal land management and whose districts include some of the monuments under review expressed dismay at the process and at Mr. Zinke’s decision not to make his recommendations public on Thursday.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]

- **Noel: “When You Turn The Management Over To The Tree-Huggers, The Bird And Bunny Lovers And The Rock Lickers, You Turn Your Heritage Over.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Trump said in April that the goal of the review was to end ‘another egregious use of federal power’ and give the states more say in how public lands are used. Mike Noel, a Republican state representative in Utah, said that shrinking Bears Ears would be ‘a victory for our state.’ Federal management of land in his state had constrained drilling, mining and grazing, he said, adding that Washington had no business setting aside so much land. ‘When you turn the management over to the tree-huggers, the bird and bunny lovers and the rock lickers, you turn your heritage over,’ Mr. Noel said. Democratic lawmakers who oversee federal land management and whose districts include some of the monuments under review expressed dismay at the process and at Mr. Zinke’s decision not to make his recommendations public on Thursday.” [New York Times, 8/24/17]



**December 2017: Leaked Documents Obtained From The Trump Administration Showed That Trump Planned To Announce Reducing The Size Of Bears Ears National Monument By 85 Percent.** The Denver Post reported, “President Donald Trump will announce plans next week to shrink two sprawling Utah national monuments by nearly two thirds, reversing actions taken by Democrat Barack Obama after a years long push by tribal leaders and environmental groups. Leaked documents obtained by The Associated Press show that Trump plans to shrink Bears Ears National Monument by nearly 85 percent and reduce Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument by almost half. The plan would cut the total amount of land in the state’s red rock country protected under monument status from more than 3.2 million acres (5,000 square miles) to about 1.2 million acres (1,875 square miles). Trump has told Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch and other Utah officials that he will follow the recommendation of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to shrink both monuments, but the White House and Zinke’s office have not offered details about how they’d redraw the monument boundaries.” [Denver Post, 12/1/17]

**December 2017: Trump Formally Ordered The Reduction Of Bears Ears National Monument By 85 Percent And Grand Staircase-Escalante To About 50 Percent Of Their Original Respective Sizes.** The New York Times reported, “President Trump sharply reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah on Monday by some two million acres, the largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation’s history. The administration shrank Bears Ears National Monument, a sprawling region of red rock canyons, by 85 percent, and cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size. The move, a reversal of protections put in place by Democratic predecessors, comes as the administration pushes for fewer restrictions and more development on public lands. The decision to reduce Bears Ears is expected to set off a legal battle that could alter the course of American land conservation, putting dozens of other monuments at risk and possibly opening millions of preserved public acres to oil and gas extraction, mining, logging and other commercial activities.” [New York Times, 12/4/17]

**December 2017: Outdoor Retailers, Including Patagonia And REI, Spoke Out Against Trump’s Plan To Reduce Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, “Patagonia, REI and other outdoor clothing and equipment retailers are speaking out against President Trump’s plan to slash the size of two national monuments in Utah by some two million acres. Mr. Trump on Monday announced that his administration would shrink Bears Ears National Monument, a region of red rock canyons, by 85 percent, and cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size. ‘The president stole your land,’ Patagonia said in a pop-up message on its website. ‘In an illegal move, the president just reduced the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history.’ Patagonia has been at the forefront of the outdoor recreation industry as the sector becomes increasingly politicized by the actions of Mr. Trump this year. On Tuesday, the company’s general counsel, Hilary Dessouky, said through a spokeswoman that the company planned to file a lawsuit on Wednesday challenging the president’s shrinking of the national monument.” [New York Times, 12/5/17]

- **December 2017 – Patagonia Pop-Up Message: “The President Stole Your Land. In An Illegal Move, The President Just Reduced The Size Of Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. This Is The Largest Elimination Of Protected Land In American History.”** The New York Times reported, “Patagonia, REI and other outdoor clothing and equipment retailers are speaking out against President Trump’s plan to slash the size of two national monuments in Utah by some two million acres. Mr. Trump on Monday announced that his administration would shrink Bears Ears National Monument, a region of red rock canyons, by 85 percent, and cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size. ‘The president stole your land,’ Patagonia said in a pop-up message on its website. ‘In an illegal move, the president just reduced the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history.’ Patagonia has been at the forefront of the outdoor recreation industry as the sector becomes increasingly politicized by the actions of Mr. Trump this year. On Tuesday, the company’s general counsel, Hilary Dessouky, said through a spokeswoman that the company planned to file a lawsuit on Wednesday challenging the president’s shrinking of the national monument.” [New York Times, 12/5/17]

**December 2017: Zinke Reposted A Tweet From The GOP-Led House Natural Resources Committee To His Official Account Which Said Patagonia Was “Lying” About Trump And Zinke Stealing Federal Land Illegally.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “On the day of Trump’s announcement about the monuments last week, the California-based retailer replaced its usual home page with a black screen and stark message: ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ Patagonia filed a suit to block the planned reduction to Utah’s Bears Ears National Monument. In a tweet, the House Natural Resources Committee said Patagonia is ‘lying’ and making the allegation about Trump’s plan ‘to sell more products to wealthy elitist urban dwellers from New York to San Francisco.’ The GOP-led panel also sent out a widely distributed email with the subject line: ‘Patagonia: don’t buy it.’” [Los Angeles Times, 12/12/17]

- **December 2017: Former Government Ethics Chief Walter Shaub Tweeted That Zinke Had “Misused His Official Position By Re-Tweeting This Wildly Inappropriate Tweet.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Zinke accused Patagonia of lying about Trump’s actions and retweeted the committee post on his official account. In response, former government ethics chief Walter Shaub launched a tweet storm, saying Zinke ‘misused his official position by re-tweeting this wildly inappropriate tweet.’ The committee may have violated House rules against advertising for or against a private individual, firm or corporation, Shaub said. ‘The federal govt officially and publicly calling a company a liar for political reasons is a bizarre and dangerous departure from civic norms. It’s also decidedly anti-free market,’ he tweeted. The confrontation could be paying off for Patagonia. Teresa Courage, a former Utah resident who now lives in New York, said on the company’s Facebook page that she did all her Christmas shopping at Patagonia because of its politics. ‘It speaks to me about its integrity,’ she told the Associated Press.” [Los Angeles Times, 12/12/17]

**December 2017: At Least Three Lawsuits Had Been Filed Challenging The Monument Reduction In Both The Grand Staircase And Bears Ears National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, “At least three lawsuits so far have been filed challenging the president’s decision. One lawsuit, filed in District Court in Washington, D.C., on Monday — by the Wilderness Society, Great Old Broads for Wilderness and eight other groups — is in defense of Grand Staircase. It named Mr. Trump, Mr. Zinke and Brian Steed, of the Bureau of Land Management, as defendants, saying Mr. Trump exceeded his authority under the Constitution and the Antiquities Act that established the monuments. A second suit also challenges the Grand Staircase decision, filed by paleontologists. A third lawsuit challenges the Bears Ears decision, and was filed by the five tribes who supported that monument: the Navajo, the Hopi, the Ute Mountain Ute, the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, and the Zuni. It questions Mr. Trump’s authority to use the Antiquities Act to modify or replace national monuments created by his predecessors.” [New York Times, 12/5/17]

**December 2017: Zinke Was “Defiant” During A Conference Call With Reporters About Monument Reduction Plans, saying, “I Don’t Yield To Pressure, Only Higher Principle. And Sound Public Policy Is Not Based On Threats Of Lawsuits. It’s Doing What’s Right.”** The Denver Post reported, “Patagonia replaced its usual home page Monday night with a stark message declaring, ‘The President Stole Your Land.’ The message called Trump’s actions to shrink Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments ‘illegal’ and the largest elimination of protected land in American history. Outdoor retailer REI also criticized Trump but in less harsh language. Zinke took a defiant tone in a conference call with reporters, saying, ‘I don’t yield to pressure, only higher principle. And sound public policy is not based on threats of lawsuits. It’s doing what’s right.’ Zinke argued that Bears Ears is still larger than Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks combined even after being downsized to about 202,000 acres (315 square miles) while Grand Staircase Escalante retains about 1 million acres (about 1,500 square miles.)” [Denver Post, 12/6/17]

**December 2017: A Coalition Of The Hopi, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, And Zuni Tribes And The Navajo Nation Sued To Challenge The Proposed Reductions To Bears Ears National Monument.** The Denver Post reported, “Environmental and conservation groups and a coalition of tribes filed lawsuits Monday that ensure Trump’s announcement is far from the final word in the yearslong battle over public lands in Utah and other Western states. The court cases are likely to drag on for years. A coalition of the Hopi, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute and Zuni tribes and the Navajo Nation sued late Monday to challenge the Bears Ears reduction, which cuts monument status for the



rugged land in southeastern Utah by about 85 percent. Bears Ears features thousands of American Indian artifacts, including ancient cliff dwellings and petroglyphs. The tribes argue that federal law gives presidents only the ability to create a national monument, not the ability to downsize one.” [Denver Post, 12/6/17]

**April 2017: Highest Elected Ute Indian Tribe Officer Shaun Champoos Said It Was “Offensive” For Politicians To Call Bears Ears Monument “An Abuse.”** The Washington Post reported, “We will participate in that process and make the argument for why these monuments have supported local communities and their economic vitality,” said Roberts, whose group hosted Zinke at an event Tuesday at the National Press Club. Other groups also voiced opposition. ‘As Tribes, we will gather ourselves together to continue the fight to save our lands for the future of not just Native people, but all people who connect with these lands,’ Shaun Champoos, the highest elected officeholder of the Ute Indian Tribe, said in a statement. ‘Bears Ears National Monument is more than just mere federal land to us, as it may be to many other stakeholders — it is a living landscape; it has a pulse. It is offensive for politicians to call the Bears Ears National Monument ‘an abuse.’” [Washington Post, [4/25/17](#)]

- **Champoos: “Bears Ears National Monument Is More Than Just Mere Federal Land To Us, As It May Be To Many Other Stakeholders — It Is A Living Landscape; It Has A Pulse.”** The Washington Post reported, “We will participate in that process and make the argument for why these monuments have supported local communities and their economic vitality,” said Roberts, whose group hosted Zinke at an event Tuesday at the National Press Club. Other groups also voiced opposition. ‘As Tribes, we will gather ourselves together to continue the fight to save our lands for the future of not just Native people, but all people who connect with these lands,’ Shaun Champoos, the highest elected officeholder of the Ute Indian Tribe, said in a statement. ‘Bears Ears National Monument is more than just mere federal land to us, as it may be to many other stakeholders — it is a living landscape; it has a pulse. It is offensive for politicians to call the Bears Ears National Monument ‘an abuse.’” [Washington Post, [4/25/17](#)]
- **Champoos: “It Is Offensive For Politicians To Call The Bears Ears National Monument ‘An Abuse.’”** The Washington Post reported, “We will participate in that process and make the argument for why these monuments have supported local communities and their economic vitality,” said Roberts, whose group hosted Zinke at an event Tuesday at the National Press Club. Other groups also voiced opposition. ‘As Tribes, we will gather ourselves together to continue the fight to save our lands for the future of not just Native people, but all people who connect with these lands,’ Shaun Champoos, the highest elected officeholder of the Ute Indian Tribe, said in a statement. ‘Bears Ears National Monument is more than just mere federal land to us, as it may be to many other stakeholders — it is a living landscape; it has a pulse. It is offensive for politicians to call the Bears Ears National Monument ‘an abuse.’” [Washington Post, [4/25/17](#)]

**Daily Inter Lake: “As Interior Secretary, Zinke Helped Spearhead The Trump Administration’s Deregulation Effort... Drastically Shrinking The Footprint Of The Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments In Utah.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “As Interior secretary, Zinke helped spearhead the Trump administration’s deregulation effort, weakening protections on migratory birds, opening up vast swaths of public land for oil and gas leases, and drastically shrinking the footprint of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

## ***Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument***

**August 2017: Zinke Submitted A Proposal To The White House That Recommended The Trump Administration Modify 10 National Monuments And Shrink At Least Four, Including Gold Butte In Nevada, Cascade-Siskiyou In Oregon, And Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante In Utah.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “In that original review, submitted to the White House in August 2017, Ryan Zinke, former secretary of the Interior, recommended the administration modify 10 national monuments and shrink at least four Western sites. Zinke had been instructed to conduct the survey by President Trump, in an executive order issued in April 2017. Trump told the department to investigate 27 monuments that had been created over the previous two decades, arguing that his predecessors had overstepped the authority granted to them by the Antiquities Act. [...] In





his memo to the White House, Zinke recommended shrinking the boundaries of four national monuments: Gold Butte in Nevada, Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon, and Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah. Reducing the protected acreage, Zinke argued, would restore ‘traditional uses,’ such as grazing, mining, hunting and timber production.” [Los Angeles Times, 2/22/19]

## ***Corporate Interests – Bears Ears***

**December 2017: Documents Obtained By The Washington Post Showed That Energy Fuels Resources USA Urged The Trump Administration To Limit Bears Ears Monument To The Smallest Size Necessary To Protect Key Areas To Make It Easier To Access Uranium Ore.** The Denver Post reported, “But the nation’s sole uranium processing mill sits directly next to the boundaries President Barack Obama designated a year ago when he established Bears Ears. The documents show that Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc., a subsidiary of a Canadian firm, urged the Trump administration to limit the monument to the smallest size needed to protect key objects and areas, such as archeological sites, to make it easier to access radioactive ore. Energy Fuels Resources did not just weigh in on national monuments through public comment letters. According to federal lobbying records, the company spent \$30,000 to hire a team of lobbyists at Faegre Baker Daniels led by Andrew Wheeler, who is awaiting Senate confirmation as the Environmental Protection Agency’s deputy secretary to work on the matter and other federal policies.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]

- **December 2017: A Uranium Company Had Launched A Lobbying Campaign To Shrink Bears Ears National Monument In Order To Obtain The Area’s Uranium Deposits.** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company launched a concerted lobbying campaign to scale back Bears Ears National Monument, saying such action would give it easier access to the area’s uranium deposits and help it operate a nearby processing mill, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and top Utah Republicans have said repeatedly that questions of mining or drilling played no role in President Donald Trump’s announcement Monday that he was cutting the site by more than 1.1 million acres, or 85 percent. Trump also signed a proclamation nearly halving the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, which is also in southern Utah and has significant coal deposits. ‘This is not about energy,’ Zinke told reporters Tuesday. ‘There is no mine within Bears Ears.’” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]
- **January 2018: Energy Fuels Wrote A Letter To The Interior Department Two Weeks After Zinke Visited Bears Ears National Monument Which Said There Were Other Known Uranium Deposits Within The Monument.** The New York Times reported, “Curtis Moore, an Energy Fuels spokesman, said the company had played only a small part in the decision to shrink Bears Ears. The company proposed scaling back the monument by just 2.5 percent, he said, and was prepared to support a ban within the rest of the original boundaries. Yet two weeks after Mr. Zinke’s visit, Energy Fuels wrote to the Interior Department arguing there were many other known uranium deposits within Bears Ears ‘that could provide valuable energy and mineral resources in the future’ and urging the department to shrink the monument away from any ‘existing or future operations.’ A bill introduced last month by Representative John Curtis, Republican of Utah, would codify Mr. Trump’s cuts to the monument while banning further drilling or mining within the original boundaries. But environmental groups say the bill has little chance of passing at all, let alone before the monument is scaled back next month.” [New York Times, 1/13/18]

**January 2018: A New York Times Investigation Found That There Were Over 300 Uranium Mining Claims Inside The Original Obama-Era Boundaries Of Bears Ears National Monument.** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company that is headquartered in Colorado ‘lobbied extensively’ for President Donald Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, according to an investigation in last Sunday’s New York Times. The implications of the story written by Hiroko Tabuchi were staggering: an area of long held federal land only recently protected by President Barack Obama at the end of his administration for its significance to five Native American tribes could one day be pocked with uranium mines. Tabuchi found that there are more than 300 uranium mining claims inside Obama’s boundaries for the national monument, nearly a third of which are tied to the Lakewood based Energy Fuels Resources. ‘The vast majority of those claims fall neatly outside the new boundaries of Bears





Ears,' Tabuchi wrote. Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers adamantly denies that his company played a major role in the decision to shrink the monument in southeast Utah from 1.35 million acres to two smaller monuments of a combined 228,000 acres." [Denver Post, 1/21/18]

- **The Investigation Found That A Majority Of The 300 Uranium Mining Claims Originally Inside Bears Ears National Monument Were “Neatly Outside” Zinke’s New Boundaries.** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company that is headquartered in Colorado ‘lobbied extensively’ for President Donald Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, according to an investigation in last Sunday’s New York Times. The implications of the story written by Hiroko Tabuchi were staggering: an area of long held federal land only recently protected by President Barack Obama at the end of his administration for its significance to five Native American tribes could one day be pocked with uranium mines. Tabuchi found that there are more than 300 uranium mining claims inside Obama’s boundaries for the national monument, nearly a third of which are tied to the Lakewood based Energy Fuels Resources. ‘The vast majority of those claims fall neatly outside the new boundaries of Bears Ears,’ Tabuchi wrote. Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers adamantly denies that his company played a major role in the decision to shrink the monument in southeast Utah from 1.35 million acres to two smaller monuments of a combined 228,000 acres.” [Denver Post, 1/21/18]
- **Denver Post: “A Uranium Company That Is Headquartered In Colorado ‘Lobbied Extensively’ For President Donald Trump To Reduce The Size Of Bears Ears National Monument. [...] There Are More Than 300 Uranium Mining Claims Inside Obama’s Boundaries For The National Monument, Nearly A Third Of Which Are Tied To The Lakewood Based Energy Fuels Resources.”** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company that is headquartered in Colorado ‘lobbied extensively’ for President Donald Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, according to an investigation in last Sunday’s New York Times. The implications of the story written by Hiroko Tabuchi were staggering: an area of long held federal land only recently protected by President Barack Obama at the end of his administration for its significance to five Native American tribes could one day be pocked with uranium mines. Tabuchi found that there are more than 300 uranium mining claims inside Obama’s boundaries for the national monument, nearly a third of which are tied to the Lakewood based Energy Fuels Resources. ‘The vast majority of those claims fall neatly outside the new boundaries of Bears Ears,’ Tabuchi wrote. Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers adamantly denies that his company played a major role in the decision to shrink the monument in southeast Utah from 1.35 million acres to two smaller monuments of a combined 228,000 acres.” [Denver Post, 1/21/18]
- **Denver Post: “Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers Adamantly Denies That His Company Played A Major Role In The Decision To Shrink The Monument In Southeast Utah From 1.35 Million Acres To Two Smaller Monuments Of A Combined 228,000 Acres.”** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company that is headquartered in Colorado ‘lobbied extensively’ for President Donald Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, according to an investigation in last Sunday’s New York Times. The implications of the story written by Hiroko Tabuchi were staggering: an area of long held federal land only recently protected by President Barack Obama at the end of his administration for its significance to five Native American tribes could one day be pocked with uranium mines. Tabuchi found that there are more than 300 uranium mining claims inside Obama’s boundaries for the national monument, nearly a third of which are tied to the Lakewood based Energy Fuels Resources. ‘The vast majority of those claims fall neatly outside the new boundaries of Bears Ears,’ Tabuchi wrote. Energy Fuels Resources President Mark Chalmers adamantly denies that his company played a major role in the decision to shrink the monument in southeast Utah from 1.35 million acres to two smaller monuments of a combined 228,000 acres.” [Denver Post, 1/21/18]

**December 2017: Zinke Told Reporters At Trump’s Announcement Of The Monument Reduction That “This Is Not About Energy. There Is No Mine Within Bears Ears.”** The Denver Post reported, “A uranium company launched a concerted lobbying campaign to scale back Bears Ears National Monument, saying such action would give it easier access to the area’s uranium deposits and help it operate a nearby processing mill, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and top Utah Republicans have said repeatedly that questions of mining or drilling played no role in President Donald Trump’s announcement Monday



that he was cutting the site by more than 1.1 million acres, or 85 percent. Trump also signed a proclamation nearly halving the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, which is also in southern Utah and has significant coal deposits. ‘This is not about energy,’ Zinke told reporters Tuesday. ‘There is no mine within Bears Ears.’” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]

**March 2018: Internal Agency Documents Obtained By The New York Times Revealed That The Interior Department Focused On The Potential For Oil And Gas Exploration When Making The Decision To Shrink The Boundaries Of Bear Ears National Monument.** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

- **March 2017: An Aide To Republican Senator Orrin Hatch Of Utah Sent A Proposed Boundary Change For The Bear Ears Monument To A Senior Interior Department Official.** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]
- **The Aide’s Email Referenced The Ability For Utah To Harvest Oil And Natural Gas Deposits Under The New Boundaries, Saying The Proposal Would “Resolve All Known Mineral Conflicts.”** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

- **April 2017: Zinke Publicly Began His Review Of National Monument Boundaries.** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]
- **December 2017: The Proposal Sent By The Aide Was Incorporated Almost Exactly Into The Reductions That Trump Announced.** The New York Times reported, “Even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as national monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show. The debate started as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in the southeastern corner of the state. Under a longstanding program in Utah, oil and natural gas deposits within the boundaries of the monument could have been used to raise revenue for public schools had the land not been under federal protection. ‘Please see attached for a shapefile and pdf of a map depicting a boundary change for the southeast portion of the Bears Ears monument,’ said the March 15 email from Senator Hatch’s office. Adopting this map would ‘resolve all known mineral conflicts,’ the email said, referring to oil and gas sites on the land that the state’s public schools wanted to lease out to bolster funds. The map that Mr. Hatch’s office provided, which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent.” [New York Times, 3/2/18]
- **2017: Zinke Claimed That There Was “Not Much” Oil And Gas Potential In The Bear Ears Area, So “Bear Ears Isn’t Really About Oil And Gas.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke has said that the agency review process made no presumptions about the outcomes. ‘We want to make sure that everyone’s voice is heard,’ Mr. Zinke said at a news conference in May during a visit to Bears Ears. He has also disputed that the review of Bears Ears was related to the potential for energy production, suggesting that the agency’s own surveys showed there was not a great deal of potential there. ‘We also have a pretty good idea of, certainly, the oil and gas potential — not much!’ Mr. Zinke said last year. ‘So Bears Ears isn’t really about oil and gas.’” [New York Times, 3/2/18]

## ***Corporate Interests – Grand Staircase-Escalante***

**March 2018: Internal Agency Documents Obtained By The New York Times Showed That The Interior Department Focused On Gaining Access To Coal Reserves When Deciding To Shrink The Size Of The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.** The New York Times reported, “The internal Interior Department emails — more than 25,000 pages in total — were obtained by The New York Times after it sued the agency in federal court with the assistance of the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic at Yale University



Law School. [...] The internal Interior Department emails and memos also show the central role that concerns over gaining access to coal reserves played in the decision by the Trump administration to shrink the size of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by about 47 percent, to just over 1 million acres. Mr. Zinke's staff developed a series of estimates on the value of coal that could potentially be mined from a section of Grand Staircase called the Kaiparowits plateau. As a result of Mr. Trump's action, major parts of the area are no longer a part of the national monument." [New York Times, 3/2/18]

- **Zinke's Staff Estimated The Value Of Coal That Could Be Mined From The Monument, With Several Memos Asking Staff To Prepare Reports And Reviews Of The Natural Resources Available Within The Monument.** The New York Times reported, "Mr. Zinke's staff developed a series of estimates on the value of coal that could potentially be mined from a section of Grand Staircase called the Kaiparowits plateau. As a result of Mr. Trump's action, major parts of the area are no longer a part of the national monument. 'The Kaiparowits plateau, located within the monument, contains one of the largest coal deposits in the United States,' an Interior Department memo, issued in the spring of 2017, said. About 11.36 billion tons are 'technologically recoverable,' it projected. From the start of the Interior Department review process, agency officials directed staff to figure out how much coal, oil and natural gas — as well as grass for cattle grazing and timber — had been put essentially off limits, or made harder to access, by the decision to designate the areas as national monuments. One memo, for example, asked Interior staff to prepare a report on each national monument, with a yellow highlighter on the documents emphasizing the need to examine in detail 'annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any).' It was followed up by a reminder to staff in June to also look at how the decision to create new National Monuments in Utah might have hurt area mines. 'Sorry about this, but this came from DOI late yesterday,' Timothy Fisher, the leader of the National Monuments and Conservation Areas program at Interior wrote to his colleagues, referring to the Department of Interior headquarters in Washington. 'Are there mines or processing facilities near or adjacent to a National Monument?' he wrote. He also asked how the protection of the federal lands may have affected mining." [New York Times, 3/2/18]
- **For Instance, One Memo Directed Interior Department Staff To Prepare A Report On How The Decision To Create The National Monument Harmed Mining In The Area.** The New York Times reported, "Mr. Zinke's staff developed a series of estimates on the value of coal that could potentially be mined from a section of Grand Staircase called the Kaiparowits plateau. As a result of Mr. Trump's action, major parts of the area are no longer a part of the national monument. 'The Kaiparowits plateau, located within the monument, contains one of the largest coal deposits in the United States,' an Interior Department memo, issued in the spring of 2017, said. About 11.36 billion tons are 'technologically recoverable,' it projected. From the start of the Interior Department review process, agency officials directed staff to figure out how much coal, oil and natural gas — as well as grass for cattle grazing and timber — had been put essentially off limits, or made harder to access, by the decision to designate the areas as national monuments. One memo, for example, asked Interior staff to prepare a report on each national monument, with a yellow highlighter on the documents emphasizing the need to examine in detail 'annual production of coal, oil, gas and renewables (if any) on site; amount of energy transmission infrastructure on site (if any).' It was followed up by a reminder to staff in June to also look at how the decision to create new National Monuments in Utah might have hurt area mines. 'Sorry about this, but this came from DOI late yesterday,' Timothy Fisher, the leader of the National Monuments and Conservation Areas program at Interior wrote to his colleagues, referring to the Department of Interior headquarters in Washington. 'Are there mines or processing facilities near or adjacent to a National Monument?' he wrote. He also asked how the protection of the federal lands may have affected mining." [New York Times, 3/2/18]

## ***Gold Butte National Monument***

**September 2017: Zinke Recommended Reducing The Size Of Gold Butte National Monument And Recommended To Change Management To Allow For "Traditional Use," Including Mining, Drilling, And Cattle Grazing.** The New York Times reported, "Mr. Zinke recommends changing the size of Gold Butte, a region





of Nevada described by Mr. Obama as a place of ‘chiseled red sandstone, twisting canyons and tree-clad mountains’ amid flat stretches of the Mojave Desert that hold ‘irreplaceable’ scientific resources. The designation was supported by Nevada Democrats, including Senator Harry Reid, but roundly criticized by Republicans as another ‘unilateral land-grab.’ The monument sits in the same county as the ranch of Cliven Bundy, the cattleman who has become a symbol of opposition to federal control of public lands. The secretary recommends revising the monument’s boundaries ‘to protect historic water rights’ but does not specify new borders. He also recommends changing management to allow for ‘traditional use,’ which could include mining, drilling and increased grazing.” [New York Times, 9/19/17]

**August 2017: Zinke Submitted A Proposal To The White House That Recommended The Trump Administration Modify 10 National Monuments And Shrink At Least Four, Including Gold Butte In Nevada, Cascade-Siskiyou In Oregon, And Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante In Utah.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “In that original review, submitted to the White House in August 2017, Ryan Zinke, former secretary of the Interior, recommended the administration modify 10 national monuments and shrink at least four Western sites. Zinke had been instructed to conduct the survey by President Trump, in an executive order issued in April 2017. Trump told the department to investigate 27 monuments that had been created over the previous two decades, arguing that his predecessors had overstepped the authority granted to them by the Antiquities Act. [...] In his memo to the White House, Zinke recommended shrinking the boundaries of four national monuments: Gold Butte in Nevada, Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon, and Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah. Reducing the protected acreage, Zinke argued, would restore ‘traditional uses,’ such as grazing, mining, hunting and timber production.” [Los Angeles Times, 2/22/19]

## ***New Monuments***

**December 2017: Zinke Proposed Creating National Monuments At Badger Two Medicine In Montana, A Civil War Camp In Kentucky, And Medgar Evers’s Mississippi Home.** The Denver Post reported, “Even as it clashes with American Indians over reductions to national monuments in the Southwest, the Trump administration is engaging with a Montana tribe over the creation of a new monument on the border of its reservation. The Blackfeet Indian Tribe has long fought oil and gas drilling and other development within the Badger Two Medicine area a mountainous expanse bordering Glacier National Park that’s sacred to the tribe. Blackfeet Chairman Harry Barnes said protection of that 200 square mile area is paramount. But he sees a ‘workable solution’ in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s proposal to co manage the area with the tribe. Zinke says he’d seek co congressional approval for the co management proposal, part of his recommendation to create national monuments at Badger Two Medicine and two other sites a Civil War camp in Kentucky and the Mississippi home of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.” [Denver Post, 12/10/17]

**2018: Zinke Designated Camp Nelson, A Union Army Camp That Became A Hub For Black Soldiers Who Joined The Civil War After Escaping From Slavery, As A National Monument.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “When Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation to free slaves during the Civil War, it did not apply to Kentucky, a slave state that did not join the Confederacy. But Elijah P. Marrs did not want to wait. He escaped slavery in September 1864 to join the Union Army in Louisville and told some of his fellow slaves, ‘We might as well go.’ ‘If we staid at home we would be murdered,’ he wrote in his autobiography. ‘If we joined the army and were slain in battle, we would at least die fighting for principle and freedom.’ Marrs was one of about 10,000 African Americans who eventually came to Camp Nelson in central Kentucky, a Union Army depot during the Civil War that became a recruiting center for black soldiers and a refugee camp for their families. Saturday, the camp became the country’s latest national monument, the first area to gain the designation under President Trump. ‘The story here is a story about fighting for freedom in a slave, Union state,’ Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said at the ceremony. ‘We don’t hide from history. We learn from history. This history is an important part of the American history and story.’” [Los Angeles Times, 10/28/18]

**Zinke Proposed A New National Monument In Badger-Two Medicine In Montana.** The New York Times reported, “When Mr. Zinke has carved out protections, they have often been in Montana. On the same day that he





wrote to Mr. Trump to reduce two national monuments in Utah — a major disappointment for five southwestern tribes — he suggested the president consider a new one in the Badger-Two Medicine, an area many Montanans have sought to guard for years.” [New York Times, 4/16/18]

### ***Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument***

**September 2017: Zinke Recommended Allowing Commercial Fishing In The Northeast Canyons And Seamounts National Monument.** The New York Times reported, “Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Current size: 3.14 million acres Designated by Barack Obama, 2016 Recommendation: Modify management plan Mr. Zinke calls on the president to alter the monument’s proclamation to allow for commercial fishing. Current management prohibits this, with the exception of red crab and American lobster fisheries. Designated by Mr. Obama in 2016, the monument sits about 130 miles southeast of Cape Cod, Mass. In his declaration, Mr. Obama noted that the protected area is home to at least 54 species of coral that ‘together with other structure-forming fauna such as sponges and anemones, create a foundation for vibrant deep-sea ecosystems.’ ‘These habitats,’ he noted, ‘are extremely sensitive to disturbance from extractive activities.’” [New York Times, 9/19/17]

### ***Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument***

**September 2017: Zinke’s Monument Reduction Plan Proposed Reducing The Boundaries Of The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument To Allow For Commercial Fishing To Resume.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “The Zinke plan, if adopted, will have limited effect in California. Only one of the monuments targeted, the Cascade-Siskiyou on the Oregon border, has land in the state. Zinke did not specify in his 19-page memorandum how the boundaries of that or any of the other public lands targeted should be changed. But the impact on the West overall would be dramatic. The other monuments Zinke is proposing to shrink include Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah, which together encompass 3.2 million acres. Zinke is also urging a downsizing of the nearly 297,000-acre Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada. Under Zinke’s plan, the boundaries of the 584,000-square-mile Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument would be reduced so that commercial fishing could resume in the territory. The monument, which encompasses seven atolls and islands, is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as ‘one of the last frontiers and havens for wildlife in the world.’” [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

- **September 2017: The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument Was Described By The U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service As “One Of The Last Frontiers And Havens For Wildlife In The World.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “The Zinke plan, if adopted, will have limited effect in California. Only one of the monuments targeted, the Cascade-Siskiyou on the Oregon border, has land in the state. Zinke did not specify in his 19-page memorandum how the boundaries of that or any of the other public lands targeted should be changed. But the impact on the West overall would be dramatic. The other monuments Zinke is proposing to shrink include Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah, which together encompass 3.2 million acres. Zinke is also urging a downsizing of the nearly 297,000-acre Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada. Under Zinke’s plan, the boundaries of the 584,000-square-mile Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument would be reduced so that commercial fishing could resume in the territory. The monument, which encompasses seven atolls and islands, is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as ‘one of the last frontiers and havens for wildlife in the world.’” [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

### ***Patagonia Lawsuit***

**May 2018: Patagonia, The Outdoor Retailer, Sued Trump And Zinke For Their Decision To Shrink National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, “Working with a handful of local groups and the law firm Hogan Lovells, Patagonia filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Washington. The lawsuit named as defendants Mr. Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the secretary of agriculture, the director of the Bureau of Land Management and the chief of the Forest Service. And the argument was simple: The Antiquities Act of 1906 gave presidents the power to create national monuments. But it did not grant the power to reduce them. ‘For as much authority as it

gave to the president to create these monuments, Congress gave the president no authority to revoke or modify those monuments,' the lawsuit reads. 'Congress is the sole authority that can undertake such changes.' Patagonia's activism has made the company plenty of enemies over the years. Developers, the fossil fuel industry and lawmakers have all gone after the company, and this time was no exception. As Patagonia ramped up its campaign, the Trump administration hit back. Mr. Zinke and Republicans in Congress accused Patagonia of playing politics to sell more clothes, and the hashtag #BoycottPatagonia began circulating on Twitter." [New York Times, 5/5/18]

- **Patagonia Argued That The Executive Branch Lacked The Authority Under The Antiquities Act To Shrink National Monuments.** The New York Times reported, "Working with a handful of local groups and the law firm Hogan Lovells, Patagonia filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Washington. The lawsuit named as defendants Mr. Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the secretary of agriculture, the director of the Bureau of Land Management and the chief of the Forest Service. And the argument was simple: The Antiquities Act of 1906 gave presidents the power to create national monuments. But it did not grant the power to reduce them. 'For as much authority as it gave to the president to create these monuments, Congress gave the president no authority to revoke or modify those monuments,' the lawsuit reads. 'Congress is the sole authority that can undertake such changes.' Patagonia's activism has made the company plenty of enemies over the years. Developers, the fossil fuel industry and lawmakers have all gone after the company, and this time was no exception. As Patagonia ramped up its campaign, the Trump administration hit back. Mr. Zinke and Republicans in Congress accused Patagonia of playing politics to sell more clothes, and the hashtag #BoycottPatagonia began circulating on Twitter." [New York Times, 5/5/18]
- **The Lawsuit Lead To A Series Of Public Insults Between Patagonia And The Trump Administration, With Zinke Describing The Company As "Patagonia Made In China."** The New York Times reported, "As the fire spread north, Patagonia and the Trump administration sparred publicly. Mr. Chouniard, typically a recluse, took to the airwaves to bash Mr. Trump. 'This government is evil, and I'm not going to sit back and let evil win,' he said on CNN. Mr. Zinke hit back. 'You mean Patagonia made in China?' he said on a press call, accusing the company of playing politics in a gambit to sell more clothes. 'I think it's shameful and appalling that they would blatantly lie in order to gain money in their coffers.' Then on Fox Business Network, Mr. Zinke took issue with Patagonia's activism. 'They should focus on how to bring manufacturing back to this country, rather than lying to the public about losing federal land,' he said." [New York Times, 5/5/18]
- **Zinke: "I Think It's Shameful And Appalling That They Would Blatantly Lie In Order To Gain Money In Their Coiffers... They Should Focus On How To Bring Manufacturing Back To This Country, Rather Than Lying To The Public About Losing Federal Land."** The New York Times reported, "As the fire spread north, Patagonia and the Trump administration sparred publicly. Mr. Chouniard, typically a recluse, took to the airwaves to bash Mr. Trump. 'This government is evil, and I'm not going to sit back and let evil win,' he said on CNN. Mr. Zinke hit back. 'You mean Patagonia made in China?' he said on a press call, accusing the company of playing politics in a gambit to sell more clothes. 'I think it's shameful and appalling that they would blatantly lie in order to gain money in their coffers.' Then on Fox Business Network, Mr. Zinke took issue with Patagonia's activism. 'They should focus on how to bring manufacturing back to this country, rather than lying to the public about losing federal land,' he said." [New York Times, 5/5/18]

## ***Rose Atoll Marine National Monument***

**September 2017: Zinke's Monument Reduction Plan Proposed Resuming Commercial Fishing In The Rose Atoll Marine National Monument.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Under Zinke's plan, the boundaries of the 584,000-square-mile Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument would be reduced so that commercial fishing could resume in the territory. The monument, which encompasses seven atolls and islands, is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as 'one of the last frontiers and havens for wildlife in the world.' Zinke also wants commercial fishing to resume within the 13,451-square-mile Rose Atoll Marine National Monument near American Samoa, which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration describes as 'one of the most pristine atolls in the world.' Like Pacific Remote Islands, it provides refuge to a number of endangered and



threatened species. The White House is refusing to comment and has not said when it will make a final determination. ‘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,’ Zinke wrote in his memo to President Trump, who ordered the review of the monuments. He concluded that Trump has the authority to unilaterally change the boundaries of monuments.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

- **September 2017: The National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration Described Rose Atoll Marine National Monument As “One Of The Most Pristine Atolls In The World,” With The Monument Providing Refuge To Multiple Endangered And Threatened Species.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Under Zinke’s plan, the boundaries of the 584,000-square-mile Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument would be reduced so that commercial fishing could resume in the territory. The monument, which encompasses seven atolls and islands, is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as ‘one of the last frontiers and havens for wildlife in the world.’ Zinke also wants commercial fishing to resume within the 13,451-square-mile Rose Atoll Marine National Monument near American Samoa, which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration describes as ‘one of the most pristine atolls in the world.’ Like Pacific Remote Islands, it provides refuge to a number of endangered and threatened species. The White House is refusing to comment and has not said when it will make a final determination. ‘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,’ Zinke wrote in his memo to President Trump, who ordered the review of the monuments. He concluded that Trump has the authority to unilaterally change the boundaries of monuments.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/19/17]

## ***Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area***

**2018: Zinke Testified Against The Rim Of The Valley Corridor Preservation Act, Which Would Have Doubled The Size Of The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, In A Senate Committee Hearing.** The Orange County Register reported, “The Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, authored by Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, more than doubles the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by adding 191,000 acres in a ring of wild lands surrounding the San Fernando Valley. [...] His proposal also ran into a roadblock during the Trump administration in 2018 when Zinke and Paul Daniel Smith, then acting chief of the National Park Service, testified in a Senate committee ‘the Department does not support enacting this proposed expansion at this time.’” [Orange County Register, 3/1/21]

## **National Parks**

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### ***Board Resignations***

**January 2018: The Majority Of The National Parks System Advisory Board Jointly Resigned To Protest The Trump Administration’s Management Of National Parks.** The New York Times reported, “The majority of members of the National Parks System Advisory Board, which advises the federal government on management of the country’s national parks, have jointly resigned to protest Trump administration policies that the board members say have ignored science, squelched efforts to address climate change and undermined environmental protections. The advisory board was established in 1935 to advise the secretary of the interior, who oversees management of the country’s national parks and monuments. Since taking office last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has come under criticism from environmental advocates for promoting President Trump’s agenda of opening up the nation’s public lands and waters to fossil-fuel exploration, and for reducing the protection of public monuments.” [New York Times, 1/16/18]

- **Resigning National Parks System Advisory Board President Tony Knowles: “From All Of The Events Of This Past Year I Have A Profound Concern That The Mission Of Stewardship, Protection, And Advancement Of Our National Parks Has Been Set Aside.”** The New York Times reported, “This month

Mr. Zinke announced a plan to open up the majority of the nation's coastlines to offshore drilling. And in December, the administration reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, by some two million acres, the largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation's history. 'From all of the events of this past year I have a profound concern that the mission of stewardship, protection, and advancement of our National Parks has been set aside,' wrote Tony Knowles, the head of the advisory board, in a resignation letter dated Monday that was co-signed by eight other members of the 12-member panel. The Washington Post first reported the letter. 'We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned,' Mr. Knowles said in an interview. Mr. Zinke, he said, 'appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem.'" [New York Times, 1/16/18]

- **Knowles: "We Resigned Because We Were Deeply Disappointed With The Department And We Were Concerned... [Zinke] Appears To Have No Interest In Continuing The Agenda Of Science, The Effect Of Climate Change, Pursuing The Protection Of The Ecosystem."** The New York Times reported, "This month Mr. Zinke announced a plan to open up the majority of the nation's coastlines to offshore drilling. And in December, the administration reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, by some two million acres, the largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation's history. 'From all of the events of this past year I have a profound concern that the mission of stewardship, protection, and advancement of our National Parks has been set aside,' wrote Tony Knowles, the head of the advisory board, in a resignation letter dated Monday that was co-signed by eight other members of the 12-member panel. The Washington Post first reported the letter. 'We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned,' Mr. Knowles said in an interview. Mr. Zinke, he said, 'appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem.'" [New York Times, 1/16/18]

**January 2018: Coalition To Protect America's National Parks Chairman Phil Francis Criticized Zinke's Treatment Of National Parks Board Members As "Discourteous And Disrespectful."** The New York Times reported, "We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned,' Mr. Knowles said in an interview. Mr. Zinke, he said, 'appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem.' Mr. Knowles said that Mr. Zinke has refused to meet with his board during his tenure. Phil Francis, chairman of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, an advocacy group of current and former national park employees, said Tuesday evening, 'This discourteous and disrespectful treatment of the Board is inexcusable and, unfortunately, consistent with a decidedly anti-park pattern demonstrated by Secretary Zinke's department.' An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to an emailed request for comment. Mr. Zinke has sought to portray himself as a champion of national parks and has compared himself to Theodore Roosevelt, the founder of the national parks system." [New York Times, 1/16/18]

- **Francis: "This Discourteous And Disrespectful Treatment Of The Board Is Inexcusable And, Unfortunately, Consistent With A Decidedly Anti-Park Pattern Demonstrated By Secretary Zinke's Department."** The New York Times reported, "We resigned because we were deeply disappointed with the department and we were concerned,' Mr. Knowles said in an interview. Mr. Zinke, he said, 'appears to have no interest in continuing the agenda of science, the effect of climate change, pursuing the protection of the ecosystem.' Mr. Knowles said that Mr. Zinke has refused to meet with his board during his tenure. Phil Francis, chairman of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, an advocacy group of current and former national park employees, said Tuesday evening, 'This discourteous and disrespectful treatment of the Board is inexcusable and, unfortunately, consistent with a decidedly anti-park pattern demonstrated by Secretary Zinke's department.' An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to an emailed request for comment. Mr. Zinke has sought to portray himself as a champion of national parks and has compared himself to Theodore Roosevelt, the founder of the national parks system." [New York Times, 1/16/18]





**January 2018: Following The Mass Resignation Of The National Parks Advisory Board, Center For Western Priorities Spokesman Aaron Weiss Criticized Zinke For Listening To “Oil And Gas And Uranium Companies.”** The Denver Post reported, “‘It is patently false to say the department had not engaged the board when as recently as Jan. 8, we were working with the board to renew their charter, schedule a meeting, and fill vacancies,’ Willens said in a statement issued Wednesday, noting that the department would be filling the vacancies ‘with people who are actually dedicated to working with the department to better our national parks.’ Willens said the resignations of some of the advisory board members’ were a ‘hollow and dishonest political stunt.’ The marginalization of yet another on the ground advisory group is fueling the fight against Zinke, who is facing mounting criticism for shrinking national monuments in Utah and collaborating with businesses that want to operate on public lands. ‘Secretary Zinke has made it clear who he is listening to and that is oil and gas and uranium companies. Everything he has done has been through that lens,’ said Aaron Weiss, a spokesman for the Center for Western Priorities. ‘The resignations on Monday are just par for the course. It’s just amateur hour over there.’” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

- **Weiss: “Secretary Zinke Has Made It Clear Who He Is Listening To And That Is Oil And Gas And Uranium Companies. Everything He Has Done Has Been Through That Lens. The Resignations On Monday Are Just Par For The Course. It’s Just Amateur Hour Over There.”** The Denver Post reported, “‘It is patently false to say the department had not engaged the board when as recently as Jan. 8, we were working with the board to renew their charter, schedule a meeting, and fill vacancies,’ Willens said in a statement issued Wednesday, noting that the department would be filling the vacancies ‘with people who are actually dedicated to working with the department to better our national parks.’ Willens said the resignations of some of the advisory board members’ were a ‘hollow and dishonest political stunt.’ The marginalization of yet another on the ground advisory group is fueling the fight against Zinke, who is facing mounting criticism for shrinking national monuments in Utah and collaborating with businesses that want to operate on public lands. ‘Secretary Zinke has made it clear who he is listening to and that is oil and gas and uranium companies. Everything he has done has been through that lens,’ said Aaron Weiss, a spokesman for the Center for Western Priorities. ‘The resignations on Monday are just par for the course. It’s just amateur hour over there.’” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

## ***Entrance Fee***

**October 2017: Zinke Announced An Increased Peak Season Gate Fee At The 17 Busiest National Parks From \$30 To \$70.** The Denver Post reported, “A year after celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with record crowds, the National Park Service is proposing steep increases in entry fees, more than doubling the peak season gate fee to \$70 at Rocky Mountain National Park and the 16 other busiest parks. The ‘targeted fee increases’ are intended to fund overdue improvements to aging infrastructure, including park roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, restrooms and visitor centers, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a statement announcing the proposal. ‘We need to have the vision to look at the future of our parks and take action in order to ensure that our grandkids’ grandkids will have the same if not better experience than we have today,’ Zinke said. ‘Shoring up our parks’ aging infrastructure will do that. ‘Rocky Mountain National Park two years ago raised the cost of its weekly vehicle pass to \$30 from \$20. On Jan. 1, the park raised the annual pass fee to \$60 from \$50 but kept its weekly vehicle pass at \$30.’” [Denver Post, 10/25/17]

**November 2017: The Center For Western Priorities’ Aaron Weiss Criticized Zinke For Raising National Park Entrance Fees To Address A Maintenance Backlog.** The Denver Post reported, “The push to raise fees 16 of the 17 parks already raised entrance prices in 2015 after several months of public review is part of an effort to address \$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance. The Park Service estimates the fee increase could raise \$70 million a year for those delayed projects. Some park advocates argue that the extra large figure for deferred work is blown out of proportion to support a push for more fees and park concessionaires and, ultimately, more private control of public lands. The Park Service’s 2015 inventory of assets showed that about \$2 billion of that deferred maintenance was ‘critical or serious’ and ‘located in critical asset components.’ And about half of the deferred maintenance (\$5.97 billion) was for paved roads, which are typically addressed in federal infrastructure funding bills. ‘This is





not a solution to the parks maintenance backlog, and it's laughable for (Interior Secretary Ryan) Zinke to pretend the fee hike would even make a dent in it,' said Aaron Weiss, who is with the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, noting that \$70 million a year would take 170 years to fill the maintenance backlog. 'This is simply a move to make America's most popular national parks less accessible to middle and lower income families.'" [Denver Post, 11/4/17]

- **Weiss: "This Is Not A Solution To The Parks Maintenance Backlog, And It's Laughable For Zinke To Pretend The Fee Hike Would Even Make A Dent In It... This Is Simply A Move To Make America's Most Popular National Parks Less Accessible To Middle And Lower Income Families."** The Denver Post reported, "The push to raise fees 16 of the 17 parks already raised entrance prices in 2015 after several months of public review is part of an effort to address \$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance. The Park Service estimates the fee increase could raise \$70 million a year for those delayed projects. Some park advocates argue that the extra large figure for deferred work is blown out of proportion to support a push for more fees and park concessionaires and, ultimately, more private control of public lands. The Park Service's 2015 inventory of assets showed that about \$2 billion of that deferred maintenance was 'critical or serious' and 'located in critical asset components.' And about half of the deferred maintenance (\$5.97 billion) was for paved roads, which are typically addressed in federal infrastructure funding bills. 'This is not a solution to the parks maintenance backlog, and it's laughable for (Interior Secretary Ryan) Zinke to pretend the fee hike would even make a dent in it,' said Aaron Weiss, who is with the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, noting that \$70 million a year would take 170 years to fill the maintenance backlog. 'This is simply a move to make America's most popular national parks less accessible to middle and lower income families.'" [Denver Post, 11/4/17]

**2017: Zinke Announced Plans To Increase Fees At 17 National Parks, Including More Than Doubling The Rate For Cars At Rocky Mountain National Park.** According to an op-ed in the Denver Post, "Last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced plans to increase fees at 17 national parks, mostly in the West. The list included Rocky Mountain National Park, right in Denver's backyard. Rates would have more than doubled to \$70 for cars during peak season. Bikers, pedestrians and motorcyclists also would have seen increases this year. At Rocky Mountain, a weekly vehicle pass costs \$30 during the peak season of June to October. Jumping to \$70, then, is a significant increase. The plan also would have eliminated the \$20 daily pass, a cost effective option for day trippers." [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 4/6/18]

- **The Department Retracted The Proposal In Response To Public Backlash.** According to an op-ed in the Denver Post, "Last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced plans to increase fees at 17 national parks, mostly in the West. The list included Rocky Mountain National Park, right in Denver's backyard. [...] Happily, Americans reacted strongly against the changes in their written comments, and the Interior Department backpedaled." [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 4/6/18]

**Zinke Proposed Doubling National Park Entrance Fees While He Was Under Investigation For Spending More Than \$12,000 On A Private Jet Flight.** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, "And let's not even get into how he proposed doubling National Park entrance fees (while he faced ethics investigations for spending more than \$12,000 on a private jet flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish). Zinke has long branded himself as a 'Teddy Roosevelt' Republican — false advertising. Teddy Roosevelt's great-grandson publicly rebuked this claim." [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

## **Restoration**

**March 2018: Zinke Announced That He Partnered With Congress To Provide \$18 Billion In Funding For National Park Restoration Projects, With Revenue Derived From Energy Produced On Public Lands.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "The next day, however, Zinke announced that he had partnered with Congress on a proposed bipartisan bill to fund national park restoration projects with \$18 billion in revenue derived from energy



produced on public lands. It remains to be seen whether the bill, if approved, could serve as an inducement for investments in solar and wind projects.” [Los Angeles Times, 3/16/18]

## **Scorecards**

**October 2016: The National Parks Action Fund, An Arm Of The National Parks Conservation Association, Issued Zinke An “F” Rating Based On His Votes.** According to Hungry Horse News, “A national parks advocacy group has given failing grades to Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke and Steve Daines for their votes over the past year on Park Service related issues. The National Parks Action Fund, a non profit lobbying arm of the National Parks Conservation Association, graded lawmakers on what it said were votes on bills or amendments that ‘would directly impact national parks, their visitors, wildlife and/or other natural resources.’ The report graded House members on 11 votes in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, which included bills that would prevent mining runoff from entering national parks, would limit the creation of new national monuments, would cut park funding and several other measures. Montana Congressmen Ryan Zinke received a grade of ‘F’ on his votes, the group charged. Zinke did, however, vote against a decrease in Park Service funding, the group noted.” [Hungry Horse News, 10/10/16]

## **NorthWestern Energy & Colstrip**

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**September 2016: Zinke Said He Supported The Colstrip Power Plant, Arguing That Federal Over-Regulation Was More Harmful To The Plant Than Market Forces And That The Loss Of The Plant Would Increase The Cost Of Electricity To Major Manufacturers In Montana.** The Montana Standard reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties’ presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] Zinke enthusiastically said he supported the pipeline. ‘Let me show you a little leadership. The answer is yes,’ he said. ‘The Keystone pipeline was the most greatest, smartest engineered product in the history of the nation. It was safe. Even the EPA said it was safe.’ Colstrip, which lies east of Billings, played a large role in the night’s questions. A moderator asked why not leave the future of the coal-fired power plant in the hands of the market, namely low natural gas prices that make it cheaper to produce electricity in natural gas-fired plants. Zinke said federal over-regulation is more harmful to Colstrip than market forces. He said the loss of Colstrip would bring up the cost of electricity to major manufacturers in Montana, including the refinery in Billings. ‘Colstrip is the heartbeat of it.’” [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

**2023: Zinke Introduced An Amendment To Shield NorthWestern Energy’s Colstrip Coal Power Plant From EPA Emissions Standards Requiring The Recapture Of Mercury Emissions And Other Toxic Pollutants.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The committee majority also voted to block the EPA from spending money on a retool of the Mercury Air Toxics Standards, a now decade-old law that required the capture of mercury emissions and other hazardous air pollutants. Several owners of small coal-fired power plants chose to shut down rather than add the necessary pollution controls. Tougher pollution rules could be costly for Colstrip The new MATS rule would further tighten restrictions on mercury and hazardous air pollutants known to cause cancer and other serious health problems. Colstrip Power Plant owners Talen Energy and NorthWestern Energy told EPA this spring that they would likely shut down the power plant rather than comply. Four other owners of the southeast Montana power plant remained silent on the matter. [...] Zinke amendments would delist grizzlies, shield Colstrip from tougher pollution standards.” [Billings Gazette, 7/20/23]

- **Zinke Criticized The EPA For Introducing A Rule That Could Cause The Colstrip Power Plant To Shut Down, Claiming The Rule Would Cause “High Priced Electricity And Brownouts.”** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “Potter told EPA that Colstrip would shut down rather than operate intermittently during times of peak demand. Montana’s congressional Republicans, Sen. Steve Daines and Reps. Matt Rosendale and Ryan Zinke were quick to blast the EPA’s proposed rule in May. Zinke suggested the rule would lead to ‘high priced electricity and brownouts.’” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 5/17/24]

**2022: Zinke Attacked His Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Over Her Lawsuit Against NorthWestern Energy Which She Said Prevented The Company From Folding The Rates For A Yet-To-Be-Built Gas Plant Into Consumer's Power Bills And From Putting The Cost Of Outages Onto Consumers.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Tranel, 56, points to her legal experience to give voters examples of how she's advocated for them, including a case where she blocked NorthWestern Energy from folding the rates for a yet-to-be-built gas plant into consumers' power bills and attempting to put the costs of outages onto consumers. [...] Zinke and his campaign war chest have spent time and money painting Tranel as an extremist liberal, citing everything from the lawsuit against NorthWestern and criticism of the clients she's represented to her support of access to abortion and a forceful forum performance in Missoula when Tranel took the microphone from Zinke's hand. She's taken heat for representing a convicted child sex offender seeking an appeal on claims of insufficient legal representation." [Billings Gazette, 10/16/22]

- **2022: Zinke Called Tranel An "Energy-Killing Expert" With "Fringe Environmental Views," Citing Her Lawsuit Against Northwestern Energy That Prevented It From Passing The Costs Of Building A New Gas Plant Onto Consumers Before Building The Facilities.** The Sidney Herald reported, "For his part, Zinke and his staff have described Tranel as 'an energy-killing expert' with 'fringe environmental views.' He's criticized a lawsuit she filed on behalf of three Missoulians and climate change advocacy group 350 Montana that prevented NorthWestern Energy from baking the costs of a new gas plant into customer rates before the facility had been built. 'Suing NorthWestern Energy to make sure that they can't build a natural gas facility to make up for when the wind doesn't blow is short-sighted and flat wrong,' he told MTFP, evoking a common Republican criticism of renewable energy projects: that their generation capacity is subject to the vagaries of weather." [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]
- **Zinke: "Suing NorthWestern Energy To Make Sure That They Can't Build A Natural Gas Facility To Make Up For When The Wind Doesn't Blow Is Short-Sighted And Flat Wrong."** The Sidney Herald reported, "For his part, Zinke and his staff have described Tranel as 'an energy-killing expert' with 'fringe environmental views.' He's criticized a lawsuit she filed on behalf of three Missoulians and climate change advocacy group 350 Montana that prevented NorthWestern Energy from baking the costs of a new gas plant into customer rates before the facility had been built. 'Suing NorthWestern Energy to make sure that they can't build a natural gas facility to make up for when the wind doesn't blow is short-sighted and flat wrong,' he told MTFP, evoking a common Republican criticism of renewable energy projects: that their generation capacity is subject to the vagaries of weather." [Sidney Herald, 9/25/22]

**2024: Zinke Criticized EPA Administrator Michael Regan For The Agency's Limits On Mercury And Air Toxics Emissions, Arguing That They Would Cause Northwestern Energy Power Bills To Increase \$1,000 Per Household Annually In Montana.** The Independent Record reported, "New federal limits on mercury and air toxics emissions are expected to increase NorthWestern Energy power bills by \$1,000 annually, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said Tuesday, chastising EPA for the tougher limits. Western Montana's Republican representative grilled EPA Administrator Michael Regan about the tighter pollution controls in a budget hearing Tuesday. Zinke's staff later sourced the consumer costs to NorthWestern Energy. 'You're aware that energy costs will go up by \$1,000 a family. So you add \$28,000, what the Bidenomics cost, and then another \$1,000 a year. So where are you going to get the power when you take that offline,' Zinke said." [Independent Record, 5/1/24]

- **Zinke: "You're Aware That Energy Costs Will Go Up By \$1,000 A Family... So Where Are You Going To Get The Power When You Take That Offline."** The Independent Record reported, "New federal limits on mercury and air toxics emissions are expected to increase NorthWestern Energy power bills by \$1,000 annually, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke said Tuesday, chastising EPA for the tougher limits. Western Montana's Republican representative grilled EPA Administrator Michael Regan about the tighter pollution controls in a budget hearing Tuesday. Zinke's staff later sourced the consumer costs to NorthWestern Energy. 'You're aware that energy costs will go up by \$1,000 a family. So you add \$28,000, what the Bidenomics cost, and then another \$1,000 a year. So where are you going to get the power when you take that offline,' Zinke said." [Independent Record, 5/1/24]

- **The EPA’s Administrator, Michael Regan, Said “Our Analysis Shows That That Rule Will Have, Over The Years, Less Than A 1% Increase In Energy Costs.”** The Independent Record reported, “‘I think we just disagree about the \$1,000 number, and I’m not quite sure of the underpinning of the \$28,000,’ Regan said. ‘But our analysis shows that that rule will have, over the years, less than a 1% increase in energy costs.’ At issue is EPA’s new threshold for mercury and air toxics, which was issued April 26. Built in the 1980s, Colstrip lacks the needed equipment to capture hazardous air pollutants, or HAPs, and mercury to proposed EPA levels. The power plant’s surviving two units have scrubbers specifically for sulfur dioxide, which as a co-benefit capture some HAPs. The units have activated carbon injection, or ACI, for mercury.” [Independent Record, 5/1/24]
- **Independent Record: “At Issue Is EPA’s New Threshold For Mercury And Air Toxics, Which Was Issued April 26. Built In The 1980s, Colstrip Lacks The Needed Equipment To Capture Hazardous Air Pollutants, Or Haps, And Mercury To Proposed EPA Levels.”** The Independent Record reported, “At issue is EPA’s new threshold for mercury and air toxics, which was issued April 26. Built in the 1980s, Colstrip lacks the needed equipment to capture hazardous air pollutants, or HAPs, and mercury to proposed EPA levels. The power plant’s surviving two units have scrubbers specifically for sulfur dioxide, which as a co-benefit capture some HAPs. The units have activated carbon injection, or ACI, for mercury. But the units don’t have a fabric-filter baghouse or electrostatic precipitators, as other power plants have, specifically for hazardous air pollutants or mercury. As early as 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy recognized that Colstrip emissions would improve with the addition of either technology.” [Independent Record, 5/1/24]
- **Regan Noted That The Colstrip Plant Was Being Asked To Add Emissions Controls That 93 Percent Of Other Power Plants Had Already Added, And That It Would Be Cost Beneficial.** The Independent Record reported, “The exchange between Zinke and Regan on Tuesday became heated as Regan tried to explain that Colstrip was being asked to add emissions controls that other power plants added years ago, while Zinke accused EPA of attacking Colstrip specifically with the new MATS rule. [...] Regan: ‘Our analysis shows it’s a cost benefit investment. That this is a cost available technology that 93%, again this is important, 93% of coal plants across the country are going to comply with this rule. Colstrip is consistently the highest emitter, the highest emitter in the country.’ The pollutants other than mercury targeted by the new rule include nickel, arsenic and lead. There are pollutants known to contribute to fatal heart attacks, cancer, and developmental delays in children. Nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide would also be cut according to EPA. Over 10 years, starting in 2028, net public health benefits would be \$2.4 billion to \$3 billion, according to EPA, while power plant owners nationwide would spend a combined \$200 million to \$300 million on compliance.” [Independent Record, 5/1/24]
- **Independent Record: “The Pollutants Other Than Mercury Targeted By The New Rule Include Nickel, Arsenic And Lead. There Are Pollutants Known To Contribute To Fatal Heart Attacks, Cancer, And Developmental Delays In Children.”** The Independent Record reported, “The exchange between Zinke and Regan on Tuesday became heated as Regan tried to explain that Colstrip was being asked to add emissions controls that other power plants added years ago, while Zinke accused EPA of attacking Colstrip specifically with the new MATS rule. [...] Regan: ‘Our analysis shows it’s a cost benefit investment. That this is a cost available technology that 93%, again this is important, 93% of coal plants across the country are going to comply with this rule. Colstrip is consistently the highest emitter, the highest emitter in the country.’ The pollutants other than mercury targeted by the new rule include nickel, arsenic and lead. There are pollutants known to contribute to fatal heart attacks, cancer, and developmental delays in children. Nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide would also be cut according to EPA. Over 10 years, starting in 2028, net public health benefits would be \$2.4 billion to \$3 billion, according to EPA, while power plant owners nationwide would spend a combined \$200 million to \$300 million on compliance.” [Independent Record, 5/1/24]
- **The EPA Estimated That Net Public Health Benefits From The New Mercury Rule Would Be Between \$2.4 Billion And \$3 Billion, While Power Plant Owners Would Spend \$200 Million To \$300 Million On Compliance Nationwide.** The Independent Record reported, “The exchange between Zinke and Regan on



Tuesday became heated as Regan tried to explain that Colstrip was being asked to add emissions controls that other power plants added years ago, while Zinke accused EPA of attacking Colstrip specifically with the new MATS rule. [...] Regan: ‘Our analysis shows it’s a cost benefit investment. That this is a cost available technology that 93%, again this is important, 93% of coal plants across the country are going to comply with this rule. Colstrip is consistently the highest emitter, the highest emitter in the country.’ The pollutants other than mercury targeted by the new rule include nickel, arsenic and lead. There are pollutants known to contribute to fatal heart attacks, cancer, and developmental delays in children. Nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide would also be cut according to EPA. Over 10 years, starting in 2028, net public health benefits would be \$2.4 billion to \$3 billion, according to EPA, while power plant owners nationwide would spend a combined \$200 million to \$300 million on compliance.” [Independent Record, 5/1/24]

## Public Lands

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### Commentary

**Independent Record Columnist Jock Conyngham: “I Choked On My Coffee When I Saw Ryan Zinke’s Campaign Piece Lying About His Record On Public Lands... Zinke Has — Through His Statements, Actions, Votes And Policies — Joined The Assault On America’s Public Lands And The Strong Drive To Transfer Or Sell The Lands That Support Out Hunting, Fishing, And Outdoor Culture.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “When someone who rigs his fly rod backwards promises you that he supports our public lands, think twice. I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ The truth is that Zinke has — through his statements, actions, votes and policies — joined the assault on America’s public lands and the strong drive to transfer or sell the lands that support out hunting, fishing, and outdoor culture. Zinke seems to think that Montanans will forget his support for multiple public land giveaways in his checkered political past. Well, we haven’t. Here are a few highlights from Zinke’s real record on public lands: — As a Montana state senator, Zinke signed a pledge showing his support for transferring public lands to the states, leading inevitably to the sale of Montana’s public lands to private interests. — On Zinke’s first day in Congress, he voted to change House rules to make it easier to transfer federal public lands to the highest bidder. — At the Interior Department, Zinke oversaw the administration’s largest reduction of public lands ever by shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante by nearly 2 million acres. The management plans also included selling off hundreds of acres while prioritizing oil and gas development.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

- **Conyngham: “As A Montana State Senator, Zinke Signed A Pledge Showing His Support For Transferring Public Lands To The States, Leading Inevitably To The Sale Of Montana’s Public Lands To Private Interests.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “When someone who rigs his fly rod backwards promises you that he supports our public lands, think twice. I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ The truth is that Zinke has — through his statements, actions, votes and policies — joined the assault on America’s public lands and the strong drive to transfer or sell the lands that support out hunting, fishing, and outdoor culture. Zinke seems to think that Montanans will forget his support for multiple public land giveaways in his checkered political past. Well, we haven’t. Here are a few highlights from Zinke’s real record on public lands: — As a Montana state senator, Zinke signed a pledge showing his support for transferring public lands to the states, leading inevitably to the sale of Montana’s public lands to private interests. — On Zinke’s first day in Congress, he voted to change House rules to make it easier to transfer federal public lands to the highest bidder. — At the Interior Department, Zinke oversaw the administration’s largest reduction of public lands ever by shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante by nearly 2 million acres. The management plans also included selling off hundreds of acres while prioritizing oil and gas development.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]
- **Conyngham: “On Zinke’s First Day In Congress, He Voted To Change House Rules To Make It Easier To Transfer Federal Public Lands To The Highest Bidder.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in



the Independent Record, “When someone who rigs his fly rod backwards promises you that he supports our public lands, think twice. I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ The truth is that Zinke has — through his statements, actions, votes and policies — joined the assault on America’s public lands and the strong drive to transfer or sell the lands that support out hunting, fishing, and outdoor culture. Zinke seems to think that Montanans will forget his support for multiple public land giveaways in his checkered political past. Well, we haven’t. Here are a few highlights from Zinke’s real record on public lands: — As a Montana state senator, Zinke signed a pledge showing his support for transferring public lands to the states, leading inevitably to the sale of Montana’s public lands to private interests. — On Zinke’s first day in Congress, he voted to change House rules to make it easier to transfer federal public lands to the highest bidder. — At the Interior Department, Zinke oversaw the administration’s largest reduction of public lands ever by shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante by nearly 2 million acres. The management plans also included selling off hundreds of acres while prioritizing oil and gas development.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

- **Conyngham: “At The Interior Department, Zinke Oversaw The Administration’s Largest Reduction Of Public Lands Ever By Shrinking The Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante By Nearly 2 Million Acres. The Management Plans Also Included Selling Off Hundreds Of Acres While Prioritizing Oil And Gas Development.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “When someone who rigs his fly rod backwards promises you that he supports our public lands, think twice. I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ The truth is that Zinke has — through his statements, actions, votes and policies — joined the assault on America’s public lands and the strong drive to transfer or sell the lands that support out hunting, fishing, and outdoor culture. Zinke seems to think that Montanans will forget his support for multiple public land giveaways in his checkered political past. Well, we haven’t. Here are a few highlights from Zinke’s real record on public lands: — As a Montana state senator, Zinke signed a pledge showing his support for transferring public lands to the states, leading inevitably to the sale of Montana’s public lands to private interests. — On Zinke’s first day in Congress, he voted to change House rules to make it easier to transfer federal public lands to the highest bidder. — At the Interior Department, Zinke oversaw the administration’s largest reduction of public lands ever by shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument & Grand Staircase Escalante by nearly 2 million acres. The management plans also included selling off hundreds of acres while prioritizing oil and gas development.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]
- **Conyngham: “His Cozy Relationship With Oil And Gas Has Come At The Expense Of Our Public Lands. When Given The Choice, He Always Throws Our Public Lands Under The Bus.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ [...] Time and time again, his cozy relationship with oil and gas has come at the expense of our public lands. When given the choice, he always throws our public lands under the bus. He is currently under investigation for a sweetheart real estate deal backed by the chairman of Halliburton, America’s largest oil-services company — all ironed out while he was at the helm of the Interior Department. Ethics experts call this a classic conflict of interest: the one benefiting financially from an energy company also regulates that industry on behalf of the American people.” [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]
- **Conyngham: “He Is Currently Under Investigation For A Sweetheart Real Estate Deal Backed By The Chairman Of Halliburton, America’s Largest Oil-Services Company — All Ironed Out While He Was At The Helm Of The Interior Department. Ethics Experts Call This A Classic Conflict Of Interest: The One Benefiting Financially From An Energy Company Also Regulates That Industry On Behalf Of The American People.”** According to a column by Jock Conyngham in the Independent Record, “I choked on my coffee when I saw Ryan Zinke’s campaign piece lying about his record on public lands in saying he ‘led the charge against the sale or transfer of public lands.’ [...] Time and time again, his cozy relationship with oil and



gas has come at the expense of our public lands. When given the choice, he always throws our public lands under the bus. He is currently under investigation for a sweetheart real estate deal backed by the chairman of Halliburton, America's largest oil-services company — all ironed out while he was at the helm of the Interior Department. Ethics experts call this a classic conflict of interest: the one benefiting financially from an energy company also regulates that industry on behalf of the American people." [Independent Record, Column, 10/10/21]

**2022: Zinke Claimed To Support Public Lands, But Was Criticized While Serving As Interior Secretary For Scrapping Obama-Era Rules Related To Oil, Gas, And Mining And Implemented The Largest Reduction Of Federal Land Protection In U.S. History.** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Campaign billboards in the valley tout Zinke's support for public lands, a message he reiterated while in Hamilton. 'I'm a big Teddy Roosevelt believer and oddly enough he was about 100 years ago,' he said. 'We live in the shadow of Roosevelt, because our outdoor experience in Montana comes from his labor is his legacy. So now we have that same responsibility to have the courage to look at the next 100 years and make sure the reason why we're in Montana stays the reason why we're in Montana.' Zinke was often criticized for his handling of public lands during his tenure as Interior Secretary. During his time at the lead, the Department of the Interior tossed Obama-era rules related to oil, gas and mining and implemented the largest reduction of federal land protection in U.S. history." [Ravalli Republic, 9/1/22]

- **Ravalli Republic: "In Montana, 'Mr. Zinke Has Struck A Different Note' On Public Lands, Halting The Sale Of Oil And Gas Leases Near Yellowstone National Park And Urging Protections For Montana's Upper Missouri River Breaks And Badger-Two Medicine."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Zinke was often criticized for his handling of public lands during his tenure as Interior Secretary. During his time at the lead, the Department of the Interior tossed Obama-era rules related to oil, gas and mining and implemented the largest reduction of federal land protection in U.S. history. But even as the New York Times has pointed out in 2018, in Montana, 'Mr. Zinke has struck a different note' on public lands, halting the sale of oil and gas leases near Yellowstone National Park and urging protections for Montana's Upper Missouri River Breaks and Badger-Two Medicine." [Ravalli Republic, 9/1/22]

## ***Conservation & Restoration***

**October 2018: Zinke Approved A \$3 Million Project To Redevelop Charlestown Navy Yard In Boston.** The Denver Post reported, "BOSTONInterior Secretary Ryan Zinke has announced plans to redevelop the old Navy yard in Boston that's home to the USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship still afloat. Zinke and Navy Secretary Richard Spencer visited the Charlestown Navy Yard on Friday to tout the approval of \$3 million in federal money for the effort." [Denver Post, 10/6/18]

**April 2018: Zinke Promised To Commit "Whatever It Takes" To Rebuild A Historic Chalet In Montana.** The New York Times reported, "And in recent weeks, Mr. Zinke has promised to commit 'whatever it takes' to rebuilding a cherished century-old backcountry chalet not far from here — a potentially expensive proposition that is sure to earn him points at home." [New York Times, 4/16/18]

**2023: Zinke Introduced An Amendment To Block Spending On A Program That Allowed Public Lands To Be Leased For Conservation And Restoration Efforts To Address Environmental Concerns.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke, who was former President Donald Trump's first secretary of The Interior, was credited for several funding restrictions that would block priorities of the current Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. Among the Zinke amendments is a block on spending for the 'Conservation and Landscape Health,' a rule that would allow public lands to be leased for conservation in the same way parcels are currently leased for oil and gas drilling, or livestock grazing. The Bureau of Land Management under the proposed rule is to identify land where there are critical environmental concerns and then issue leases to conservation groups for restoration or site mitigation." [Billings Gazette, 7/20/23]

## ***Forest Management***

**June 2016: Democratic Congressional Candidate Denise Juneau Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For Voting To Allow The Transfer Of Montana’s Public Land.** According to an op-ed in the Great Falls Tribune by Democratic Congressional candidate Denise Juneau, “But Congressman Ryan Zinke cannot truthfully say the same. Recently, Zinke voted to allow the transfer of Montana’s public land. The bill he supported would hand over management of our public land to politically-appointed advisory councils. Up to 200,000 acres of every national forest could be transferred out of our control. Under this measure, our national forest land would no longer be protected by national wildlife, clean-water and clean-air standards. And once in the hands of the un-elected advisory council, the land would be managed solely as a source of revenue. With short-term revenue as their sole motivation, you can bet that our forests would no longer be a ‘land of many uses.’ Instead, 2 million acres of public land in Montana would be unprotected and could even be put up for sale. Montanans who love to hunt, fish, hike and ride on our national forests are outraged, and so am I. Before he took this vote, Zinke told us he would never sell or transfer our public land. Then, after he voted, he quickly denied what he had done.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 6/28/16]

- **Juneau: “Recently, Zinke Voted To Allow The Transfer Of Montana’s Public Land. The Bill He Supported Would Hand Over Management Of Our Public Land To Politically-Appointed Advisory Councils. Up To 200,000 Acres Of Every National Forest Could Be Transferred Out Of Our Control.”** According to an op-ed in the Great Falls Tribune by Democratic Congressional candidate Denise Juneau, “But Congressman Ryan Zinke cannot truthfully say the same. Recently, Zinke voted to allow the transfer of Montana’s public land. The bill he supported would hand over management of our public land to politically-appointed advisory councils. Up to 200,000 acres of every national forest could be transferred out of our control. Under this measure, our national forest land would no longer be protected by national wildlife, clean-water and clean-air standards. And once in the hands of the un-elected advisory council, the land would be managed solely as a source of revenue. With short-term revenue as their sole motivation, you can bet that our forests would no longer be a ‘land of many uses.’ Instead, 2 million acres of public land in Montana would be unprotected and could even be put up for sale. Montanans who love to hunt, fish, hike and ride on our national forests are outraged, and so am I. Before he took this vote, Zinke told us he would never sell or transfer our public land. Then, after he voted, he quickly denied what he had done.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 6/28/16]
- **Juneau: “Before He Took This Vote, Zinke Told Us He Would Never Sell Or Transfer Our Public Land. Then, After He Voted, He Quickly Denied What He Had Done.”** According to an op-ed in the Great Falls Tribune by Democratic Congressional candidate Denise Juneau, “But Congressman Ryan Zinke cannot truthfully say the same. Recently, Zinke voted to allow the transfer of Montana’s public land. The bill he supported would hand over management of our public land to politically-appointed advisory councils. Up to 200,000 acres of every national forest could be transferred out of our control. Under this measure, our national forest land would no longer be protected by national wildlife, clean-water and clean-air standards. And once in the hands of the un-elected advisory council, the land would be managed solely as a source of revenue. With short-term revenue as their sole motivation, you can bet that our forests would no longer be a ‘land of many uses.’ Instead, 2 million acres of public land in Montana would be unprotected and could even be put up for sale. Montanans who love to hunt, fish, hike and ride on our national forests are outraged, and so am I. Before he took this vote, Zinke told us he would never sell or transfer our public land. Then, after he voted, he quickly denied what he had done.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 6/28/16]

**July 2016: Former Career Montana Fish, Wildlife, And Parks Employee Jim Posewitz Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For Supporting H.R. 2316.** According to an op-ed in the Great Falls Tribune by former career Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks employee and author Jim Posewitz, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke recently claimed that he was a ‘Teddy Roosevelt conservationist.’ He then voted for H.R. 2316, legislation that would transfer management of four million acres of national forests to state-appointed committees. These committees would be charged with stimulating commodity production, and the multiple-use principle for forests that Roosevelt championed would not apply. Given the impact Roosevelt had on Montana, it’s no wonder that our politicians want



to lay claim to his legacy. A closer look, however, suggests Rep. Zinke's 'conservation feet' are much too small to fit in Teddy's boots." [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 7/5/16]

- **Posewitz: "U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Recently Claimed That He Was A 'Teddy Roosevelt Conservationist.' He Then Voted For H.R. 2316, Legislation That Would Transfer Management Of Four Million Acres Of National Forests To State-Appointed Committees."** According to an op-ed in the Great Falls Tribune by former career Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks employee and author Jim Posewitz, "U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke recently claimed that he was a 'Teddy Roosevelt conservationist.' He then voted for H.R. 2316, legislation that would transfer management of four million acres of national forests to state-appointed committees. These committees would be charged with stimulating commodity production, and the multiple-use principle for forests that Roosevelt championed would not apply. Given the impact Roosevelt had on Montana, it's no wonder that our politicians want to lay claim to his legacy. A closer look, however, suggests Rep. Zinke's 'conservation feet' are much too small to fit in Teddy's boots." [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 7/5/16]
- **Posewitz: "A Closer Look, However, Suggests Rep. Zinke's 'Conservation Feet' Are Much Too Small To Fit In Teddy's Boots."** According to an op-ed in the Great Falls Tribune by former career Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks employee and author Jim Posewitz, "U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke recently claimed that he was a 'Teddy Roosevelt conservationist.' He then voted for H.R. 2316, legislation that would transfer management of four million acres of national forests to state-appointed committees. These committees would be charged with stimulating commodity production, and the multiple-use principle for forests that Roosevelt championed would not apply. Given the impact Roosevelt had on Montana, it's no wonder that our politicians want to lay claim to his legacy. A closer look, however, suggests Rep. Zinke's 'conservation feet' are much too small to fit in Teddy's boots." [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 7/5/16]
- **Posewitz: "Instead Of Voting For Bills That Diminish Roosevelt's Conservation Legacy, Perhaps Zinke Could Focus His Energy On Adequately Funding The Forest Service, So It Can Do The Job That Our Former President Intended For It To Do."** According to an op-ed in the Great Falls Tribune by former career Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks employee and author Jim Posewitz, "U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke recently claimed that he was a 'Teddy Roosevelt conservationist.' He then voted for H.R. 2316, legislation that would transfer management of four million acres of national forests to state-appointed committees. These committees would be charged with stimulating commodity production, and the multiple-use principle for forests that Roosevelt championed would not apply. Given the impact Roosevelt had on Montana, it's no wonder that our politicians want to lay claim to his legacy. A closer look, however, suggests Rep. Zinke's 'conservation feet' are much too small to fit in Teddy's boots." [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 7/5/16]

**December 2016: Center For Western Priorities Executive Director Jennifer Rokala Called Zinke's Stance On Public Lands "All Over The Map."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Zinke says he believes in 'multiple uses' for public lands and preserving them for posterity, yet what he has said and how he has voted have been hard to reconcile at times, according to many conservation groups. 'Congressman Ryan Zinke has been all over the map on public lands,' Jennifer Rokala, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Western Priorities, wrote on Tuesday. Rokala cited a pledge Zinke signed in 2012 to 'legally and administratively oppose' federal agencies and 'restore the rightful powers over the land to the state and private ownership,' an idea fiercely opposed by conservationists. This year, she noted, Zinke voted for a bill that would have transferred control of millions of acres of national forest land to states. However, he also resigned as a delegate to the Republican National Convention because the party platform supported transferring some public land to states." [Los Angeles Times, 12/15/16]

## ***Hammond Family***

**July 2018: At Zinke's Behest, Trump Pardoned Two Oregon Cattle Ranchers Who Were Convicted Of Arson On Federal Land.** The New York Times reported, "President Trump on Tuesday pardoned a pair of Oregon cattle ranchers who had been serving out five-year sentences for arson on federal land—punishments that inspired the armed occupation of a wildlife refuge in 2016 and brought widespread attention to anger over federal land





management in the Western United States. [...] The Hammond pardons were the result of a monthslong push by agricultural groups like the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had been among the ranchers' strongest supporters, according to the association's executive director, Jerome Rosa." [New York Times, 7/11/18]

**May 2019: Environmental Groups Sued The Federal Government To Block The Renewal Of A Grazing Permit For Hammonds Ranches Inc., Which Had Previously Been Granted By Zinke.** The Oregonian reported, "Three environmental advocacy groups Monday filed suit to block the renewal of a 10-year grazing permit for Hammond Ranches Inc., run by Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond. Western Watersheds Project, the Center for Biological Diversity and Wildearth Guardians filed a complaint in U.S. District Court in Pendleton against the interior secretary, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the district manager of the land bureau's Burns District office. The three groups argue that then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's renewal of the grazing permit after the Hammonds were issued pardons violated federal administrative regulations because it failed to consider the Hammonds' unsatisfactory record." [Oregonian, 5/14/19]

- **Hammon Ranches Was Run By Dwight Hammond Jr. And Steven Hammond, Who In 2012 Were Convicted Of Arson On Public Land.** The Oregonian reported, "Three environmental advocacy groups Monday filed suit to block the renewal of a 10-year grazing permit for Hammond Ranches Inc., run by Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond. [...] They were convicted in 2012 of arson on Harney County land where they had grazing rights for their cattle. They were ordered back to prison in early 2016 to serve out five-year sentences in a case that incited right-wing militias and inspired the 41-day armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, which abuts the Hammond family ranch. But on July 10, the Trump administration pardoned the father and son." [Oregonian, 5/14/19]
- **Trump Pardoned The Hammonds, Which Allowed Zinke To Issue A Permit Renewal For Hammond Ranches Through 2024.** The Oregonian reported, "Three environmental advocacy groups Monday filed suit to block the renewal of a 10-year grazing permit for Hammond Ranches Inc., run by Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond. [...] The three groups argue that then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's renewal of the grazing permit after the Hammonds were issued pardons violated federal administrative regulations because it failed to consider the Hammonds' unsatisfactory record. [...] On Jan. 29, Zinke ordered the permit renewal for Hammond Ranches Inc. to last through 2024. [...] But on July 10, the Trump administration pardoned the father and son." [Oregonian, 5/14/19]

**The Department Of The Interior Rejected The Hammonds' Permit Renewal Due To Their Criminal Convictions.** The Oregonian reported, "Three environmental advocacy groups Monday filed suit to block the renewal of a 10-year grazing permit for Hammond Ranches Inc., run by Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond. [...] On Jan. 29, Zinke ordered the permit renewal for Hammond Ranches Inc. to last through 2024. In February 2014, the federal agency rejected the Hammonds' renewal application, citing their criminal convictions for setting fire to public land." [Oregonian, 5/14/19]

**Environmental Organizations Argued That Zinke's Permit Renewal Failed To Consider The Hammonds' Record And Did Not Undergo Sufficient Environmental Assessment.** The Oregonian reported, "Three environmental advocacy groups Monday filed suit to block the renewal of a 10-year grazing permit for Hammond Ranches Inc., run by Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond. [...] The three groups argue that then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's renewal of the grazing permit after the Hammonds were issued pardons violated federal administrative regulations because it failed to consider the Hammonds' unsatisfactory record. The groups contend the father and son's cattle-grazing record violated regulations set by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Department of Interior and that the new permit didn't undergo proper environmental assessments." [Oregonian, 5/14/19]

- **Environmental Groups Also Argued That The Permit Renewal Would Harm Sage-Grouse Habitats, Help Invasive Weed Species, And Increase The Likelihood Of Destructive Fires.** The Oregonian reported,



“Three environmental advocacy groups Monday filed suit to block the renewal of a 10-year grazing permit for Hammond Ranches Inc., run by Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond. Western Watersheds Project, the Center for Biological Diversity and Wildearth Guardians filed a complaint in U.S. District Court in Pendleton against the interior secretary, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the district manager of the land bureau’s Burns District office. [...] They contend the renewed grazing will harm sage-grouse habitats in the region and increase invasive weeds and the likelihood of destructive fires.” [Oregonian, 5/14/19]

**July 2019: A Judge Granted A Partial Preliminary Injunction Against The Renewal Permit, Imposing Restrictions On The Grazing The Hammonds’ Cattle Were Allowed To Do.** The Oregonian reported, “A federal judge will allow Hammond Ranches Inc. to graze its cattle on limited parts of a federal allotment called Hardie Summer this season as three environmental advocacy groups challenge the Harney County ranchers’ federal grazing permit in court. U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon issued a 58-page written ruling Tuesday, granting a partial preliminary injunction after two days of oral arguments. The judge approved an alternative grazing plan the U.S. Bureau of Land Management had proposed at last month’s hearing. The three environmental groups had rejected the alternative and urged a halt to any cattle grazing by the Harney County ranchers on federal land. Simon ordered no grazing on federal land called the Mud Creek allotment but allowed for cattle to ‘quickly and methodically trail through’ that parcel to get to the Hardie Summer allotment, where cattle can graze at a 30% utilization standard, lower than the standard allowed in the ranchers’ permit, on four of five pastures. No further grazing is allowed, the judge said. The Hardie Summer allotment is about 9,800 acres, of which approximately 39% is owned by the Hammonds, and 61%, or 6,000 acres, is publicly owned. The allotment is subdivided into five pastures through which the cattle rotate. The restrictions will reduce harm to sage grouse by eliminating nearly all grazing on the Mud Creek allotment and significantly reducing grazing on the Hardie Summer allotment, and will lessen the harms to redband trout by eliminating grazing on a portion of what’s called Little Fir Creek, Simon wrote in his ruling.” [Oregonian, 7/18/19]

- **The Judge Issued The Injunction After Finding That Zinke’s Permit Renewal Was “Arbitrary And Capricious” And Violated Environmental Law.** The Oregonian reported, “A federal judge will allow Hammond Ranches Inc. to graze its cattle on limited parts of a federal allotment called Hardie Summer this season as three environmental advocacy groups challenge the Harney County ranchers’ federal grazing permit in court. U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon issued a 58-page written ruling Tuesday, granting a partial preliminary injunction after two days of oral arguments. [...] The judge issued the restrictions amid a finding that the environmental groups had shown a likelihood of succeeding in proving that former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s order for the government to reissue a 10-year grazing permit to the Hammonds this year ‘was arbitrary and capricious’ and unlawful.” [Oregonian, 7/18/19]
- **December 2019: A Judge Made A Final Ruling Revoking The Hammonds’ Grazing Permit.** The Seattle Times reported, “A judge Friday revoked the grazing permit of two ranchers pardoned last year by President Donald Trump on an arson conviction for setting fire to federal lands. U.S. District Judge Michael Simon ruled after hearing arguments from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which granted a 10-year grazing permit to Dwight and Steven Hammond after Trump’s July 2018 pardon. The renewal prompted environmental groups to sue. Simon in July limited where the Hammonds could graze their cattle, but let them continue to use other portions of the public allotments for their ranching operation in remote southeastern Oregon while the environmental groups continued their legal challenge.” [Seattle Times, 12/22/19]

**July 2018: Zinke Gave Trump His Blessing To Pardon Oregon Father-And-Son Cattle Ranchers Steven Hammond And Dwight Hammond, Jr After They Were Sentenced To Prison For Two Separate Charges Of Arson On Public Lands.** The Washington Post reported, “President Trump on Tuesday pardoned father-and-son cattle ranchers in southeastern Oregon who were sentenced to serve prison time on two separate occasions for the same charges of arson on public lands, a move their supporters hailed as a shift in how the federal government approaches the West. Trump’s decision to set aside the convictions of Dwight Hammond Jr. and Steven Hammond could have major implications for how federal officials enforce rules on grazing and other activities on tens of millions of acres owned by taxpayers. [...] Jerome Rosa, president of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, said in



an interview Tuesday that the pardons ‘send a signal that the new administration really understands the significance and the importance of what the ranching community provides for these Western landscapes.’ Rosa had raised the Hammonds’ case with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke — who oversees the Bureau of Land Management, on whose land the Hammonds operates — in April, and Zinke ‘said he would give his blessing to the president.’ Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) also lobbied hard for clemency, discussing the matter with Trump in a June 29 phone call.” [Washington Post, [7/10/18](#)]

- **April 2018: Oregon Cattlemen’s Association President Jerome Rosa Had Raised The Hammonds’ Case With Zinke And Said That Zinke Had “Said He Would Give His Blessing To The President.”** The Washington Post reported, “President Trump on Tuesday pardoned father-and-son cattle ranchers in southeastern Oregon who were sentenced to serve prison time on two separate occasions for the same charges of arson on public lands, a move their supporters hailed as a shift in how the federal government approaches the West. Trump’s decision to set aside the convictions of Dwight Hammond Jr. and Steven Hammond could have major implications for how federal officials enforce rules on grazing and other activities on tens of millions of acres owned by taxpayers. [...] Jerome Rosa, president of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, said in an interview Tuesday that the pardons ‘send a signal that the new administration really understands the significance and the importance of what the ranching community provides for these Western landscapes.’ Rosa had raised the Hammonds’ case with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke — who oversees the Bureau of Land Management, on whose land the Hammonds operates — in April, and Zinke ‘said he would give his blessing to the president.’ Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) also lobbied hard for clemency, discussing the matter with Trump in a June 29 phone call.” [Washington Post, [7/10/18](#)]

**2016: A Group Of Armed Men Occupied The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge For 41 Days After The Hammonds Reported To Prison.** The Washington Post reported, “Trump’s decision to set aside the convictions of Dwight Hammond Jr. and Steven Hammond could have major implications for how federal officials enforce rules on grazing and other activities on tens of millions of acres owned by taxpayers. The two men’s return to prison helped spark the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in early 2016. Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum, a rancher who acted as the protesters’ spokesman, was killed by a state trooper during an encounter between the armed occupation group and law enforcement officers — a shooting that led to charges against an FBI special agent.” [Washington Post, [7/10/18](#)]

- **2016: Harney County Sheriff David M. Ward Issued A Statement After The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Occupation Began Noting That The Occupiers “Had Alternative Motives, To Attempt To Overthrow The County And Federal Government In Hopes To Spark A Movement Across The United States.”** The Washington Post reported, “The remote bird sanctuary in southeastern Oregon became the epicenter of that dispute when an armed group occupied Malheur after a peaceful January 2016 march and rally aimed at supporting the Hammonds shortly before they reported to federal prison. When the march ended, an armed group led by the rancher Ammon Bundy traveled to Malheur and announced plans to stay indefinitely, arguing that what happened to the Hammonds was ‘just one example, a symptom of a very huge egregious problem’ happening nationwide. Law enforcement officials, though, argued that the occupiers were separate from the rally that drew hundreds to Burns, Ore., and came with darker intentions. Harney County Sheriff David M. Ward said in a statement after the wildlife occupation began, ‘These men had alternative motives, to attempt to overthrow the county and federal government in hopes to spark a movement across the United States.’” [Washington Post, [7/10/18](#)]

## ***Public Lands In Public Hands Act***

**2024: Zinke Introduced A Bill To Limit The Privatization Of Public Lands By Requiring Congressional Approval For Sales Of Public Land By The Department Of Interior And Forest Service Of Public Land Above 300 Acres Or Any 5+ Acre Plot Accessible Via Public Waterway.** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “Congressman Ryan Zinke announced on Monday that he is putting forward the ‘Public Lands in Public Hands’ bill to limit the privatization of public lands. Zinke introduced the public lands bill as part of a roundtable

discussion on Monday between himself and representatives from outdoor recreation, sportsmen and conservation organizations. Beyond seeking to add a layer of protection to public lands and increased scrutiny on their sale, Zinke said the bill will start a discussion on the addressing issues of access, restoration and wildlife corridors. ‘We were given the legacy of public lands. Now, I think we have to look at the next 100 years,’ Zinke said. [...] The bill if passed into law will limit the lands the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service can sell or transfer by requiring congressional approval for any sale or transfer of a publicly accessible parcel above 300-acres or of any 5-acres or above able to be accessed via public waterway.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 2/21/24]

- **Zinke: “We Were Given The Legacy Of Public Lands. Now, I Think We Have To Look At The Next 100 Years.”** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “Congressman Ryan Zinke announced on Monday that he is putting forward the ‘Public Lands in Public Hands’ bill to limit the privatization of public lands. Zinke introduced the public lands bill as part of a roundtable discussion on Monday between himself and representatives from outdoor recreation, sportsmen and conservation organizations. Beyond seeking to add a layer of protection to public lands and increased scrutiny on their sale, Zinke said the bill will start a discussion on the addressing issues of access, restoration and wildlife corridors. ‘We were given the legacy of public lands. Now, I think we have to look at the next 100 years,’ Zinke said.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 2/21/24]

## **Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge**

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**September 2018: Then-Gubernatorial Candidate Jared Polis Wrote To Zinke Requesting That The Interior Department Reevaluate The Decision To Open The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.** The Denver Post reported, “As federal officials finalize details for Saturday’s controversial opening of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D Boulder, sent a letter Thursday asking them to conduct more testing and noting many of his constituents want to postpone the opening. ‘Unanticipated and significant climate events, including a massive flood in 2013, have changed the topography of the refuge,’ Polis wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. ‘It is critical to evaluate what impact the flood had on possible contamination from the adjoining Superfund site, centrally located within the refuge.’” [Denver Post, 9/14/18]

- **The Decision To Open The Refuge Was Subject To Controversy Due To Its Close Proximity To A Superfund Site Associated With An Abandoned Nuclear Manufacturing Facility.** The Denver Post reported, “The refuge sits 16 miles northwest of Denver, and it surrounds a restricted parcel of land where plutonium triggers for nuclear bombs were manufactured for decades. The Environmental Protection Agency considers that fenced core a Superfund site, meaning it’s among the most contaminated places in the country. That’s not in dispute. Where the EPA and local environmental groups disagree is whether 5,000 acres surrounding that site are safe for people and animals. Plutonium particles, if inhaled or ingested, can cause cancer. Both the EPA and the Colorado health department say tests of the air, water and soil showed ‘an extremely small’ increased risk for cancer and is safe for unlimited use by workers and visitors. Local environmental groups, like The Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, disagree and sued to block the refuge’s opening. The case is pending, but a federal judge rejected a request to block the opening until it’s decided.” [Denver Post, 9/14/18]
- **Though The EPA And The Colorado Health Department Said The Wildlife Refuge Was Safe, Local Environmental Groups Were Concerned That Visitors Could Be Exposed To Cancer-Causing Plutonium Particles From The Old Nuclear Facility.** The Denver Post reported, “The refuge sits 16 miles northwest of Denver, and it surrounds a restricted parcel of land where plutonium triggers for nuclear bombs were manufactured for decades. The Environmental Protection Agency considers that fenced core a Superfund site, meaning it’s among the most contaminated places in the country. That’s not in dispute. Where the EPA and local environmental groups disagree is whether 5,000 acres surrounding that site are safe for people and animals. Plutonium particles, if inhaled or ingested, can cause cancer. Both the EPA and the Colorado health department say tests of the air, water and soil showed ‘an extremely small’ increased risk for cancer and is safe for unlimited use by workers and visitors. Local environmental groups, like The Rocky Mountain Peace and

Justice Center, disagree and sued to block the refuge's opening. The case is pending, but a federal judge rejected a request to block the opening until it's decided." [Denver Post, 9/14/18]

- **Zinke Said That He Would Delay The Opening Of The Wildlife Refuge To Gather More Information About The Location's Safety, But An Hour Later, His Spokeswoman Announced The Review Was Complete.** The Denver Post reported, "The U.S. Interior Department said Friday it will go ahead with plans to open a wildlife refuge at the site of a former nuclear weapons plant in the Denver area, after briefly putting the opening on hold amid concerns about public safety. Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge is scheduled to open Saturday. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke initially said Friday he would delay the opening to gather more information about safety. Just one hour later, Zinke spokeswoman Faith Vander Voort said a review was complete and the refuge would open." [Denver Post, 9/15/18]

## Water

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**August 2018: Zinke Launched A "Plan Of Action" To Undermine California State Water Officials' Water Policy And Make More Deliveries To Central Valley Farmers.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, stepping up the Trump administration's attack on California water policy, on Friday issued a memo to his staff demanding a 'plan of action' to circumvent state officials. He gave the staff 15 days to develop a proposal and present it to his deputy, a former lobbyist for big water users at odds with the state. Zinke's memo represents the latest volley in a developing war between the Trump administration and the state over the distribution of water from state and federal projects. The administration has been pushing for more water deliveries to Central Valley farmers, many of whom are in districts that delivered votes to Trump in the last presidential election—even though the state as a whole voted for his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton." [Los Angeles Times, 8/22/18]

## Wildlife

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### Horses

**July 2017: American Wild Horse Campaign President Ellie Phipps Price Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For "Pushing To End The Ban On Selling" Horses "For Slaughter For Food" And For Wanting To Cut Fertility Control Funding For Herd Control.** According to an op-ed in the New York Times by American Wild Horse Campaign president Ellie Phipps Price, "Should the federal government encourage the slaughter of a living symbol of the American West? While blunt, this question is unfortunately not hyperbole when it comes to America's wild horses. This week the House Appropriations Committee approved an amendment that would eliminate longstanding restrictions on killing wild horses and burros. And it could get worse: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is also pushing to end the ban on selling these animals for slaughter for food in Mexico and Canada; at the same time, Mr. Zinke wants to cut funding for fertility control — the only scientifically recommended, humane tool available to manage wild horse herds." [New York Times, Op-Ed, 7/21/17]

- **Phipps Price: "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Is Also Pushing To End The Ban On Selling These Animals For Slaughter For Food In Mexico And Canada."** According to an op-ed in the New York Times by American Wild Horse Campaign president Ellie Phipps Price, "Should the federal government encourage the slaughter of a living symbol of the American West? While blunt, this question is unfortunately not hyperbole when it comes to America's wild horses. This week the House Appropriations Committee approved an amendment that would eliminate longstanding restrictions on killing wild horses and burros. And it could get worse: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is also pushing to end the ban on selling these animals for slaughter for food in Mexico and Canada; at the same time, Mr. Zinke wants to cut funding for fertility control — the only scientifically recommended, humane tool available to manage wild horse herds." [New York Times, Op-Ed, 7/21/17]



**Zinke Oversaw A Number Of Controversial Policies To Manage The Population Of Wild Horses On Federal Lands.** According to an op-ed by Charlotte Roe and Joanna Grossman in the Denver Post, “Tearing foals from their mothers and running them to death in stampedes. Exposing pregnant mares to an experimental surgery where their organs are removed while the animal remains conscious. Allowing federally protected wild horses to be sold by the truckload for a pittance with no questions asked. It’s been a busy year for the Bureau of Land Management, a federal agency that has been cooking up plans to hasten the removal of wild free roaming horses from public lands. Under U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s watch, the BLM has pushed a number of proposals based on misinformation, myths and dubious ‘management’ practices. In May, for example, the BLM quietly revoked a policy specifically aimed at protecting wild horses from being killed for their meat or hide. The BLM had originally adopted those guidelines after it was revealed that, from 2008 to 2012, Colorado rancher Tom Davis illegally sold roughly 1,800 mustangs into slaughter that he had purchased from the government for \$10 each.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 9/30/18]

- **May 2018: Under Zinke, The Bureau Of Land Management Revoked A Policy Aimed At Protecting Wild Horses From Being Killed For Their Meat Or Hide.** According to an op-ed by Charlotte Roe and Joanna Grossman in the Denver Post, “Under U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s watch, the BLM has pushed a number of proposals based on misinformation, myths and dubious ‘management’ practices. In May, for example, the BLM quietly revoked a policy specifically aimed at protecting wild horses from being killed for their meat or hide. The BLM had originally adopted those guidelines after it was revealed that, from 2008 to 2012, Colorado rancher Tom Davis illegally sold roughly 1,800 mustangs into slaughter that he had purchased from the government for \$10 each.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 9/30/18]
- **Under Zinke, BLM Practiced A Controversial Form Of Permanent Surgical Sterilization Of Wild Horses Without Anesthesia Or Sterile Conditions To Prevent Population Growth That The National Academy Of Sciences Opposed Due To The High Risk Of Infection, Prolonged Bleeding, And Death.** According to an op-ed by Charlotte Roe and Joanna Grossman in the Denver Post, “Under U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s watch, the BLM has pushed a number of proposals based on misinformation, myths and dubious ‘management’ practices. [...] The BLM is also aggressively promoting the permanent surgical sterilization of wild horses to suppress population growth. This latest plan involves a controversial procedure known as ‘ovariectomy via colpotomy’ that is as flawed as it is cruel. Wild horses, unlike companion animals, aren’t provided with an aseptic operating room, general anesthesia or proper recovery time. Indeed, the National Academy of Sciences explicitly advises against this invasive, risky surgery particularly given the nonsterile conditions on the range and the high risk of infection, prolonged bleeding or even death. Last month, Colorado State University bowed to public pressure and withdrew from the BLM’s planned ovariectomy experiments on captured wild horses.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 9/30/18]

## ***Made In America Committee***

**May 2017: Zinke’s Bureau Of Land Management Suspended Colorado’s Four Resource Advisory Councils, Which Consisted Of Energy Industry Representatives, Conservationists, And Ranchers.** The Denver Post reported, “In May, the Bureau of Land Management suspended Colorado’s four Resource Advisory Councils until September as part of a national review of the agencies advisory boards and committees. Those councils typically 15 citizens apiece, including conservationists, ranchers, recreation users and energy industry representatives, who meet four times a year provide local perspective for BLM policies. The BLM’s Southwest and Rocky Mountain RACs, both in Colorado, were scheduled this week to have their first meetings since Donald Trump was elected president. They announced the meetings in the Federal Register and formed an agenda. But the new administration failed to renew the charters of the advisory councils, as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. So the meetings were canceled.” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

**2018: Zinke Created The “Made In America Recreation Advisory Committee” After Suspending Colorado’s Resource Advisory Councils.** The Denver Post reported, “The BLM’s Southwest and Rocky Mountain RACs, both in Colorado, were scheduled this week to have their first meetings since Donald Trump was elected president.





They announced the meetings in the Federal Register and formed an agenda. But the new administration failed to renew the charters of the advisory councils, as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. So the meetings were canceled. After suspending the RACs last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke created the Made in America Recreation Advisory Committee that will advise on public private partnerships on all public lands with the goal, according to a statement, of ‘expanding access and improving infrastructure.’ The group consists largely of representatives for park and Forest Service concessionaires, as well as RV and motor boating industries.” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

- **January 2018: Zinke’s “Made In America Recreation Advisory Committee” Consisted Largely Of Representatives For Park Concessionaires And RV And Motor Boating Industries.** The Denver Post reported, “The BLM’s Southwest and Rocky Mountain RACs, both in Colorado, were scheduled this week to have their first meetings since Donald Trump was elected president. They announced the meetings in the Federal Register and formed an agenda. But the new administration failed to renew the charters of the advisory councils, as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. So the meetings were canceled. After suspending the RACs last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke created the Made in America Recreation Advisory Committee that will advise on public private partnerships on all public lands with the goal, according to a statement, of ‘expanding access and improving infrastructure.’ The group consists largely of representatives for park and Forest Service concessionaires, as well as RV and motor boating industries.” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

**January 2018: Conservation Colorado Staffer And Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Council Member Scott Braden Criticized Zinke’s New Resource Committee For Holding “A Collection Of Interests That Profit Off Of Public Lands.”** The Denver Post reported, “After suspending the RACs last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke created the Made in America Recreation Advisory Committee that will advise on public private partnerships on all public lands with the goal, according to a statement, of ‘expanding access and improving infrastructure.’ The group consists largely of representatives for park and Forest Service concessionaires, as well as RV and motor boating industries. ‘The Made in America committee looks to me like a collection of interests that profit off public lands but not a holistic group of stakeholders who are impacted by public land decisions,’ said Scott Braden, a Conservation Colorado staffer who serves on the BLM’s Rocky Mountain RAC. ‘It’s just another data point that Coloradans are not being listened to when it comes to our 24 million acres of public lands.’ The Interior Department’s associate deputy secretary, Todd Willens, on Wednesday issued a statement saying the department ‘welcomed their resignations.’” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

- **Braden: “The Made In America Committee Looks To Me Like A Collection Of Interests That Profit Off Public Lands But Not A Holistic Group Of Stakeholders Who Are Impacted By Public Land Decisions. It’s Just Another Data Point That Coloradans Are Not Being Listened To When It Comes To Our 24 Million Acres Of Public Lands.”** The Denver Post reported, “After suspending the RACs last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke created the Made in America Recreation Advisory Committee that will advise on public private partnerships on all public lands with the goal, according to a statement, of ‘expanding access and improving infrastructure.’ The group consists largely of representatives for park and Forest Service concessionaires, as well as RV and motor boating industries. ‘The Made in America committee looks to me like a collection of interests that profit off public lands but not a holistic group of stakeholders who are impacted by public land decisions,’ said Scott Braden, a Conservation Colorado staffer who serves on the BLM’s Rocky Mountain RAC. ‘It’s just another data point that Coloradans are not being listened to when it comes to our 24 million acres of public lands.’ The Interior Department’s associate deputy secretary, Todd Willens, on Wednesday issued a statement saying the department ‘welcomed their resignations.’” [Denver Post, 1/18/18]

**Zinke Announced The Creation Of The “Made In America” Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee, A 15-Member Group Of Business Executives And Lobbyists With The Goal Of Expanding Public-Private Partnerships In Managing Federal Lands.** According to an op-ed by Greg Zimmerman, deputy director at the Center for Western Priorities, in the Denver Post, “When Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke announced his ‘Made in America’ Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee, included in the list of 15 members was Jerry Jacobs Jr., the billionaire co CEO of Delaware North. Jacobs joins a group of business executives and industry lobbyists tasked



with expanding so called public private partnerships in national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges and other American publicly owned lands.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 9/1/18]

- **The Committee Included Jerry Jacobs Jr., The Billionaire CEO Of Delaware North.** According to an op-ed by Greg Zimmerman, deputy director at the Center for Western Priorities, in the Denver Post, “When Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke announced his ‘Made in America’ Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee, included in the list of 15 members was Jerry Jacobs Jr., the billionaire co CEO of Delaware North. Jacobs joins a group of business executives and industry lobbyists tasked with expanding so called public private partnerships in national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges and other American publicly owned lands.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 9/1/18]
- **August 2018: Zinke Held Private Meetings With Jacobs And Other Executives From Delaware North, Which The Interior Department Attempted To Conceal From Zinke’s Official Schedule.** According to an op-ed by Greg Zimmerman, deputy director at the Center for Western Priorities, in the Denver Post, “Despite Delaware North’s questionable business practices and the company’s ongoing legal fight with the U.S. government, it is no pariah in President Donald Trump’s Washington. When Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke announced his ‘Made in America’ Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee, included in the list of 15 members was Jerry Jacobs Jr., the billionaire co CEO of Delaware North. Jacobs joins a group of business executives and industry lobbyists tasked with expanding so called public private partnerships in national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges and other American publicly owned lands. [...] Delaware North’s presence on the ‘Made in America’ Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee is not an isolated incident. Last month, CNN reported that Zinke held a private meeting with three executives from Delaware North, including Jacobs, along with New York Republican Rep. Chris Collins. Collins, who federal prosecutors have charged with insider trading, counts Delaware North as his largest campaign contributor during his congressional career. Likely realizing the unfortunate optics of the Zinke Delaware North meeting, the Interior Department went to great lengths to conceal the names of the participants on the secretary’s official schedules.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 9/1/18]

## ***Migration Corridors***

**February 2018: Zinke Proposed The Creation Of Wildlife Corridors In The Western U.S. To Improve Conservation Of Elk, Pronghorn, And Deer.** According to an op-ed by Thomas R. Johnson in the Denver Post, “Re: ‘Zinke launches push to save habitat,’ Feb. 12 news story. Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke has proposed creation of wildlife corridors in the West to encourage conservation of big game species: elk, pronghorn and deer.” [Denver Post, Op-Ed, 2/22/18]

**2018: Zinke Issued An Order On Big-Game Migration Corridors And Winter Range That Required Federal Agencies To Develop Guidelines To “Avoid Or Minimize Potential Negative Impacts On Wildlife” From Federal Actions In Western States.** The Denver Post reported, “State officials and conservationists want action delayed on at least some of the new federal oil and gas leases proposed in Colorado, citing potential impacts on deer, elk, greater sage grouse and a bird being considered for the endangered species list. The Colorado Bureau of Land Management is looking at offering leases on a total of 78,691 acres covering 83 parcels in eight different counties. [...] The problem, conservationists say, is that some of the land targeted for leasing overlaps with wildlife migration corridors and critical winter range, areas that former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke singled out for conserving in a 2018 order. [...] The 2018 order issued by Zinke on important big-game migration corridors and winter range directed federal agencies to develop guidelines ‘to avoid or minimize potential negative impacts on wildlife’ when planning and developing energy, transmission and other projects in Western states.” [Denver Post, 6/11/19]

- **Environmental Groups Believed That Zinke’s Order Could Help Delay Federal Oil And Gas Leases In Colorado, Since Some Of The Leases Targeted Land Covered By The 2018 Order.** The Denver Post reported, “State officials and conservationists want action delayed on at least some of the new federal oil and gas leases proposed in Colorado, citing potential impacts on deer, elk, greater sage grouse and a bird being

considered for the endangered species list. The Colorado Bureau of Land Management is looking at offering leases on a total of 78,691 acres covering 83 parcels in eight different counties. [...] The problem, conservationists say, is that some of the land targeted for leasing overlaps with wildlife migration corridors and critical winter range, areas that former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke singled out for conserving in a 2018 order. [...] The 2018 order issued by Zinke on important big-game migration corridors and winter range directed federal agencies to develop guidelines ‘to avoid or minimize potential negative impacts on wildlife’ when planning and developing energy, transmission and other projects in Western states.” [Denver Post, 6/11/19]

## ***Pittman-Robertson Act***

**Zinke Spoke Positively About The Pittman-Robertson Act, Which Directed Revenue From Federal Excise Taxes On Firearms, Ammunition, And Other Hunting Equipment To State And Local Conservation Efforts.** The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported, “At the federal level, long-established legislation like the Pittman-Robertson Act funnels tax dollars on the sale of firearms and ammunition back into Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s conservation efforts. To quote former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke discussing Pittman-Robertson, ‘Every time a firearm, fishing pole, hook, bullet, motorboat or boat fuel is sold, part of that cost goes to fund conservation.’” [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 1/16/21]

- **Zinke: “Every Time A Firearm, Fishing Pole, Hook, Bullet, Motorboat Or Boat Fuel Is Sold, Part Of That Cost Goes To Fund Conservation.”** The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported, “At the federal level, long-established legislation like the Pittman-Robertson Act funnels tax dollars on the sale of firearms and ammunition back into Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s conservation efforts. To quote former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke discussing Pittman-Robertson, ‘Every time a firearm, fishing pole, hook, bullet, motorboat or boat fuel is sold, part of that cost goes to fund conservation.’” [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 1/16/21]

## **Yosemite Boat Rentals**

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**2018: Zinke Began The Process Of Allowing The Public To Rent Kayaks, Canoes, And Electric Boats At Hetch Hetchy Reservoir In Yosemite National Park.** The San Francisco Chronicle reported, “A landmark proposal to allow rental kayaks, canoes and electric-powered boats for the first time at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park is being considered by U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, who has oversight over the national parks system. The process started a year ago when Spreck Rosekrans of Restore Hetch Hetchy met with former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in Yosemite. That meeting went well, both said, and Zinke then tweeted, ‘Taking a fresh look at different opportunities and options to restore public access and recreation to the valley.’” [San Francisco Chronicle, 9/29/19]

- **While Secretary Of The Interior, Zinke Met With Spreck Rosekrans Of Restore Hetch Hetchy About The Proposal And Then Tweeted In Support Of It.** The San Francisco Chronicle reported, “A landmark proposal to allow rental kayaks, canoes and electric-powered boats for the first time at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park is being considered by U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, who has oversight over the national parks system. The process started a year ago when Spreck Rosekrans of Restore Hetch Hetchy met with former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in Yosemite. That meeting went well, both said, and Zinke then tweeted, ‘Taking a fresh look at different opportunities and options to restore public access and recreation to the valley.’” [San Francisco Chronicle, 9/29/19]

## **Ethics & Government Reform**

### **Earmarks**

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**2023: Zinke Requested 15 Earmarks In Western Montana.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Congressman Ryan Zinke is requesting federal funding for 15 projects in Western Montana aimed at expanding local infrastructure, economic development and law enforcement capabilities. The requests were made through the U.S. House of Representatives Community Project Funding policy, which allows House members to propose up to 15 local projects to receive dollars from an eligible grant program. Two of the requested projects are in Flathead County, three in Glacier County and one in Lake County. Other projects, if approved by Congress, would be in Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Madison, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Powell, Ravalli, and Lewis and Clark Counties.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/23/23]

- **Zinke’s Earmark Requests Included A Request For \$1.3 Million In Funding For An Emergency Services Radio Tower Meant To Boost Coverage And Transmission Quality For Law Enforcement Officers.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “The first proposed project in Flathead County is the creation of an emergency services radio tower. The project requests \$1,315,000 in funding and aims to improve coverage and higher quality transmission for law enforcement officers. The second is the Two Mile Drainage Improvement Project in Kalispell, which looks to extend stormwater infrastructure, reconstruct the road and add a sidewalk using \$3.3 million in federal funds. According to Zinke’s office, with housing developments expanding city limits via annexation, infrastructure in the area needs updating.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/23/23]
- **Zinke’s Earmark Requests Included A Request For \$3.3 Million In Funding To Improve Two Miles Of Drainage In Kalispell, Aiming To Extend Stormwater Infrastructure, Rebuild A Road, And Add A Sidewalk.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “The first proposed project in Flathead County is the creation of an emergency services radio tower. The project requests \$1,315,000 in funding and aims to improve coverage and higher quality transmission for law enforcement officers. The second is the Two Mile Drainage Improvement Project in Kalispell, which looks to extend stormwater infrastructure, reconstruct the road and add a sidewalk using \$3.3 million in federal funds. According to Zinke’s office, with housing developments expanding city limits via annexation, infrastructure in the area needs updating.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/23/23]
- **Zinke’s Earmark Requests Included Multiple Earmarks To Fund Vehicles And Other Equipment For Law Enforcement.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “The two Glacier County projects look to grant more equipment, vehicles and detainee safety enhancements for law enforcement at the Glacier County Sheriff’s Office and Detention Center, together totalling over \$1.4 million. The Sheriff’s Office works daily with Blackfeet Tribal Law Enforcement Services to provide and assist with law enforcement, but do not get reimbursed. The same is occurring in Lake County, where the Sheriff’s Office operates both on the reservation and off. Zinke is requesting \$300,000 to pay for two police cruisers and one security scanning system in that county.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/23/23]

**2023: Six Of Zinke’s Earmarks, Which Included \$20 Million In Funding For A Blackfeet Tribal Center And A \$3.3 Million Drainage Improvement Project, Were Approved By The House Appropriations Committee.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Federal money for community infrastructure projects in Kalispell and on the Blackfeet Reservation may come within the year. The funding requests, brought forward by Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke through the Transportation Housing and Urban Development legislation, passed through the House Appropriations Committee on July 19. Locally, the legislation would grant \$3.3 million for the Kalispell Two Mile Drainage Improvement Project. [...] Another request would see the Blackfeet Nation awarded \$20 million to build a multi-use Tribal Center dedicated to improving socioeconomic outcomes for at-risk youths and assisting the senior population. ‘This was a promise made and a promise kept,’ Zinke said, noting his previous meetings with Blackfeet Nation officials. [...] The requests for the six projects would run more than \$31.5 million in funding. Community funding projects do not increase federal spending as the funding is allocated from previously authorized grant accounts, according to Zinke’s office.” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/26/23]

**2024: Zinke Requested \$50 Million In Earmarks For 15 Projects In Western Montana, Including One To Replace Guardrails On A Road In Flathead County, One For The Creation Of An Invasive Species Inspection Station, One To Transform The Troy Branch Of The Lincoln County Library, And More.** The





Daily Inter Lake reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke asked the House Appropriations Committee on Friday to approve nearly \$50 million for 15 infrastructure projects in western Montana, including one in Flathead County, one in Lake County, and two in Lincoln County. [...] The projects extend to 10 counties. [...] Zinke, a Republican, is asking for \$1,936,170 to add or replace guardrails on North Fork Road in Flathead County. Zinke’s office described the road as providing crucial access to year-round recreational activities and timber industry operations as well as to Glacier National Park. The road’s existing guardrail has surpassed its service life, according to Zinke’s office. The project, if approved, would update 3.71 miles of roadway. In Lake County, the congressman is requesting \$1,604,500 for the creation of a new invasive species inspection station in place of a current station in Ravalli. [...] Zinke also requested \$1,500,000 to turn the Troy branch of the Lincoln County Library into the Troy Library and Opportunity Center, with facility upgrades. [...] The requests were made through the U.S. House of Representatives Community Funding requests, which allows Congress to direct appropriations from specific grant accounts to eligible projects.” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/25/24]

**2024: Zinke’s Earmarks Included An \$18 Million Request For A Seeley Lake Sewer, Which Locals Had Revived Due To High Housing Prices And Low Water Quality, And \$10 Million For A Wastewater Treatment Plant In Ravalli County.** The Independent Record reported, “Money for two potential sewer systems in Missoula County could come from the federal government after Montana’s western U.S. House representative made a request through Congress last week. Rep. Ryan Zinke announced the funding request for 15 western Montana infrastructure projects on Friday, including \$18 million for a Seeley Lake sewer, which locals have revived as housing prices rise and water quality diminishes. Zinke also requested \$10 million for a wastewater treatment plant in Ravalli County, which has struggled to keep up with sewage as the Bitterroot Valley booms with growth. The money would come from the House’s Community Project Funding. Each request must be approved by the House Appropriations Committee. Zinke, a Republican, is a member of the committee.” [Independent Record, 5/28/24]

- **Zinke’s Earmark Requests Also Included \$1 Million For A Wastewater Treatment Plant In Lolo And \$1 Million For A Water Tower In Alberton.** The Independent Record reported, “The money will take some time to move through the federal government process, Zinke’s Chief of Staff Heather Swift told the Missoulian. Funding that Zinke proposed for the Blackfeet Nation in February 2023 was just allocated in March 2024, Swift said. The money must also survive almost half a dozen votes in committees and the full House of Representatives before it can be allocated. Other water infrastructure money proposed by Zinke includes \$1 million for a Lolo wastewater treatment plant and \$1 million for a water tower in Alberton.” [Independent Record, 5/28/24]

## Ethics Scandals

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### *Casino IG Report*

**2017: The Mashantucket Pequot And Mohegan Tribes Petitioned The Interior Department To Approve Amendments That Would Rule That A Joint Casino Operation Did Not Violate Existing Gambling Agreements.** The Washington Post reported, “In 2017, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes wanted to open a casino in East Windsor, Conn. They petitioned Interior, asking department officials to approve amendments saying their plans to jointly operate a facility would not violate their existing gambling agreements. This sparked a lobbying campaign by MGM Resorts International, which operates a competing casino a short distance away, to persuade Zinke not to sign off on the tribes’ plans. The inspector general’s report found that from the spring to fall of 2017, lobbyists, a political consultant and a U.S. senator spoke repeatedly with Zinke and his chief of staff, urging them to reject the amendments. The report said that on one occasion, Zinke had dinner at his residence with a political consultant and a lobbyist. The lobbyist spent the evening texting a casino executive with updates on the discussions.” [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

**2017: MGM Resorts International Operated A Competing Casino Nearby And Launched A Lobbying Campaign Against The Proposed New Casino.** The Washington Post reported, “In 2017, the Mashantucket



Pequot and Mohegan tribes wanted to open a casino in East Windsor, Conn. They petitioned Interior, asking department officials to approve amendments saying their plans to jointly operate a facility would not violate their existing gambling agreements. This sparked a lobbying campaign by MGM Resorts International, which operates a competing casino a short distance away, to persuade Zinke not to sign off on the tribes' plans. The inspector general's report found that from the spring to fall of 2017, lobbyists, a political consultant and a U.S. senator spoke repeatedly with Zinke and his chief of staff, urging them to reject the amendments. The report said that on one occasion, Zinke had dinner at his residence with a political consultant and a lobbyist. The lobbyist spent the evening texting a casino executive with updates on the discussions." [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

**August 2022: An Inspector General Report Found That From Spring 2017 To Fall 2017, Lobbyists For MGM, A Political Consultant, And A U.S. Senator Spoke Multiple Times With Zinke And His Chief Of Staff To Urge Them To Reject The Tribal Casino.** The Washington Post reported, "In 2017, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes wanted to open a casino in East Windsor, Conn. They petitioned Interior, asking department officials to approve amendments saying their plans to jointly operate a facility would not violate their existing gambling agreements. This sparked a lobbying campaign by MGM Resorts International, which operates a competing casino a short distance away, to persuade Zinke not to sign off on the tribes' plans. The inspector general's report found that from the spring to fall of 2017, lobbyists, a political consultant and a U.S. senator spoke repeatedly with Zinke and his chief of staff, urging them to reject the amendments. The report said that on one occasion, Zinke had dinner at his residence with a political consultant and a lobbyist. The lobbyist spent the evening texting a casino executive with updates on the discussions." [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

- **August 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Had Dinner At His Residence With A Political Consultant And A Lobbyist, During Which The Lobbyist Texted A Casino Executive With Updates On His Discussion With Zinke.** The Washington Post reported, "In 2017, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes wanted to open a casino in East Windsor, Conn. They petitioned Interior, asking department officials to approve amendments saying their plans to jointly operate a facility would not violate their existing gambling agreements. This sparked a lobbying campaign by MGM Resorts International, which operates a competing casino a short distance away, to persuade Zinke not to sign off on the tribes' plans. The inspector general's report found that from the spring to fall of 2017, lobbyists, a political consultant and a U.S. senator spoke repeatedly with Zinke and his chief of staff, urging them to reject the amendments. The report said that on one occasion, Zinke had dinner at his residence with a political consultant and a lobbyist. The lobbyist spent the evening texting a casino executive with updates on the discussions." [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]
- **August 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Had Neither Granted Nor Denied The Tribal Amendment Request But Send It Back And Noted It Was "Premature And Likely Unnecessary."** The Washington Post reported, "Zinke neither granted nor denied the tribes' request; instead, he sent it back to them, saying it was 'premature and likely unnecessary.' His action became the subject of intense scrutiny at Interior and the White House during President Donald Trump's first months in office. The inspector general's office opened an investigation into whether Zinke had been improperly influenced and had sidestepped the recommendations of career staff members at the Interior Department to approve the casino application. But the office shifted its focus from the decision in the casino case to the truthfulness of Zinke's and his chief of staff's statements." [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]
- **Washington Post: "The Office Shifted Its Focus From The Decision In The Casino Case To The Truthfulness Of Zinke's And His Chief Of Staff's Statements."** The Washington Post reported, "Zinke neither granted nor denied the tribes' request; instead, he sent it back to them, saying it was 'premature and likely unnecessary.' His action became the subject of intense scrutiny at Interior and the White House during President Donald Trump's first months in office. The inspector general's office opened an investigation into whether Zinke had been improperly influenced and had sidestepped the recommendations of career staff members at the Interior Department to approve the casino application. But the office shifted its focus from the

decision in the casino case to the truthfulness of Zinke's and his chief of staff's statements." [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

- **August 2022: The Inspector General Report Noted That Zinke Had Told Investigators That He Had Based His Decision On Advice From Attorneys In The Interior Department Solicitor's Office.** The Washington Post reported, "The inspector general's office opened an investigation into whether Zinke had been improperly influenced and had sidestepped the recommendations of career staff members at the Interior Department to approve the casino application. But the office shifted its focus from the decision in the casino case to the truthfulness of Zinke's and his chief of staff's statements. According to the report, Zinke told investigators that he based his decision on the recommendation of attorneys in Interior's solicitor's office. But the report found the evidence contradicted this claim. Interior attorneys denied to investigators that they spoke with Zinke, gave him advice or approved his decision not to take a position on the petition. And people Zinke denied meeting with said they had regular contact with him to press him to deny the tribes' application, according to emails and other documents obtained by investigators." [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]
- **August 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Attorneys From The Solicitor's Office Denied That They Had Spoken With Zinke About The Petition Approval.** The Washington Post reported, "The inspector general's office opened an investigation into whether Zinke had been improperly influenced and had sidestepped the recommendations of career staff members at the Interior Department to approve the casino application. But the office shifted its focus from the decision in the casino case to the truthfulness of Zinke's and his chief of staff's statements. According to the report, Zinke told investigators that he based his decision on the recommendation of attorneys in Interior's solicitor's office. But the report found the evidence contradicted this claim. Interior attorneys denied to investigators that they spoke with Zinke, gave him advice or approved his decision not to take a position on the petition. And people Zinke denied meeting with said they had regular contact with him to press him to deny the tribes' application, according to emails and other documents obtained by investigators." [Washington Post, [8/24/22](#)]

**2020: The Washington Post Reported That A U.S. Deputy Attorney General Delayed Pursuing Criminal Charges Against Zinke After He Allegedly Denied A Petition To Two Tribes To Run A Casino In Connecticut Due To Improper Influence.** The Independent Record reported, "In a story citing three anonymous sources, the Washington Post on Thursday reported that a U.S. Deputy Attorney General delayed pursuing potential criminal charges related to the actions of Ryan Zinke, former Montana congressman and Secretary of the Interior. Zinke was Montana's lone representative in the U.S. House before joining the Trump administration's cabinet. He resigned in 2019. The New York Times initially reported on Jeffrey A. Rosen, the deputy attorney general, pushing back a case against Zinke as part of a story about frustrations held by prosecutors in the U.S. Justice Department. The Post expanded on the story specific to Zinke. The issue started with Zinke's denial of a petition by two tribes that asked Interior for permission to run a casino in Connecticut. The tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan, filed a lawsuit in 2018 saying Zinke's denial of their petition was due to 'improper political influence,' according to Politico." [Independent Record, 11/12/20]

- **MGM Resorts Reportedly Lobbied The Interior Department Against Approving The Tribe's Request To Open The Casino, And Justice Department Lawyers Investigated Whether Zinke Lied To Investigators That Reviewed His Actions.** The Independent Record reported, "MGM Resorts International, which is a Las Vegas-based hospitality and casino company that had a location near where the tribes wanted to open their operation, and a senator and representative from Nevada, lobbied Interior against approving the tribe's request, Politico reported. Justice Department lawyers were investigating if Zinke lied to investigators at the Interior department that reviewed his actions concerning the casino. Rosen told lawyers they needed to strengthen their case to charge Zinke. The Post's story notes the newspaper 'was unable to determine independently the strength of the case against Zinke.' It also said that delaying a case can make it harder to prosecute." [Independent Record, 11/12/20]

- **Independent Record: “The New York Times Initially Reported On Jeffrey A. Rosen, The Deputy Attorney General, Pushing Back A Case Against Zinke As Part Of A Story About Frustrations Held By Prosecutors In The U.S. Justice Department.”** The Independent Record reported, “In a story citing three anonymous sources, the Washington Post on Thursday reported that a U.S. Deputy Attorney General delayed pursuing potential criminal charges related to the actions of Ryan Zinke, former Montana congressman and Secretary of the Interior. Zinke was Montana’s lone representative in the U.S. House before joining the Trump administration’s cabinet. He resigned in 2019. The New York Times initially reported on Jeffrey A. Rosen, the deputy attorney general, pushing back a case against Zinke as part of a story about frustrations held by prosecutors in the U.S. Justice Department. The Post expanded on the story specific to Zinke. The issue started with Zinke’s denial of a petition by two tribes that asked Interior for permission to run a casino in Connecticut. The tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan, filed a lawsuit in 2018 saying Zinke’s denial of their petition was due to ‘improper political influence,’ according to Politico.” [Independent Record, 11/12/20]
- **Zinke: “I Sided With A Principle That I Didn’t Want To Take A Position On Something That Was Off The Reservation. I Had Multiple Legal Counselors’ Opinions About What Was Legal. The Investigators May Not Have Liked My Answers, But They Were Truthful.”** The Independent Record reported, “In 2019, Zinke told the Washington Post everything he did was proper. ‘The Department of Interior should not take a position on any activity outside the reservation that is not bound by law or treaty,’ the Washington Post quoted Zinke as saying in February 2019. ‘I sided with a principle that I didn’t want to take a position on something that was off the reservation. I had multiple legal counselors’ opinions about what was legal. The investigators may not have liked my answers, but they were truthful,’ the Post story continued to quote Zinke as saying.” [Independent Record, 11/12/20]

**2022: The Interior Department’s Inspector General Released A Report Finding That Zinke Lied To Investigators About Conversations He Had With Lobbyists And Lawmakers Concerning A Bid By Two Tribes To Operate A Casino In Connecticut.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke also made no mention of a report released last week by the Interior inspector general, which says Zinke lied to investigators about conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. Zinke’s attorney called the IG’s report ‘distorted and misleading.’ On accountability, Zinke advocated for more transparency in government.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]

- **Zinke Claimed The Report Was “Distorted And Misleading.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke also made no mention of a report released last week by the Interior inspector general, which says Zinke lied to investigators about conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. Zinke’s attorney called the IG’s report ‘distorted and misleading.’ On accountability, Zinke advocated for more transparency in government.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]
- **The Report Found That When Discussing The Casino Project, Zinke “Made Statements To ... Investors With The Overall Intent To Mislead Them.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘I don’t lie, but neither am I going to be intimidated or bullied by biased investigators from the very department that I was trying to change,’ Zinke said. Prosecutors have declined to pursue criminal charges and Zinke has repeatedly denied wrongdoing. A report into a Whitefish project found he didn’t comply with ethical obligations and duty of candor. The Inspector General, a Trump appointee, reviewing the casino dealings found Zinke ‘made statements to ... investors with the overall intent to mislead them.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/1/22]
- **2022: The Report Found That Zinke Made Statements To Investigators “With The Overall Intent To Mislead Them... [And] Presented An Inaccurate Version Of The Circumstances In Which (Interior) Made Key Decisions’ On The Casino Project.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In late August, Interior’s Office of Inspector General released a report stating Zinke made statements to investigators ‘with the overall intent to mislead them’ over conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. Both Zinke and his former chief of staff, Scott

Hommel, ‘presented an inaccurate version of the circumstances in which (Interior) made key decisions’ on the casino project, the report said. ‘As a result, we concluded that Secretary Zinke and (Hommel) did not comply with their duty of candor when questioned,’ the report reads.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

- **The Inspector General Report: “As A Result, We Concluded That Secretary Zinke And (Hommel) Did Not Comply With Their Duty Of Candor When Questioned.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In late August, Interior’s Office of Inspector General released a report stating Zinke made statements to investigators ‘with the overall intent to mislead them’ over conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. Both Zinke and his former chief of staff, Scott Hommel, ‘presented an inaccurate version of the circumstances in which (Interior) made key decisions’ on the casino project, the report said. ‘As a result, we concluded that Secretary Zinke and (Hommel) did not comply with their duty of candor when questioned,’ the report reads.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**2019: One Investigation Into Zinke’s Conduct In Office Focused On Zinke’s Decision To, Against The Advice Of Interior Department Employees, Block Native Tribes From Building In A Casino After Zinke Was Lobbied To Do So By A Competitor To The Casino.** The Boston Globe reported, “Zinke, who enraged environmentalists by, among other things, lifting an Obama administration moratorium on selling coal mining rights and scaling back protections on federal land, left the administration amid a swirl of federal investigations into his travel, potential conflicts of interest and his political activity — including a picture he posted on Twitter showing socks with Trump’s ‘Make America Great Again’ slogan. ‘My family got investigated. My family had death threats. I got investigated over my socks,’ Zinke said. One inquiry focused on a potential conflict of interest involving a Montana land deal between a charitable foundation Zinke created and a property development foundation backed by David Lesar, the former chairman of oilfield services provider Halliburton. Another inquiry scrutinized Zinke’s decision to block Indian tribes from building a casino in Connecticut after lobbying from their chief competitor, MGM Resorts International, despite the advice of employees with the Interior Department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**August 2022: The Inspector General Concluded That Zinke Intentionally Misled Investigators Who Were Scrutinizing His Decision To Deny The Requests Of Two Native American Tribes To Open A New Casino In Connecticut.** The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, a former interior secretary during the Trump administration, intentionally misled investigators looking into his department’s decision not to act on two Native American tribes’ requests to open a new casino in Connecticut, the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General concluded in a report released on Wednesday. [...] The 44-page report on Wednesday focused not on the casino decision itself — litigation over that was resolved separately — but on whether Mr. Zinke and his former chief of staff had been honest about it. Extensive efforts by unnamed lobbyists to persuade Mr. Zinke not to approve the tribes’ applications, as well as conversations between Mr. Zinke and an unnamed senator, are described in the report. It says that, in interviews with investigators, Mr. Zinke denied having significant conversations with the lobbyists and stated repeatedly that he had decided not to approve the tribes’ applications based on advice from the Interior Department’s Office of the Solicitor. But lawyers in that office told the investigators that they had never spoken directly with Mr. Zinke.” [New York Times, 8/24/22]

- **The Report Found That Zinke Denied Having Been Involved In Significant Conversations With Lobbyists, Contrary To Evidence.** The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, a former interior secretary during the Trump administration, intentionally misled investigators looking into his department’s decision not to act on two Native American tribes’ requests to open a new casino in Connecticut, the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General concluded in a report released on Wednesday. [...] The 44-page report on Wednesday focused not on the casino decision itself — litigation over that was resolved separately — but on whether Mr. Zinke and his former chief of staff had been honest about it. Extensive efforts by unnamed lobbyists to persuade Mr. Zinke not to approve the tribes’ applications, as well as conversations between Mr. Zinke and an unnamed senator, are described in the report. It says that, in interviews with investigators, Mr. Zinke denied having significant conversations with the lobbyists and stated repeatedly that he had decided not



to approve the tribes' applications based on advice from the Interior Department's Office of the Solicitor. But lawyers in that office told the investigators that they had never spoken directly with Mr. Zinke." [New York Times, 8/24/22]

- **The Report Also Found That Zinke Claimed To Have Denied The Tribes' Application Based On Advice From The Interior Department's Lawyers, Who Said That They Had Not Spoken To Zinke.** The New York Times reported, "Ryan Zinke, a former interior secretary during the Trump administration, intentionally misled investigators looking into his department's decision not to act on two Native American tribes' requests to open a new casino in Connecticut, the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General concluded in a report released on Wednesday. [...] The 44-page report on Wednesday focused not on the casino decision itself — litigation over that was resolved separately — but on whether Mr. Zinke and his former chief of staff had been honest about it. Extensive efforts by unnamed lobbyists to persuade Mr. Zinke not to approve the tribes' applications, as well as conversations between Mr. Zinke and an unnamed senator, are described in the report. It says that, in interviews with investigators, Mr. Zinke denied having significant conversations with the lobbyists and stated repeatedly that he had decided not to approve the tribes' applications based on advice from the Interior Department's Office of the Solicitor. But lawyers in that office told the investigators that they had never spoken directly with Mr. Zinke." [New York Times, 8/24/22]

## ***Climate Staff Purges***

### **September 2017: Zinke Criticized His Interior Department Employees During A Speech To The National Petroleum Council, Claiming A Third Of The People At The Department Were Disloyal, While He Was Facing At Least Two Government Investigations Into His Management Of The Department's Workforce.**

The Los Angeles Times reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke walked into a big gathering of the National Petroleum Council on Monday already facing at least two government investigations for his management of the department's workforce of 70,000 -- but that didn't stop him from bashing his employees. Zinke said at the gathering that he figured upon taking his post that nearly a third of the people at the department were disloyal. The comment may have shed light on the secretary's reasons for directing department officials to reassign about 50 top managers in June, as soon as the move may have been legally permissible. Several of the managers interviewed by The Times said they were puzzled by the directives, which sent them to corners of the agency where they had no expertise. At least one has filed a whistle-blower lawsuit. The department is declining to comment on the specific charges leveled against Zinke. But the secretary had plenty to say about what he thinks of the workforce during his talk before the oil trade group." [Los Angeles Times, 9/27/17]

- **Los Angeles Times: "The Comment May Have Shed Light On The Secretary's Reasons For Directing Department Officials To Reassign About 50 Top Managers In June, As Soon As The Move May Have Been Legally Permissible."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke walked into a big gathering of the National Petroleum Council on Monday already facing at least two government investigations for his management of the department's workforce of 70,000 -- but that didn't stop him from bashing his employees. Zinke said at the gathering that he figured upon taking his post that nearly a third of the people at the department were disloyal. The comment may have shed light on the secretary's reasons for directing department officials to reassign about 50 top managers in June, as soon as the move may have been legally permissible. Several of the managers interviewed by The Times said they were puzzled by the directives, which sent them to corners of the agency where they had no expertise. At least one has filed a whistle-blower lawsuit. The department is declining to comment on the specific charges leveled against Zinke. But the secretary had plenty to say about what he thinks of the workforce during his talk before the oil trade group." [Los Angeles Times, 9/27/17]

**September 2017: Zinke Said That When He Took Over The Interior Department In March, He Had "30 Percent Of The Crew That's Not Loyal To The Flag" And Compared The Department To A Pirate Ship.** The Denver Post reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faced a storm of criticism Tuesday after he said nearly one third of employees at his department are not loyal to him and President Donald Trump. Zinke said that when he





took over the 70,000 employee department in March, ‘I got 30 percent of the crew that’s not loyal to the flag’ and compared Interior to a pirate ship. Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should ‘apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.’ Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke ‘should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don’t earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.’ In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures ‘a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over’ to finish the mission. Interior has ‘good people,’ Zinke said, ‘but the direction has to be clear, and you’ve got to hold people accountable.’” [Denver Post, 9/27/17]

- **September 2017: Zinke Compared The Interior Department To A Pirate Ship That Captured “A Prized Ship At Sea And Only The Captain And The First Mate Row Over.”** The Denver Post reported, “Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should ‘apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.’ Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke ‘should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don’t earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.’ In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures ‘a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over’ to finish the mission. Interior has ‘good people,’ Zinke said, ‘but the direction has to be clear, and you’ve got to hold people accountable.’ Joel Clement, a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint after he and 50 other senior employees at Interior were reassigned, said civil servants are loyal to the U.S. flag.” [Denver Post, 9/27/17]

**September 2017: Rep. Raul Grijalva Criticized Zinke For Calling His Staff Disloyal And Noted That As A Former Navy SEAL, Zinke “Should Be Well Aware That Loyalty Is Earned.”** The Denver Post reported, “Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should ‘apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.’ Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke ‘should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don’t earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.’ In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures ‘a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over’ to finish the mission. Interior has ‘good people,’ Zinke said, ‘but the direction has to be clear, and you’ve got to hold people accountable.’ Joel Clement, a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint after he and 50 other senior employees at Interior were reassigned, said civil servants are loyal to the U.S. flag.” [Denver Post, 9/27/17]

- **October 2017: Former Top Interior Executives Under Presidents Nixon, Ford, H.W. Bush, Clinton, Bush, And Obama Issued A Letter Criticizing Zinke For His Negative Comments About Interior Employees.** The Washington Post reported, “In a separate letter, former top Interior executives under Presidents Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama criticized Zinke for his comments about loyalty at Interior. ‘As former Interior political appointees who served in both Republican and Democratic administrations, we strongly disagree,’ the writers said. ‘The department’s career employees swear to defend the Constitution; they do not swear personal allegiance to individual secretaries or to anyone else.’” [Washington Post, [10/4/17](#)]

**September 2017: Joel Clement, A Climate Scientist And Former Interior Department Employee Who Filed A Whistleblower Complaint After Being Reassigned From Interior Criticized Zinke’s “Pirate Ship” Remarks.** The Denver Post reported, “Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should ‘apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.’ Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke ‘should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don’t earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.’ In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures ‘a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over’ to finish the mission. Interior has ‘good people,’ Zinke said, ‘but the direction has to be clear, and you’ve got to hold people accountable.’ Joel Clement, a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint after he and 50 other senior employees at Interior were reassigned, said civil servants are loyal to the U.S. flag.” [Denver Post, 9/27/17]

- **Clement Said That Interior Department Employees “Also Know A Demagogue When They See One,” Referring To Zinke.** The Denver Post reported, “Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona said Zinke should ‘apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading.’ Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said that as a former Navy SEAL, Zinke ‘should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don’t earn it or deserve it with divisive comments like these.’ In a speech Monday to an oil industry group, Zinke compared Interior to a pirate ship that captures ‘a prized ship at sea and only the captain and the first mate row over’ to finish the mission. Interior has ‘good people,’ Zinke said, ‘but the direction has to be clear, and you’ve got to hold people accountable.’ Joel Clement, a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint after he and 50 other senior employees at Interior were reassigned, said civil servants are loyal to the U.S. flag.” [Denver Post, 9/27/17]
- **2017: Clement Filed A Whistleblower Lawsuit After He Was Reassigned To A Post Overseeing Audits Of Oil And Gas Leases.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “‘Feds are loyal to America, not junior cabinet secretaries and politicians,’ he wrote. Some senior civil servants have charged that Zinke’s moves were intended to drive experienced managers from federal employment. If that was the motive, Zinke succeeded in some cases. But the reassignments also landed the department in a high-profile whistle-blower lawsuit, filed by Joel Clement, the department’s director of policy analysis who had been leading some of its highest-profile climate change work. Clement was plucked from his work helping Alaskan villages imperiled by rising seas and placed in a post overseeing the auditing of oil and gas leases.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/27/17]
- **Clement Said That He Had Heard From Folks Familiar With Federal Government That Transitions Could Be Tough, “But What [The Trump Administration] Is Doing Is Remarkable.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke may have shed some light on his thinking last week when he told a petroleum industry group that he believes nearly a third of his workforce is disloyal to the Trump agenda. ‘I got 30% of the crew that’s not loyal to the flag,’ he said, in a remark first reported by the Associated Press. Most new administrations move quickly to reorient the federal workforce toward their agenda, but they usually rely on the deep expertise of top-level managers such as Clement to move the stubborn levers of bureaucracy. The Trump administration approach has been different. ‘I’ve talked to a lot of folks who have been around the federal government for decades and they say transitions can be tough, but what this group is doing is remarkable,’ said Clement, who filed a whistler-blower complaint over the reassignment. ‘They have moved me into an area I know nothing about. It might as well be Chinese.’” [Los Angeles Times, 10/5/17]
- **Clement: “They Have Moved Me Into An Area I Know Nothing About. It Might As Well Be Chinese.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke may have shed some light on his thinking last week when he told a petroleum industry group that he believes nearly a third of his workforce is disloyal to the Trump agenda. ‘I got 30% of the crew that’s not loyal to the flag,’ he said, in a remark first reported by the Associated Press. Most new administrations move quickly to reorient the federal workforce toward their agenda, but they usually rely on the deep expertise of top-level managers such as Clement to move the stubborn levers of bureaucracy. The Trump administration approach has been different. ‘I’ve talked to a lot of folks who have been around the federal government for decades and they say transitions can be tough, but what this group is doing is remarkable,’ said Clement, who filed a whistler-blower complaint over the reassignment. ‘They have moved me into an area I know nothing about. It might as well be Chinese.’” [Los Angeles Times, 10/5/17]

**2017-2018: The Inspector General Investigated The Proposed Personnel Reassignments Of 35 Senior Executive In The Interior Department, 16 Of Whom Viewed Their Reassignments As Retaliation For Their Work On Climate Change, Energy, Or Conservation.** The Denver Post reported, “Wenk’s retirement comes after an investigation into 35 personnel reassignments of senior executives proposed in the Interior Department under Zinke. Sixteen senior employees viewed their moves as punishment for their work on climate change, energy or conservation, but the Interior Department inspector general did not determine that anything illegal occurred.” [Denver Post, 8/12/18]

- **The Inspector General Did Not Determine That Zinke Acted Unlawfully.** The Denver Post reported, “Wenk’s retirement comes after an investigation into 35 personnel reassignments of senior executives proposed in the Interior Department under Zinke. Sixteen senior employees viewed their moves as punishment for their work on climate change, energy or conservation, but the Interior Department inspector general did not determine that anything illegal occurred.” [Denver Post, 8/12/18]

**2017: Zinke Reassigned Joel Clement, The Interior Department’s Top Expert On The Impact Of Climate Change In The Arctic, To An Accounting Job.** According to the New York Times Editorial Board, “Last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reassigned Joel Clement, the department’s director of policy analysis and top expert on the impact of climate change in the Arctic, to an accounting job (Mr. Clement resigned in protest).” [New York Times, Editorial, 3/31/18]

- **Clement Resigned In Protest.** According to the New York Times Editorial Board, “Last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reassigned Joel Clement, the department’s director of policy analysis and top expert on the impact of climate change in the Arctic, to an accounting job (Mr. Clement resigned in protest).” [New York Times, Editorial, 3/31/18]

**2018: Federal Investigators Were Unable To Determine If 16 Interior Department Staffers Were Reassigned During Zinke’s Tenure As Political Retribution Or Punishment For Their Work On Climate Change, Concluding That The Changes Were Made Without Clear Criteria.** The Billings Gazette reported, “State Rep. Mike Noel, a critic of the monument’s designation, owned land near and within the boundary. Investigations found Noel was not provided preferential treatment and that Zinke and other officials did not know about his financial interest in the area, CBS News reported. In April 2018, investigators said they were unable to determine if 16 agency staffers were reassigned as political retribution or punishment for their work on climate change, the Associated Press reported. The employees alleged the moves by the new administration were meant to curb dissenting voices. Interior’s inspector general concluded they were made without clear criteria, in part because the Executive Resource Board, which decides reassignments, had not developed criteria. One climate scientist, Joel Clement, filed a complaint of retribution and quit in protest following his reassignment. He penned an op-ed that accused Trump administration of sidelining science that might oppose extractive industries.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**Joel Clement, A Scientist With The Interior Department, Alleged That As “Soon As Legally Possible” After Zinke’s Confirmation, Zinke Implemented A “Soviet-Style Purge” Of “Dozens Of Executives In One Fell Swoop” That Had Never Been Done Before, Which Included Reassigning Clement To A Different Office.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Joel Clement’s exit from his career in the U.S. Department of the Interior was not quiet. Clement made headlines with an op-ed in the Washington Post declaring himself a whistleblower and raising concerns about issues at the federal agency, which was overseen at the time by then-secretary and now congressional candidate Ryan Zinke. Clement spoke about the complaint he lodged with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel and what he thinks Zinke’s possible victory in November could mean for Montana with former congressional candidate Cora Neumann in Bozeman on Tuesday. Clement worked at the federal agency for seven years. His complaint focused on the legality of a spate of reassignments, including his own, that happened in the agency under Zinke’s direction. [...] Clement said that as ‘soon as legally possible’ after Zinke’s confirmation by the Senate, the former secretary of the Interior implemented what Clement called a ‘Soviet-style purge.’ ‘Every administration comes in and moves a few executives around, it’s normal and not unusual to do,’ Clement said. ‘It had never been done to dozens of executives in one fell swoop.’ He was reassigned from his position as the director of the Office of Policy Analysis to a senior advisor in the agency’s Office of Natural Resources. Clement wrote in his op-ed that he believed the Department of the Interior used the reassignments ‘as part of its effort to eliminate employees.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/20/22]

- **Clement Claimed That Zinke’s Mass Reassignment Was Part Of The Effort To Eliminate Federal Employees.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Joel Clement’s exit from his career in the U.S. Department of the Interior was not quiet. Clement made headlines with an op-ed in the Washington Post declaring himself a

whistleblower and raising concerns about issues at the federal agency, which was overseen at the time by then-secretary and now congressional candidate Ryan Zinke. Clement spoke about the complaint he lodged with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel and what he thinks Zinke's possible victory in November could mean for Montana with former congressional candidate Cora Neumann in Bozeman on Tuesday. Clement worked at the federal agency for seven years. His complaint focused on the legality of a spate of reassignments, including his own, that happened in the agency under Zinke's direction. [...] Clement said that as 'soon as legally possible' after Zinke's confirmation by the Senate, the former secretary of the Interior implemented what Clement called a 'Soviet-style purge.' 'Every administration comes in and moves a few executives around, it's normal and not unusual to do,' Clement said. 'It had never been done to dozens of executives in one fell swoop.' He was reassigned from his position as the director of the Office of Policy Analysis to a senior advisor in the agency's Office of Natural Resources. Clement wrote in his op-ed that he believed the Department of the Interior used the reassignments 'as part of its effort to eliminate employees.'" [Billings Gazette, 10/20/22]

- **Clement: "How On Earth Could, How Could Someone At That Level Be So Crassly Unethical?"** The Billings Gazette reported, "Clement said that morale began to worsen in the department as Zinke's ethics were questioned during his tenure. He said that everyone in the department goes through ethics training, but that political appointees like Zinke go through even more. 'Because the idea is not just to avoid a conflict of interest, but to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest,' Clement said. He gave the example of Zinke's connection to a real estate deal involving a senior executive of Halliburton, and how, as secretary, Zinke oversaw contracts with the company. 'It makes you question 'How on Earth could, how could someone at that level be so crassly unethical?'" Clement said." [Billings Gazette, 10/20/22]

## ***Commemorative Coins***

**December 2017: Zinke Made Personalized Commemorative Coins As Interior Secretary To Distribute To Staff And Visitors.** The Washington Post reported, "Zinke rode to work on horseback on his first day in office and displays animal heads on his wood-paneled office walls. For a while, he kept a glass-case display of hunting knives but was asked to remove them because of security risks, according to people familiar with the decision. He has commissioned commemorative coins with his name on them to give to staff and visitors, but the cost to taxpayers is unclear. Zinke's predecessors and some other Cabinet secretaries have coins bearing agency seals, but not personalized ones." [Washington Post, [12/12/17](#)]

- **December 2017: Some Former Cabinet Secretaries Had Issued Commemorative Coins, But Zinke Was The Only Secretary To Have Commissioned A Personalized Coin.** The Washington Post reported, "Zinke rode to work on horseback on his first day in office and displays animal heads on his wood-paneled office walls. For a while, he kept a glass-case display of hunting knives but was asked to remove them because of security risks, according to people familiar with the decision. He has commissioned commemorative coins with his name on them to give to staff and visitors, but the cost to taxpayers is unclear. Zinke's predecessors and some other Cabinet secretaries have coins bearing agency seals, but not personalized ones." [Washington Post, [12/12/17](#)]

**April 2018: Zinke Issued A Souvenir Coin With His Name Stamped Around The Ring.** The New York Times reported, "When Scott Pruitt wanted to refashion the Environmental Protection Agency's "challenge coin" — a type of souvenir medallion with military origins that has become a status symbol among civilians — he proposed an unusual design: Make it bigger, and delete the E.P.A. logo. [...] Other agencies have made changes to their own challenge coins. Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, issued coins last year that display the United States seal on one side and his agency's logo, a buffalo on a prairie with mountains and a rising sun, on the other. Mr. Zinke's name is stamped around the rim. Earlier Interior Department challenge coins did not bear the secretary's name." [New York Times, 4/11/18]

**Zinke Drew Scrutiny As Interior Secretary When He Commissioned \$2,000 In Commemorative Coins Emblazoned With His Name To Be Handed Out To Visitors And Staff.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "ZINKE





ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department's headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency's inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency's inspector general investigators." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

## ***DOJ Charges***

**October 2018: The Interior Department's Inspector General Referred An Investigation Of Zinke To The Justice Department.** The New York Times reported, "The Interior Department's top watchdog has referred an investigation into a possible conflict of interest by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department, according to a person familiar with the matter, a sign that the federal government is considering a criminal investigation of Mr. Zinke's actions. It is not known which investigation was referred to the Justice Department. Mr. Zinke is the subject of at least six known federal investigations into allegations of ethical misconduct or other policy violations." [New York Times, 10/30/18]

- **It Was Not Known Which Investigation The Inspector General Referred To The Department Of Justice, But An Anonymous Source Familiar With The Matter Speculated That It Was The Investigation Regarding The Halliburton Land Deal.** The New York Times reported, "It is not known which investigation was referred to the Justice Department. Mr. Zinke is the subject of at least six known federal investigations into allegations of ethical misconduct or other policy violations. However, the person familiar with the matter, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said it was highly likely that the investigation now being examined by the Justice Department was one involving a Montana land deal involving Mr. Zinke and the chairman of the energy giant Halliburton." [New York Times, 10/30/18]

**January 2019: The Department Of Justice Began Investigating Whether Zinke Lied To The Interior Department's Inspector General Investigators, A Potential Violation Of Criminal Law.** The Denver Post reported, "Justice Department's public integrity section is examining whether newly departed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke lied to his agency's inspector general investigators, according to people familiar with the matter, a potential criminal violation that would exacerbate Zinke's legal woes." [Denver Post, 1/4/19]

**The Two Inspector General's Reports Concerning Zinke's Misconduct Were Referred To The U.S. Department Of Justice, Which Declined To Prosecute Him In Both Cases.** The Billings Gazette reported, "In late August, Interior's Office of Inspector General released a report stating Zinke made statements to investigators 'with the overall intent to mislead them' over conversations he had with lobbyists, lawmakers and other officials regarding a bid by two Indian tribes to operate a casino in Connecticut. [...] Another inspector general report released in February stated Zinke misused his position at Interior to advance a commercial development project in Whitefish and misled agency ethics official about his involvement. Zinke, after being named Interior Secretary, said he would step away from the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation under ethics rules barring involvement with nonprofits. [...] The inspector general's findings in both cases were referred to the U.S. Justice Department, which declined to prosecute the cases." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**Around The Time Of Congress's First Impeachment Inquiry Into Trump, Then-Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen Directed Justice Department Prosecutors To Hold Off On Bringing Charges Against Zinke, On The Basis That Rosen Believed The Case Was Not Yet Strong Enough.** The New York Times reported, "But once Congress began its impeachment inquiry, top Justice Department officials decided that an investigation of Mr. Trump had been overtaken by the events of impeachment, according to two people briefed on the matter. [...] Around that time, the deputy attorney general, Jeffrey A. Rosen, also told prosecutors in the section that they could





not proceed with charges against Mr. Zinke of making false statements to federal investigators, a case that stemmed from a referral from the Interior Department inspector general, according to three people familiar with the case. Mr. Rosen expressed doubts about the strength of the case and sought a stronger prosecution. The prosecutors agreed to work further, and the inquiry has not been officially closed, according to people familiar with the matter.” [New York Times, 11/11/20]

## ***Drones***

**Zinke Co-Founded And Served As The Director Of The Center For Remote Integration, A Nonprofit Organization That Promoted Montana’s Drone Industry.** The New York Times reported, “Over the past decade or so, Mr. Zinke has pursued dual careers as a politician and businessman. Some of his business dealings in that time formed relationships with individuals and industries that would become relevant in later years in his role as secretary of the interior. For instance, he was a director of a nonprofit group that pushed to develop Montana’s drone industry by using the state’s big open spaces as a testing ground. Under Mr. Zinke’s leadership, the Interior Department has planned to increase its use of drones, particularly for fighting wildfires. Mr. Zinke’s personal experience with the drone industry and ties to a number of stakeholders in the business come from having co-founded the Center for Remote Integration, the nonprofit organization that promoted their use.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]

- **As Interior Secretary, Zinke Planned To Expand The Department’s Use Of Drones For Measures Such As Fighting Wildfires.** The New York Times reported, “Over the past decade or so, Mr. Zinke has pursued dual careers as a politician and businessman. Some of his business dealings in that time formed relationships with individuals and industries that would become relevant in later years in his role as secretary of the interior. For instance, he was a director of a nonprofit group that pushed to develop Montana’s drone industry by using the state’s big open spaces as a testing ground. Under Mr. Zinke’s leadership, the Interior Department has planned to increase its use of drones, particularly for fighting wildfires. Mr. Zinke’s personal experience with the drone industry and ties to a number of stakeholders in the business come from having co-founded the Center for Remote Integration, the nonprofit organization that promoted their use.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]
- **May 2018: Zinke Announced A Series Of Contracts For Drone Services, One Of Which Was Awarded To A Boeing Subsidiary Called Insitu.** The New York Times reported, “In May 2018, Mr. Zinke announced a round of contracts for drone services to assist in fighting wildfires. One of the contracts was awarded to a company called Insitu, a Boeing subsidiary with past ties to Mr. Zinke’s efforts on behalf of the industry.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]
- **Zinke Had Past Ties To Insitu From When He Ran The Center For Remote Integration.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Zinke’s personal experience with the drone industry and ties to a number of stakeholders in the business come from having co-founded the Center for Remote Integration, the nonprofit organization that promoted their use. [...] In May 2018, Mr. Zinke announced a round of contracts for drone services to assist in fighting wildfires. One of the contracts was awarded to a company called Insitu, a Boeing subsidiary with past ties to Mr. Zinke’s efforts on behalf of the industry.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]

## ***Flags***

**December 2017: Zinke Had A Flag Raised Each Time He Was Physically Present At The Interior Department And A Different Flag Raised For Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.** The Washington Post reported, “At the Interior Department’s headquarters in downtown Washington, Secretary Ryan Zinke has revived an arcane military ritual that no one can remember ever happening in the federal government. A security staffer takes the elevator to the seventh floor, climbs the stairs to the roof and hoists a special secretarial flag whenever Zinke enters the building. When the secretary goes home for the day or travels, the flag — a blue banner emblazoned with the agency’s bison seal flanked by seven white stars representing the Interior bureaus — comes



down. In Zinke's absence, the ritual is repeated to raise an equally obscure flag for Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt." [Washington Post, [12/12/17](#)]

**Zinke Drew Scrutiny As Interior Secretary When He Required That A Special Flag Be Flown Whenever He Or His Deputy Were In The Interior Department's Headquarters.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department's headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency's inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency's inspector general investigators." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

- **Letter To The Editor: "Have You Ever Considered A Need For Your Own Flag? Probably Not, But You Might Want To Ask Your Boss For One And Further Ask That Somebody Hike It Up A Pole Every Time You Get To Work In The Morning. Ryan Zinke Did Just That On The Days He Was Present At The Interior Department Office Building In DC."** According to a letter to the editor by Archie Thomas and Merry Schrupf in the Ravalli Republic, "Have you ever priced out the cost of a door? Think about that a minute. Probably not, but as a taxpayer you have paid \$139,000 for new office doors and remodel for Ryan Zinke's Washington office as Secretary of the Department of Interior. Have you ever considered a need for your own flag? Probably not, but you might want to ask your boss for one and further ask that somebody hike it up a pole every time you get to work in the morning. Ryan Zinke did just that on the days he was present at the Interior Department office building in DC." [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 10/9/22]

## ***Grand Staircase-Escalante***

**2018: Zinke Was Investigated For His Decision To Shrink The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, On The Basis That The Decision May Have Improperly Benefited A Republican State Representative Whose Land Was Excluded From The Monument.** The New York Times reported, "Other investigations have delved into policy matters, such as Mr. Zinke's decision to dramatically shrink the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. The inspector general's office is looking into whether the review was conducted in a way that improperly benefited a Republican state representative whose land was removed from the boundaries of the monument." [New York Times, 10/31/18]

- **November 2018: The Inspector General Cleared Zinke Of Wrongdoing In The Investigation Over The Monument Shrinkage.** The New York Times reported, "A government watchdog agency has cleared Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke of wrongdoing following an inquiry into whether he redrew the boundaries of a national monument in Utah to avoid the nearby land holdings of a Republican state lawmaker and supporter of President Donald Trump." [New York Times, 11/27/18]

**2018: Zinke Was Cleared In An Inspector General Investigation Concerning Whether He Redrew The Boundaries Of Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument To Benefit A Republican State Representative, Mike Noel, Who Had Criticized The Monument's Designation And Owned Land Near And Within The Boundary.** The Billings Gazette reported, "In 2018, Zinke was cleared in an OIG investigation into whether the redrawing of the boundaries of Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument benefited a Republican state representative. State Rep. Mike Noel, a critic of the monument's designation, owned land near and within the boundary. Investigations found Noel was not provided preferential treatment and that Zinke and other officials did not know about his financial interest in the area, CBS News reported." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## ***Halliburton IG Report***

**2018: Halliburton Planned To Build A Development With Shops, A Hotel, And A Brewery Along The Whitefish River Known As The 95 Karrow Project.** The Washington Post reported, “The investigation into his real estate dealing began in the summer of 2018, after Politico reported that Zinke had remained involved in the project while in office. This raised conflict-of-interest concerns, because the project involved a development group funded by David J. Lesar, then the chairman of Halliburton, which stood to benefit from policies Zinke oversaw encouraging oil and gas drilling on public lands. Lesar’s company planned to build a large development along the Whitefish River, with shops, a hotel and a brewery. Zinke’s family foundation had agreed to donate land for a parking lot. Known as 95 Karrow, the project had the potential to increase the value of multiple parcels of land the Zinkes owned nearby. Zinke declined investigators’ requests to meet with them. When they asked him for an interview, he refused.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

**2018: Zinke’s Family Foundation Agreed To Donate Land For A Parking Lot For The 95 Karrow Project.** The Washington Post reported, “The investigation into his real estate dealing began in the summer of 2018, after Politico reported that Zinke had remained involved in the project while in office. This raised conflict-of-interest concerns, because the project involved a development group funded by David J. Lesar, then the chairman of Halliburton, which stood to benefit from policies Zinke oversaw encouraging oil and gas drilling on public lands. Lesar’s company planned to build a large development along the Whitefish River, with shops, a hotel and a brewery. Zinke’s family foundation had agreed to donate land for a parking lot. Known as 95 Karrow, the project had the potential to increase the value of multiple parcels of land the Zinkes owned nearby. Zinke declined investigators’ requests to meet with them. When they asked him for an interview, he refused.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

- **2018: The 95 Karrow Project Had The Potential To Increase The Value Of Multiple Land Parcels Owned By The Zinke Family Nearby.** The Washington Post reported, “The investigation into his real estate dealing began in the summer of 2018, after Politico reported that Zinke had remained involved in the project while in office. This raised conflict-of-interest concerns, because the project involved a development group funded by David J. Lesar, then the chairman of Halliburton, which stood to benefit from policies Zinke oversaw encouraging oil and gas drilling on public lands. Lesar’s company planned to build a large development along the Whitefish River, with shops, a hotel and a brewery. Zinke’s family foundation had agreed to donate land for a parking lot. Known as 95 Karrow, the project had the potential to increase the value of multiple parcels of land the Zinkes owned nearby. Zinke declined investigators’ requests to meet with them. When they asked him for an interview, he refused.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

**2018: The 95 Karrow Project Raised Conflict-Of-Interest Concerns Because The Project Involved A Developer Funded By David Lesar, The Chairman Of Halliburton, And Halliburton Stood To Benefit From Zinke’s Actions On Oil and Gas Leasing.** The Washington Post reported, “The investigation into his real estate dealing began in the summer of 2018, after Politico reported that Zinke had remained involved in the project while in office. This raised conflict-of-interest concerns, because the project involved a development group funded by David J. Lesar, then the chairman of Halliburton, which stood to benefit from policies Zinke oversaw encouraging oil and gas drilling on public lands. Lesar’s company planned to build a large development along the Whitefish River, with shops, a hotel and a brewery. Zinke’s family foundation had agreed to donate land for a parking lot. Known as 95 Karrow, the project had the potential to increase the value of multiple parcels of land the Zinkes owned nearby. Zinke declined investigators’ requests to meet with them. When they asked him for an interview, he refused.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

**2018: Zinke Remained Involved With The 95 Karrow Project While He Was In Office.** The Washington Post reported, “The investigation into his real estate dealing began in the summer of 2018, after Politico reported that Zinke had remained involved in the project while in office. This raised conflict-of-interest concerns, because the project involved a development group funded by David J. Lesar, then the chairman of Halliburton, which stood to benefit from policies Zinke oversaw encouraging oil and gas drilling on public lands. Lesar’s company planned to



build a large development along the Whitefish River, with shops, a hotel and a brewery. Zinke's family foundation had agreed to donate land for a parking lot. Known as 95 Karrow, the project had the potential to increase the value of multiple parcels of land the Zinkes owned nearby. Zinke declined investigators' requests to meet with them. When they asked him for an interview, he refused." [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

**2018: Zinke Claimed He Had Minimal Involvement In The Project And Told A Government Official In 2018 That He Had Done Nothing Improper With The 95 Karrow Project And That The Deal Was Proceeding Without Him.** The Washington Post reported, "Facing serious allegations about his ethics and conduct in office, Ryan Zinke, then secretary of Donald Trump's Interior Department, told a government official in 2018 that he had done nothing improper. Negotiations over a land deal in his hometown of Whitefish, Mont., were proceeding without him. His involvement was minimal, he said; his meeting with the project's developers at Interior headquarters was 'purely social.'" [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

**February 2022: An Interior Department Inspector General Report Detailed Emails And Text Messages That Showed Zinke Had Communicated With Developers 64 Times Between August 2017 And July 2018 To Discuss Project Details.** The Washington Post reported, "But a report released Wednesday by the department's internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project's design, the use of his foundation's land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. 'These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,' Inspector General Mark Greenblatt's office wrote. Zinke 'was not simply a passthrough for information,' the report said. 'He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.'" [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

- **February 2022 – Inspector General Mark Greenblatt's Office: "These Communications, Examples Of Which Are Set Forth Below, Show That Secretary Zinke Played An Extensive, Direct, And Substantive Role In Representing The Foundation During Negotiations With The 95 Karrow Project Developers."** The Washington Post reported, "But a report released Wednesday by the department's internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project's design, the use of his foundation's land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. 'These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,' Inspector General Mark Greenblatt's office wrote. Zinke 'was not simply a passthrough for information,' the report said. 'He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.'" [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]
- **Greenblatt's Office: "[Zinke] Personally Acted For Or Represented The Foundation In Connection With The Negotiations."** The Washington Post reported, "But a report released Wednesday by the department's internal watchdog caught Zinke in a lie. Email and text message exchanges show he communicated with the developers 64 times between August 2017 and July 2018 to discuss the project's design, the use of his foundation's land as a parking lot, and his interest in operating a brewery on the site. 'These communications, examples of which are set forth below, show that Secretary Zinke played an extensive, direct, and substantive role in representing the Foundation during negotiations with the 95 Karrow project developers,' Inspector General Mark Greenblatt's office wrote. Zinke 'was not simply a passthrough for information,' the report said. 'He personally acted for or represented the Foundation in connection with the negotiations.'" [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

**February 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Had Broken Federal Ethics Rules Multiple Times By Improperly Participating In Real Estate Negotiations With Halliburton And Other Developers.** The Washington Post reported, "The report found that Zinke broke federal ethics rules repeatedly by improperly participating in real estate negotiations with the then-chairman of the energy giant Halliburton and other developers. Zinke continued to represent his family's foundation in the negotiations for nearly a year, investigators



found, even after committing to federal officials that he would resign from the foundation and would not do any work on its behalf after he joined the Trump administration. He met with the developers in his office at Interior headquarters in the summer of 2017, after which he gave them a personal tour of the Lincoln Memorial and dined with them at a German beer garden in the District, Biergarten Haus, according to records of his official schedule. Although investigators said they could not be sure what was discussed during this visit, they found it was not entirely social, as the developers presented Zinke with a plan for the parking lot during their trip to Washington.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

- **February 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That Zinke Continued Representing His Family Foundation In The 95 Karrow Project For Almost A Year, Even After He Committed To Federal Officials That He Would Resign From The Foundation And Cut Ties After Becoming Secretary.** The Washington Post reported, “The report found that Zinke broke federal ethics rules repeatedly by improperly participating in real estate negotiations with the then-chairman of the energy giant Halliburton and other developers. Zinke continued to represent his family’s foundation in the negotiations for nearly a year, investigators found, even after committing to federal officials that he would resign from the foundation and would not do any work on its behalf after he joined the Trump administration. He met with the developers in his office at Interior headquarters in the summer of 2017, after which he gave them a personal tour of the Lincoln Memorial and dined with them at a German beer garden in the District, Biergarten Haus, according to records of his official schedule. Although investigators said they could not be sure what was discussed during this visit, they found it was not entirely social, as the developers presented Zinke with a plan for the parking lot during their trip to Washington.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]
- **The Inspector General Report Found That In 2017, Zinke Met With Developers At The Interior Department And Gave Them A Personal Lincoln Memorial Tour And Ate With Them At A German Beer Garden.** The Washington Post reported, “The report found that Zinke broke federal ethics rules repeatedly by improperly participating in real estate negotiations with the then-chairman of the energy giant Halliburton and other developers. Zinke continued to represent his family’s foundation in the negotiations for nearly a year, investigators found, even after committing to federal officials that he would resign from the foundation and would not do any work on its behalf after he joined the Trump administration. He met with the developers in his office at Interior headquarters in the summer of 2017, after which he gave them a personal tour of the Lincoln Memorial and dined with them at a German beer garden in the District, Biergarten Haus, according to records of his official schedule. Although investigators said they could not be sure what was discussed during this visit, they found it was not entirely social, as the developers presented Zinke with a plan for the parking lot during their trip to Washington.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]
- **The Inspector General Report Found That The Developers Showed Zinke A Plan For The 95 Karrow Parking Lot During Their Washington D.C. Trip.** The Washington Post reported, “The report found that Zinke broke federal ethics rules repeatedly by improperly participating in real estate negotiations with the then-chairman of the energy giant Halliburton and other developers. Zinke continued to represent his family’s foundation in the negotiations for nearly a year, investigators found, even after committing to federal officials that he would resign from the foundation and would not do any work on its behalf after he joined the Trump administration. He met with the developers in his office at Interior headquarters in the summer of 2017, after which he gave them a personal tour of the Lincoln Memorial and dined with them at a German beer garden in the District, Biergarten Haus, according to records of his official schedule. Although investigators said they could not be sure what was discussed during this visit, they found it was not entirely social, as the developers presented Zinke with a plan for the parking lot during their trip to Washington.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]
- **February 2022: The Inspector General Report Found That While Zinke Claimed His Wife Had Taken Over The Project, Investigators Found Only One Email Mentioning Lola Zinke’s Involvement In The Project From One Developer To Another Noting That Lola Zinke Had Rescinded The Parking Lot Deal.** The Washington Post reported, “Investigators also found that contrary to Zinke’s claims that his wife had taken over the project, the only evidence of communications between Lola Zinke and the developers was a single



email from one developer to another, saying that Lola Zinke was rescinding the parking lot arrangement. In a statement, the Zinke campaign called the investigation a ‘Biden Administration led report’ that ‘published false information, and was shared with the press as a political hit job.’ ‘The report is totally subjective and [they] admitted they released it because their conclusions were too flimsy and biased for DOJ to even consider,’ the campaign said. Greenblatt was appointed by Trump.” [Washington Post, [2/16/22](#)]

**Zinke Was Connected To A Real Estate Deal Involving A Senior Halliburton Executive While Overseeing Contracts With The Company.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Clement said that morale began to worsen in the department as Zinke’s ethics were questioned during his tenure. He said that everyone in the department goes through ethics training, but that political appointees like Zinke go through even more. ‘Because the idea is not just to avoid a conflict of interest, but to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest,’ Clement said. He gave the example of Zinke’s connection to a real estate deal involving a senior executive of Halliburton, and how, as secretary, Zinke oversaw contracts with the company. ‘It makes you question ‘How on Earth could, how could someone at that level be so crassly unethical?’” Clement said.” [Billings Gazette, 10/20/22]

**2022: An Inspector General’s Report From Mark Greenblatt, Trump Appointee, Found That Zinke Had Committed Ethics Violations By Continuing To Work On A Commercial Development In Whitefish After Saying He Would Step Away After Being Appointed Secretary Of The Interior, And That He Lied To Ethics Investigators About His Involvement.** The Billings Gazette reported, “An inspector general’s report from the Department of the Interior accusing former Sec. Ryan Zinke of ethics violations comes in the midst of his congressional campaign to represent Montana— a position he held until his appointment to former President Donald Trump’s cabinet. Zinke’s high profile in the state, strong fundraising and support from Trump, who easily won in Montana in the last election, has some politicalanalysts calling him the early frontrunner. State politicalanalysts said Wednesday the report will be an issue in the election, but how much impact it will have remains to be seen. The report from inspector general Mark Greenblatt, a Trump appointee, found that Zinke continued working with a foundation on a commercial development in Whitefish after previously saying he would step away, and then denied involvement to ethics officials.” [Billings Gazette, 2/16/22]

- **2022: The Report Found That Zinke Engaged In “Repeated, Ongoing Substantive Negotiations” With Developers Concerning The Property Development Through Text And Email And Used Agency Staff To Perform Non-Official Duties Tied To The Project, Such As Printing Documents And Arranging A Meeting.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Another inspector general report released in February stated Zinke misused his position at Interior to advance a commercial development project in Whitefish and misled agency ethics official about his involvement. Zinke, after being named Interior Secretary, said he would step away from the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation under ethics rules barring involvement with nonprofits. He declined interview requests from federal investigators, who concluded that Zinke engaged in ‘repeated, ongoing substantive negotiations’ with developers based on emails and text messages from others involved in the project, according to the report. Investigators also concluded that Zinke used agency staff to perform non-official duties tied to the project, such as printing documents and arranging a meeting.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]
- **Rob Saldin, University Of Montana Political Science Professor: “The Findings In The Report Seem To Be Significant, That He Behaved Unethically, Misused His Office And Then Lied About It To Cover It Up— Those Are Serious Findings.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “The report from inspector general Mark Greenblatt, a Trump appointee, found that Zinke continued working with a foundation on a commercial development in Whitefish after previously saying he would step away, and then denied involvement to ethics officials. Those findings are serious, said Rob Saldin, University of Montana political science professor and analyst for Montana Public Radio’s ‘Campaign Beat.’ [...] ‘The findings in the report seem to be significant, that he behaved unethically, misused his office and then lied about it to cover it up— those are serious findings,’ he said.” [Billings Gazette, 2/16/22]

- **2022: Al Olszewski, One Of Zinke’s Republican Primary Opponents, Called Zinke “One Of The Most Corrupt Person’s In Washington” And “A Dishonest Man” Following The Release Of The Inspector General’s Report.** The Independent Record reported, “Olszewski has also attacked Zinke on his resignation from Interior, as well as raised issues about the amount of time Zinke spends out of state and travel violations while in the Navy. Following the release of the inspector general’s report earlier this year, Olszewski released a statement calling Zinke ‘one of the most corrupt persons in Washington’ and ‘a dishonest man.’ ‘What the inspector general, who was appointed by Trump, stated was he lied, lack of candor,’ Olszewski said. ‘... That is an integrity issue.’” [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

**One Investigation Into Zinke’s Conduct In Office Focused On A Potential Conflict Of Interest Raised By A Land Deal In Montana Between A Charity Created By Zinke And A Property Developer Backed By David Lesar, The Former Chairman Of Halliburton, An Oilfield Services Provider.** The Boston Globe reported, “Zinke, who enraged environmentalists by, among other things, lifting an Obama administration moratorium on selling coal mining rights and scaling back protections on federal land, left the administration amid a swirl of federal investigations into his travel, potential conflicts of interest and his political activity — including a picture he posted on Twitter showing socks with Trump’s ‘Make America Great Again’ slogan. ‘My family got investigated. My family had death threats. I got investigated over my socks,’ Zinke said. One inquiry focused on a potential conflict of interest involving a Montana land deal between a charitable foundation Zinke created and a property development foundation backed by David Lesar, the former chairman of oilfield services provider Halliburton. Another inquiry scrutinized Zinke’s decision to block Indian tribes from building a casino in Connecticut after lobbying from their chief competitor, MGM Resorts International, despite the advice of employees with the Interior Department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**February 2022: A Government Watchdog Found That Zinke Violated Federal Ethics Rules By Negotiating With Developers About A Real Estate Project In His Hometown Of Whitefish, Montana, Despite Signing An Agreement That Barred Such Negotiations While In Office.** The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former interior secretary, misused his position and lied to investigators about his involvement in a Montana land deal, repeatedly breaking federal ethics rules, a government watchdog said on Wednesday. The Interior Department’s inspector general found that while in office, Mr. Zinke continued to negotiate with developers about a real estate project in his hometown, Whitefish, Mont. His involvement violated an ethics agreement he had signed upon taking office to not participate in such matters.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]

**March 2017: Zinke Resigned As President Of A Charity He Established, The Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, As Part Of An Ethics Agreement He Signed Upon Taking Public Office.** The New York Times reported, “The Interior Department’s inspector general found that while in office, Mr. Zinke continued to negotiate with developers about a real estate project in his hometown, Whitefish, Mont. His involvement violated an ethics agreement he had signed upon taking office to not participate in such matters. [...] In 2007, Mr. Zinke helped establish a charitable foundation, the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, and in March 2017, he resigned as its president as part of the ethics agreement. But from August 2017 to July 2018, Mr. Zinke and project developers exchanged emails and text messages about plans to use foundation land for a parking lot and a proposed microbrewery, investigators said. Mr. Zinke, the report said, ‘played an extensive, direct and substantial role’ in representing the foundation during negotiations.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]

- **August 2017 – July 2018: Zinke Exchanged Emails And Texts With Developers About A Deal Using The Foundation’s Land, With The Watchdog Concluding That He Played An “Extensive, Direct And Substantial Role” In Representing The Foundation During These Negotiations.** The New York Times reported, “The Interior Department’s inspector general found that while in office, Mr. Zinke continued to negotiate with developers about a real estate project in his hometown, Whitefish, Mont. His involvement violated an ethics agreement he had signed upon taking office to not participate in such matters. [...] In 2007, Mr. Zinke helped establish a charitable foundation, the Great Northern Veterans Peace Park Foundation, and in March 2017, he resigned as its president as part of the ethics agreement. But from August 2017 to July 2018, Mr. Zinke and project developers exchanged emails and text messages about plans to use foundation land for a

parking lot and a proposed microbrewery, investigators said. Mr. Zinke, the report said, ‘played an extensive, direct and substantial role’ in representing the foundation during negotiations.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]

**February 2022: The Watchdog’s Report Found That Zinke Knowingly Misled An Investigator By Claiming That He Had Not Represented The Foundation In Any Capacity.** The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former interior secretary, misused his position and lied to investigators about his involvement in a Montana land deal, repeatedly breaking federal ethics rules, a government watchdog said on Wednesday. [...] Questioned about his role in the negotiations, Mr. Zinke knowingly misled an investigator, the report added. Despite his extensive involvement with the project, Mr. Zinke told the investigator that he had merely helped his wife file taxes for the foundation and that he did not represent the foundation in any capacity.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]

- **The Report Additionally Found That Zinke Misused His Office For Private Gain By Using His Office At The Department Of The Interior To Host A Meeting With Project Developers And Directing His Staff To Print Documents Related To The Land Deal.** The New York Times reported, “Ryan Zinke, the former interior secretary, misused his position and lied to investigators about his involvement in a Montana land deal, repeatedly breaking federal ethics rules, a government watchdog said on Wednesday. [...] Additionally, the inspector general found that Mr. Zinke misused his office for private gain when he directed his staff to arrange a meeting with the developers in his office at the Interior Department and print documents related to the real estate project.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]
- **The Inspector General Found That Zinke Did Not Violate Federal Criminal Conflict Of Interest Laws Because He Did Not Act In His Official Capacity To Benefit The Developers.** The New York Times reported, “But the report said that Mr. Zinke did not violate federal criminal conflict of interest laws because the deal did not involve official department matters. And although one of the developers was an executive of the energy giant Halliburton, Mr. Zinke had not done anything in his official capacity to benefit the company or the executive, the inspector general found.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]
- **2021: Biden Administration Prosecutors Declined To Pursue Criminal Charges Against Zinke.** The New York Times reported, “The department’s inspector general’s office—led by Inspector General Mark Greenblatt, a Trump nominee—referred the results of the Zinke investigation to federal prosecutors for potential prosecution. But the prosecutors who work for Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland, appointed by President Biden, declined to pursue criminal charges in the summer of 2021, according to the investigative report.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]

## ***Hatch Act Complaints***

**2018: Zinke Was Under Investigation For Alleged Violations Of The Hatch Act Concerning Two Taxpayer-Funded Trips To Speak Alongside Republican Politicians.** The New York Times reported, “One watchdog agency, the United States Office of Special Counsel, is considering whether two of Mr. Zinke’s taxpayer-funded trips to speak alongside Republican politicians violated the Hatch Act, which prohibits federal employees from engaging in government-funded political activity. And another, the Interior Department’s Inspector General, is examining whether Mr. Zinke’s travel violated rules.” [New York Times, 4/16/18]

- **The Hatch Act Barred Federal Employees From Engaging In Political Activity Using Government Funding.** The New York Times reported, “One watchdog agency, the United States Office of Special Counsel, is considering whether two of Mr. Zinke’s taxpayer-funded trips to speak alongside Republican politicians violated the Hatch Act, which prohibits federal employees from engaging in government-funded political activity. And another, the Interior Department’s Inspector General, is examining whether Mr. Zinke’s travel violated rules.” [New York Times, 4/16/18]

**2022: Zinke Faced Numerous Hatch Act Complaints Over Allegations That He Used His Official Position For Political And Campaign Purposes.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The Hatch Act prohibits most federal



employees from using their positions for political purposes, although it is enforced as agency guidelines rather than criminally. Democratic lawmakers and outside groups made several complaints against Zinke alleging violations. In one complaint, federal investigators concluded Zinke violated the Hatch Act when he posted a photo of his socks displaying a political slogan. This screen shot posted Tuesday, June 26, 2018, on the official Twitter account of U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke shows him wearing socks with an image of President Trump and the campaign slogan ‘Make America Great Again,’ which has been blacked out on the photo, during an official event in Keystone, S.D.(U.S. Interior Department via AP ) The Office of Special Counsel found that a photo posted to official social media accounts of Zinke’s ‘Make America Great Again’ socks violated the Hatch Act. Investigators did not pursue the matter further after Zinke deleted the Tweet, The Hill reported.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**The Office Of Special Counsel Concluded That Zinke Violated The Hatch Act By Posting An Image Of His Socks Displaying The Political Slogan “Make America Great Again,” But Did Not Pursue The Matter After Zinke Deleted The Tweet Containing The Image.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The Hatch Act prohibits most federal employees from using their positions for political purposes, although it is enforced as agency guidelines rather than criminally. Democratic lawmakers and outside groups made several complaints against Zinke alleging violations. In one complaint, federal investigators concluded Zinke violated the Hatch Act when he posted a photo of his socks displaying a political slogan. This screen shot posted Tuesday, June 26, 2018, on the official Twitter account of U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke shows him wearing socks with an image of President Trump and the campaign slogan ‘Make America Great Again,’ which has been blacked out on the photo, during an official event in Keystone, S.D.(U.S. Interior Department via AP ) The Office of Special Counsel found that a photo posted to official social media accounts of Zinke’s ‘Make America Great Again’ socks violated the Hatch Act. Investigators did not pursue the matter further after Zinke deleted the Tweet, The Hill reported.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**2018: Democratic Representative Raul Grijalva Filed A Hatch Act Complaint Against Zinke Over His Appearance With Florida Governor Rick Scott At An Event Announcing Plans To Ban Offshore Drilling In Florida In A Manner That Grijalva Claimed Was Meant To Boost Scott’s Run For U.S. Senate; The Case Was Closed In 2021 Due To Zinke Not Being In Government Or Available To Interview.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The Hatch Act prohibits most federal employees from using their positions for political purposes, although it is enforced as agency guidelines rather than criminally. Democratic lawmakers and outside groups made several complaints against Zinke alleging violations. [...] In April 2018, Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Arizona, requested that the Office of Special Counsel investigate Zinke’s appearance in Florida with then-Gov. Rick Scott. Zinke announced that Florida would be exempt from plans to expand offshore drilling, but Democrats questioned whether the exemption was meant to boost Scott’s run for the U.S. Senate. Interior officials told CNN the appearance was official business and complied with ethics rules. Grijalva’s office provided investigators’ response to the Montana State News Bureau. The response from April 2021 said the case was being closed, explaining that investigators reviewed documents that alone were not enough to draw a conclusion. It went on to say Zinke and others were no longer in government or available to interview.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**2019: Zinke Was Cleared By Investigators Over An Alleged Hatch Act Violation After He Announced The Awarding Of A Grant For Mine Cleanup At An Event Attended By The Republican Congressional Candidate Rick Saccone.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In March of 2019, CNN reported that Zinke had been cleared by investigators following allegations that he made the announcement of the awarding of a grant to influence a Pennsylvania election. In February 2018, Zinke announced grants awarded for mine cleanup at an event attended by Republican candidate for Congress Rick Saccone, then a state senator. The Office of Special Counsel ‘investigation found no evidence that you violated the Hatch Act during this event,’ CNN reported.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## ***Inspector General Firing***

**October 2018: Zinke Fired The Interior Department’s Inspector General In The Middle Of An Investigation Into Misconduct In The Agency.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Zinke, appearing with a Southern Ute tribal



official who supports administration efforts to boost energy production on Native American lands, was not asked during his five-minute segment about Tuesday's news that he had fired the Interior Department's inspector general, who was investigating allegations of misconduct in the agency." [Los Angeles Times, 10/18/18]

## ***Investigations (General)***

**December 2018: As Interior Secretary, Zinke Was Investigated At Least 15 Times.** The Washington Post reported, "During his tenure, Zinke came under at least 15 investigations, including: inquiries into his connection to a real estate deal involving a company that Interior regulates; whether he bent government rules to allow his wife to ride in government vehicles; and allowing a security detail to travel with him on a vacation to Turkey at considerable taxpayer cost. Zinke was cleared in several of those investigations, and he attacked his critics rather than adopt a more chastened tone. Late last month, he accused Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) — who had called on Zinke to step down and is poised to take over the committee that oversees Interior in January — of being a drunk." [Washington Post, [12/15/18](#)]

- **December 2018: Interior Department Inspector General Spokeswoman Nancy DiPaolo Said That Two Investigations Were "Going Forward" Despite Zinke's Resignation As Secretary.** The Washington Post reported, "Zinke followed Trump's tweet with his own: 'I love working for the President and am incredibly proud of all the good work we've accomplished together. However, after 30 years of public service, I cannot justify spending thousands of dollars defending myself and my family against false allegations.' But those allegations won't go away when Zinke departs Washington. Nancy DiPaolo, a spokeswoman for Interior's inspector general, declined to discuss two investigations of Zinke because they are active: 'Right now, they're going forward.'" [Washington Post, [12/20/18](#)]

**2022: Zinke Faced Between 18 Investigations Concerning His Time As The Secretary Of Interior.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke has faced accusations of wrongdoing and dishonesty from both Republicans in June's primary, and now from his Democratic opponent Monica Tranel leading up to November's general election. They've pointed to two reports from internal agency investigators as well as the sheer volume of investigations, numbering from 15-20. [...] 'You have weaponized investigators that are biased, that can run amok, in my case, 18 investigations on my socks, my dog, etc, etc, etc.', Zinke said in a recent debate. 'And they all lead to no conflict of interest, no breaking of rules and laws.' [...] The exact number of investigations is somewhat a matter of definition. For example, the same complaint might be investigated by more than one entity, or look at more than one potential violation. The candidates both cited 18 as the number during a recent debate." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**Zinke Resigned After Facing More Than 12 Investigations By The Interior Department's Inspector General, Congress, And The U.S. Office Of Special Counsel, Alleging That All Of The Investigations Were Politically Motivated.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department's headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency's inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency's inspector general investigators." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

- **Daily Inter Lake: "The Probes Focused On Chartered Flights And Other Transactions That Mixed Official And Political Business."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department's headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency's



inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

- **Daily Inter Lake: “Zinke Stepped Down At The Start Of 2019 — Following A Surprise Presidential Twitter Announcement — While The Department Of Justice Probed Whether He Had Lied To His Agency’s Inspector General Investigators.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department’s headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency’s inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]
- **Daily Inter Lake: “At The Time, The Inspector General Had Been Investigating A Whitefish Land Deal That Zinke Struck With The Chairman Of Halliburton, The Massive Oil Services Corporation, As Well As Zinke’s Involvement In A Dispute Over A Casino That Two Native American Tribes Were Seeking To Operate In Connecticut.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators. At the time, the inspector general had been investigating a Whitefish land deal that Zinke struck with the chairman of Halliburton, the massive oil services corporation, as well as Zinke’s involvement in a dispute over a casino that two Native American tribes were seeking to operate in Connecticut. Some of the investigations into Zinke cleared him of wrongdoing, while others stalled due to lack of cooperation, as well as alleged interference by other Trump administration officials.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]
- **Daily Inter Lake: “Some Of The Investigations Into Zinke Cleared Him Of Wrongdoing, While Others Stalled Due To Lack Of Cooperation, As Well As Alleged Interference By Other Trump Administration Officials.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency’s inspector general investigators. At the time, the inspector general had been investigating a Whitefish land deal that Zinke struck with the chairman of Halliburton, the massive oil services corporation, as well as Zinke’s involvement in a dispute over a casino that two Native American tribes were seeking to operate in Connecticut. Some of the investigations into Zinke cleared him of wrongdoing, while others stalled due to lack of cooperation, as well as alleged interference by other Trump administration officials.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

## ***Kevin Moore***

**September 2016: Zinke Donated Fraudulent Campaign Contributions From John Kevin Moore, Who Was Under Investigation For Securities Fraud Over His Operation Of A Ponzi Scheme.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The investigation of a Bigfork man the state alleges may have been operating a Ponzi scheme to defraud investors has spilled over into the race for Montana’s lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. A spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., told the Missoulian that the congressman’s campaign would donate all contributions it has received from John Kevin Moore, also known as Kevin Moore, to the Flathead Food Bank. That includes \$5,100 Moore appears to have donated to the Zinke campaign, using two different names and occupations but the same Bigfork mailing address, during the 2014 general election. That amount would exceed the



federal campaign contribution limit for an election cycle by an individual, which was \$2,600 that year. Moore has not been charged in the current securities investigation. He is scheduled to appear in a Flathead County courtroom next week for a show-cause hearing to argue why a judge's order freezing his assets should not be continued in the form of a temporary injunction." [Billings Gazette, 9/29/16]

- **Zinke's Spokesperson Said He Would Refund All Of Moore's Contributions, Which Were Nearly Double The Federal Limit.** The Billings Gazette reported, "The investigation of a Bigfork man the state alleges may have been operating a Ponzi scheme to defraud investors has spilled over into the race for Montana's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. A spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., told the Missoulian that the congressman's campaign would donate all contributions it has received from John Kevin Moore, also known as Kevin Moore, to the Flathead Food Bank. That includes \$5,100 Moore appears to have donated to the Zinke campaign, using two different names and occupations but the same Bigfork mailing address, during the 2014 general election. That amount would exceed the federal campaign contribution limit for an election cycle by an individual, which was \$2,600 that year. Moore has not been charged in the current securities investigation. He is scheduled to appear in a Flathead County courtroom next week for a show-cause hearing to argue why a judge's order freezing his assets should not be continued in the form of a temporary injunction." [Billings Gazette, 9/29/16]
- **September 2016: Moore Was Under Investigation For Selling Over \$2.7 Million In Oil Lease Investments Without Registering Securities With The State And Without Registering As A Securities Broker.** The Billings Gazette reported, "In court documents filed earlier this month that successfully sought a temporary order to restrain Moore from selling more investments or disposing of any assets, Montana Deputy Securities Commissioner Lynne Egan accused Moore of selling more than \$2.7 million in investments in oil leases without registering the securities with the state, and without registering as a securities broker. The documents say 36 people invested with Moore. Those same documents allege that, while paying out \$886,600 to investors from those funds, Moore also withdrew almost \$800,000 for himself, spent more than \$400,000 to make mortgage payments and pay escrow service and legal fees on two Bigfork homes, and used even more of the money to purchase vehicles, fine art, an RV and an ATV." [Billings Gazette, 9/29/16]
- **September 2016: Moore Had Previous Criminal Convictions, Including Fraud In A Painting Sale, \$75,000 Worth Of Fraud For A "Gold Coin Scheme," And Writing Bad Checks.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Egan said she began her investigation after four people complained they had made investments but received minimal or inaccurate information about Big Sky Mineral Resources from Moore. The Associated Press has reported Moore has previous criminal convictions for defrauding an individual in the sale of a painting, for defrauding another person of \$75,000 in a 'gold coin scheme,' for writing bad checks, and for mail fraud, in a 2003 case where he portrayed himself as a licensed outfitter in mailing materials to potential clients. Heather Swift, communications director for Zinke, said the congressman 'had no idea of the transgressions and only learned of the situation when he read the article in the newspaper.'" [Billings Gazette, 9/29/16]

**Letter To The Editor By Dan Morrison: "I Got To Know About Ryan Zinke Through A Mutual Acquaintance: Kevin Moore. The Same Kevin Moore Convicted Of Defrauding Dozens Of People In A Multi-State Ponzi Scheme In 2018 Who Is Now Serving Time In Federal Prison For His Crime."** According to a letter to the editor by Dan Morrison in the Independent Record, "In 2014 I got to know about Ryan Zinke through a mutual acquaintance: Kevin Moore. The same Kevin Moore convicted of defrauding dozens of people in a multi-state Ponzi scheme in 2018 who is now serving time in federal prison for his crime. Zinke's relationship with Moore was an important fact that convinced me to invest in Moore's Ponzi scheme. Moore showed me several pictures where he and Zinke were dining together and jointly attending political and civic events. Moore continually utilized his relationship with Zinke to convince unwitting individuals to invest in his scheme. Whether or not Zinke claims he was manipulated by Moore, the fact remains that Zinke was a close associate of a well-known crook. Was Zinke aware of Moore's previous criminal background? Was he aware of his Ponzi scheme that was well underway during the time of their relationship? Did Zinke simply turn a blind eye to the nefarious actions



of his associate? What is said about birds of a feather? Moore is incarcerated. Zinke is running for Congress. Don't put a guy back in Congress who hangs out with crooks." [Independent Record, Letter to the Editor, 5/27/21]

- **Letter To The Editor: “Zinke’s Relationship With Moore Was An Important Fact That Convinced Me To Invest In Moore’s Ponzi Scheme... Moore Continually Utilized His Relationship With Zinke To Convince Unwitting Individuals To Invest In His Scheme.”** According to a letter to the editor by Dan Morrison in the Independent Record, “In 2014 I got to know about Ryan Zinke through a mutual acquaintance: Kevin Moore. The same Kevin Moore convicted of defrauding dozens of people in a multi-state Ponzi scheme in 2018 who is now serving time in federal prison for his crime. Zinke’s relationship with Moore was an important fact that convinced me to invest in Moore’s Ponzi scheme. Moore showed me several pictures where he and Zinke were dining together and jointly attending political and civic events. Moore continually utilized his relationship with Zinke to convince unwitting individuals to invest in his scheme. Whether or not Zinke claims he was manipulated by Moore, the fact remains that Zinke was a close associate of a well-known crook. Was Zinke aware of Moore’s previous criminal background? Was he aware of his Ponzi scheme that was well underway during the time of their relationship? Did Zinke simply turn a blind eye to the nefarious actions of his associate? What is said about birds of a feather? Moore is incarcerated. Zinke is running for Congress. Don't put a guy back in Congress who hangs out with crooks.” [Independent Record, Letter to the Editor, 5/27/21]
- **Letter To The Editor: “Whether Or Not Zinke Claims He Was Manipulated By Moore, The Fact Remains That Zinke Was A Close Associate Of A Well-Known Crook. [...] Don’t Put A Guy Back In Congress Who Hangs Out With Crooks.”** According to a letter to the editor by Dan Morrison in the Independent Record, “In 2014 I got to know about Ryan Zinke through a mutual acquaintance: Kevin Moore. The same Kevin Moore convicted of defrauding dozens of people in a multi-state Ponzi scheme in 2018 who is now serving time in federal prison for his crime. Zinke’s relationship with Moore was an important fact that convinced me to invest in Moore’s Ponzi scheme. Moore showed me several pictures where he and Zinke were dining together and jointly attending political and civic events. Moore continually utilized his relationship with Zinke to convince unwitting individuals to invest in his scheme. Whether or not Zinke claims he was manipulated by Moore, the fact remains that Zinke was a close associate of a well-known crook. Was Zinke aware of Moore’s previous criminal background? Was he aware of his Ponzi scheme that was well underway during the time of their relationship? Did Zinke simply turn a blind eye to the nefarious actions of his associate? What is said about birds of a feather? Moore is incarcerated. Zinke is running for Congress. Don't put a guy back in Congress who hangs out with crooks.” [Independent Record, Letter to the Editor, 5/27/21]
- **Letter To The Editor: “Was Zinke Aware Of Moore’s Previous Criminal Background? Was He Aware Of His Ponzi Scheme That Was Well Underway During The Time Of Their Relationship? Did Zinke Simply Turn A Blind Eye To The Nefarious Actions Of His Associate?”** According to a letter to the editor by Dan Morrison in the Independent Record, “In 2014 I got to know about Ryan Zinke through a mutual acquaintance: Kevin Moore. The same Kevin Moore convicted of defrauding dozens of people in a multi-state Ponzi scheme in 2018 who is now serving time in federal prison for his crime. Zinke’s relationship with Moore was an important fact that convinced me to invest in Moore’s Ponzi scheme. Moore showed me several pictures where he and Zinke were dining together and jointly attending political and civic events. Moore continually utilized his relationship with Zinke to convince unwitting individuals to invest in his scheme. Whether or not Zinke claims he was manipulated by Moore, the fact remains that Zinke was a close associate of a well-known crook. Was Zinke aware of Moore’s previous criminal background? Was he aware of his Ponzi scheme that was well underway during the time of their relationship? Did Zinke simply turn a blind eye to the nefarious actions of his associate? What is said about birds of a feather? Moore is incarcerated. Zinke is running for Congress. Don't put a guy back in Congress who hangs out with crooks.” [Independent Record, Letter to the Editor, 5/27/21]

### ***Murkowski ACA Phone Call***

**July 2017: Zinke Called Both Alaska Senators After They Voted Against Repealing Obamacare To Reportedly Tell Them “The Vote Had Put Alaska’s Future With The Administration In Jeopardy.”** The New York Times reported, “The Senate rejected legislation to repeal parts of the Affordable Care Act, with Senator John McCain casting a decisive ‘no.’ Senate Republicans unveiled a ‘skinny repeal,’ a narrow measure to roll back parts of the Affordable Care Act. It would leave 15 million more Americans without insurance next year, the Congressional Budget Office said. Speaker Ryan tried to reassure senators balking at the narrow bill, but he left the door open for ‘skinny’ passage. [...] President Trump went after Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who was one of only two Republicans to vote against starting debate on health care this week, with a Twitter post on Wednesday. But that might not be the end of it. Ryan Zinke, the Interior secretary, called both Ms. Murkowski and Alaska’s other senator, Dan Sullivan, ‘letting them know the vote had put Alaska’s future with the administration in jeopardy,’ The Alaska Dispatch News reported. Mr. Sullivan, also a Republican, voted in favor of beginning debate. ‘I’m not going to go into the details, but I fear that the strong economic growth, pro-energy, pro-mining, pro-jobs and personnel from Alaska who are part of those policies are going to stop,’ Mr. Sullivan said, according to the newspaper.” [New York Times, 7/27/17]

**July 2017: Former McCain Political Consultant John Weaver Called Zinke’s Threats To Sen. Murkowski To Cease Federal Funding To Alaska Depending On Her Vote To Repeal Obamacare “Like ‘Dumb And Dumber’ Merged With ‘The Godfather.’”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “John Weaver, a former political consultant to McCain, said of the senator’s break with Trump on the healthcare bill, after two earlier votes in support, ‘I don’t think he took any joy in it.’ ‘But,’ Weaver said, ‘I think he wanted to send a clear signal that what’s happening in the White House is not normal and what’s happening in the Congress is not normal.’ GOP critics accuse Trump and his administration officials of combining arrogance with ineptitude, especially in how they carried out threats to wavering senators such as Murkowski and Nevada Sen. Dean Heller. Murkowski suggested to reporters that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had threatened federal funding to her state, which is heavily dependent on it. The Murkowski threat was particularly striking because she is chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which oversees Zinke’s department. Murkowski held fast. ‘Who ever heard of a Cabinet secretary threatening the chairman of the oversight committee of his department?’ Weaver said. ‘It’s like ‘Dumb and Dumber’ merged with ‘The Godfather’ here.’” [Los Angeles Times, 7/30/17]

- **Weaver: “Who Ever Heard Of A Cabinet Secretary Threatening The Chairman Of The Oversight Committee Of His Department?”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “John Weaver, a former political consultant to McCain, said of the senator’s break with Trump on the healthcare bill, after two earlier votes in support, ‘I don’t think he took any joy in it.’ ‘But,’ Weaver said, ‘I think he wanted to send a clear signal that what’s happening in the White House is not normal and what’s happening in the Congress is not normal.’ GOP critics accuse Trump and his administration officials of combining arrogance with ineptitude, especially in how they carried out threats to wavering senators such as Murkowski and Nevada Sen. Dean Heller. Murkowski suggested to reporters that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had threatened federal funding to her state, which is heavily dependent on it. The Murkowski threat was particularly striking because she is chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which oversees Zinke’s department. Murkowski held fast. ‘Who ever heard of a Cabinet secretary threatening the chairman of the oversight committee of his department?’ Weaver said. ‘It’s like ‘Dumb and Dumber’ merged with ‘The Godfather’ here.’” [Los Angeles Times, 7/30/17]

**July 2017: As Committee Chair, Sen. Lisa Murkowski Postponed Votes On Six Trump Administration Nominees On The Same Day Zinke Threatened Alaska’s Federal Funding Over The Obamacare Repeal Vote.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Murkowski and Sen. Daniel Sullivan (R-Alaska) each received a call from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke warning that Murkowski’s vote had put Alaska projects and priorities in danger, Alaska Dispatch News reported. On the same day Zinke reached out to Alaska’s senators, a committee led by Murkowski postponed votes on six Trump administration nominees. Asked about the potential electoral threat from Trump, Murkowski told NBC on Wednesday that her next election was a long way off. ‘Every day shouldn’t be about winning elections,’ she said. ‘How about just doing a little governing around here? That’s what I’m here for.’” [Los Angeles Times, 7/30/17]



**2017: Zinke Was Investigated By The Government Accountability Office And Office Of Inspectors General After He Allegedly Threatened To Withhold Federal Resources From Alaska After Senator Lisa Murkowski Voted Against Repealing Obamacare.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In 2017 there were news reports that Zinke threatened to withhold resources from Alaska after Sen. Lisa Murkowski voted against her party’s efforts to repeal Obamacare. The allegations centered on a call from Zinke to Alaska Sens. Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, where Zinke was reported to have warned that the vote could have negative consequences for energy and land use in the state, according to a Reuters article. Investigators from the OIG and Government Accountability Office dropped their probes after the senators declined to be interviewed. Zinke and Murkowski later posted a photo of them smiling and drinking beer together.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

- **Zinke Allegedly Said To Murkowski And Senator Dan Sullivan Over The Phone That Her Vote Could Have Negative Consequences For Energy And Land Use In The State, But The Investigation Was Dropped After Murkowski And Sullivan Declined To Be Interviewed.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In 2017 there were news reports that Zinke threatened to withhold resources from Alaska after Sen. Lisa Murkowski voted against her party’s efforts to repeal Obamacare. The allegations centered on a call from Zinke to Alaska Sens. Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, where Zinke was reported to have warned that the vote could have negative consequences for energy and land use in the state, according to a Reuters article. Investigators from the OIG and Government Accountability Office dropped their probes after the senators declined to be interviewed. Zinke and Murkowski later posted a photo of them smiling and drinking beer together.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## ***Navy SEAL***

**Zinke Was Reportedly Investigated By The Navy Over An Alleged “Pattern Of Travel Fraud” At The End Of His Military Career.** According to a column by Jeff Smith in the Independent Record, “I came in from weeding onions and turned on my computer to stream the congressional debate. Retired duffers get to do that in the middle of the day. My favorite part of the debate was seeing the look on Ryan Zinke’s face when he realized the debate wasn’t going to be a slam dunk. That was presumably the same expression when he learned the Navy was investigating ‘a pattern of travel fraud’ at the end of his military career.” [Independent Record, Column, 8/12/22]

**Letter To The Editor: “Zinke... Was Investigated By Navy Officials Before Leaving The Navy.”** According to a letter to the editor by Mike Farmer in the Lake County Leader & Advertiser, “Ryan Zinke was a Navy Seal, but his actions do not reflect the standard of the Navy Seal Ethos. The Navy Seal Ethos includes the following statements ‘My loyalty to country and Team is beyond reproach’ – not Ryan Zinke; ‘I do not advertise the nature of my work, nor seek recognition for my actions,’ – not Ryan Zinke; ‘Uncompromising integrity is my standard. My character and honor are steadfast’ – not Ryan Zinke; ‘I will never quit’ – not Ryan Zinke. He was investigated by Navy officials before leaving the Navy. As the Secretary of the Interior under the Trump Administration he left after numerous allegations of wrong doings. He has lied to the Department of Interior ethics officials.” [Lake County Leader & Advertiser, Letter to the Editor, 11/3/22]

**1990s: Zinke Improperly Billed The Government For Travel To Montana While He Was A Midlevel SEAL Team 6 Officer.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **1990s: Zinke Repaid \$211 For One Of The Trips He Had Improperly Billed But Also Maintained That His “Brilliant” Career Was Not Derailed By The Incident.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect



Donald J. Trump's nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one 'glitch': that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a 'brilliant' career." [New York Times, 1/16/17]

**January 2017: Zinke's Former Commanding Officer, Retired Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III, Said That He Gave Zinke A Fitness Report That Would "Not Allow Him To Get To Captain" And That Zinke "Never Got Command."** The New York Times reported, "But two retired admirals under whom Mr. Zinke served say his account understates the damage that it did. Mr. Zinke was in fact punished for abusing his travel expenses, they say, through an evaluation that prevented him from rising to senior levels in the Navy. His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was 'an easy decision' to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses. 'I gave him a fitness report that I thought would not allow him to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.,' Admiral Calland said. Even though Mr. Zinke served in a succession of No. 2 jobs in special operations after that, 'he never got command,' the admiral said." [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017 – Retired Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III: "I Gave [Zinke] A Fitness Report That I Thought Would Not Allow Him To Get To Captain, And That Seemed, In That Regard, To Work O.K."** The New York Times reported, "But two retired admirals under whom Mr. Zinke served say his account understates the damage that it did. Mr. Zinke was in fact punished for abusing his travel expenses, they say, through an evaluation that prevented him from rising to senior levels in the Navy. His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was 'an easy decision' to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses. 'I gave him a fitness report that I thought would not allow him to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.,' Admiral Calland said. Even though Mr. Zinke served in a succession of No. 2 jobs in special operations after that, 'he never got command,' the admiral said." [New York Times, 1/16/17]
- **January 2017: Retired Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III Said In An Interview That It Was "An Easy Decision" To Punish Zinke For The Improper Billing Because Zinke Was Supposed To Have Been Helping Detect Fraud At The Time.** The New York Times reported, "While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump's nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one 'glitch': that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a 'brilliant' career. But two retired admirals under whom Mr. Zinke served say his account understates the damage that it did. Mr. Zinke was in fact punished for abusing his travel expenses, they say, through an evaluation that prevented him from rising to senior levels in the Navy. His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was 'an easy decision' to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses." [New York Times, 1/16/17]
- **January 2017: Retired Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland III Said In An Interview That There Was "A Lot Of Discussion" Among Senior Officers About How To Punish Zinke For His Fraudulent Filings.** The New York Times reported, "Mr. Zinke has said he took the trips to scout training locations in Montana and nearby parts of Washington and took leave while he was there to do construction work on a family home in Whitefish, Mont. But officials who were at the command said he had less reason to scout sites at the time because he was finishing a two-year tour as an assault team leader. They said one of the trips also seemed suspicious because he had sought reimbursement for excess airline baggage even though he was traveling alone. Admiral Calland recalled that there was 'a lot of discussion' among senior officers about how to punish him. It also hurt Mr. Zinke, the officials said, that the trips came when SEAL Team 6 - which, though now best

known for killing Osama bin Laden, had initially been filled with hard-drinking mavericks who flouted the rules - wanted to project a more professional image to compete with the Army's Delta Force for top missions." [New York Times, 1/16/17]

**January 2017: Zinke's Last Boss After Leaving SEAL Team 6, Retired Vice Admiral Sean A. Pybus, Said That Admiral Calland's Decision To Cite Zinke For "Lapses In Judgment" Was A Red Flag For Boards That Screened Officers For Coveted Command Positions.** The New York Times reported, "His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was 'an easy decision' to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses. 'I gave him a fitness report that I thought would not allow him to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.,' Admiral Calland said. Even though Mr. Zinke served in a succession of No. 2 jobs in special operations after that, 'he never got command,' the admiral said. Another retired vice admiral, Sean A. Pybus, who was Mr. Zinke's boss after he left SEAL Team 6, said that Admiral Calland's decision to cite Mr. Zinke for 'lapses in judgment' in failing to set a proper example was a red flag for boards screening officers for coveted command jobs. Even if a fitness report - essentially a performance evaluation - gives top marks in other areas, as Mr. Zinke's did, 'language there like 'hey, this officer has questionable judgment,' that would keep him from being selected for a command position,' Admiral Pybus said. 'And I think that's exactly what happened.'" [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017: Vice Admiral Pybus Said That He Thought "Language Like, 'Hey, This Officer Has Questionable Judgment,'" On Zinke's Fitness Report Prevented Zinke From Command Positions.** The New York Times reported, "His former commanding officer in SEAL Team 6, retired Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland III, who had never before discussed the matter publicly, said in an interview that it was 'an easy decision' to hit Mr. Zinke hard over the travel claims, which came at a time when he was supposed to help prevent such abuses. 'I gave him a fitness report that I thought would not allow him to get to captain, and that seemed, in that regard, to work O.K.,' Admiral Calland said. Even though Mr. Zinke served in a succession of No. 2 jobs in special operations after that, 'he never got command,' the admiral said. Another retired vice admiral, Sean A. Pybus, who was Mr. Zinke's boss after he left SEAL Team 6, said that Admiral Calland's decision to cite Mr. Zinke for 'lapses in judgment' in failing to set a proper example was a red flag for boards screening officers for coveted command jobs. Even if a fitness report - essentially a performance evaluation - gives top marks in other areas, as Mr. Zinke's did, 'language there like 'hey, this officer has questionable judgment,' that would keep him from being selected for a command position,' Admiral Pybus said. 'And I think that's exactly what happened.'" [New York Times, 1/16/17]
- **January 2017: Vice Admiral Pybus Said That Zinke Was "Embarrassed And Humbled" When He Left SEAL Team 6.** The New York Times reported, "He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled 'American Commander.' And his biography on his congressional website says that he was 'deputy and acting commander' of a task force 'where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq' in 2004. In an interview, Michael S. Repass, who retired from the Army as a major general and was Mr. Zinke's boss in Iraq, chuckled and said, 'That might be a stretch.' General Repass said that while Mr. Zinke was his deputy commander for four months, he had named him acting commander for only about a week and a half, when the general traveled to the United States. General Repass said Mr. Zinke 'did a good job' as his deputy and was 'a competent guy,' and he had nominated Mr. Zinke for one of two Bronze Stars he received. Admiral Pybus said that Mr. Zinke was 'embarrassed and humbled' when he left SEAL Team 6 and 'did quite well' as his deputy at a command using less-elite SEAL units in Europe." [New York Times, 1/16/17]

**January 2017: Zinke Claimed That He Took The Trips Home To Montana To Scout Training Locations.** The New York Times reported, "While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump's nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one 'glitch': that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a 'brilliant' career. [...] Mr. Zinke has said he took the trips to scout

training locations in Montana and nearby parts of Washington and took leave while he was there to do construction work on a family home in Whitefish, Mont. But officials who were at the command said he had less reason to scout sites at the time because he was finishing a two-year tour as an assault team leader. They said one of the trips also seemed suspicious because he had sought reimbursement for excess airline baggage even though he was traveling alone.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

- **January 2017: Officials Who Were At The Command Said Zinke Had Less Reason To Scout Sites At The Times Of His Visits Because He Was Finishing A Two-Year Tour As An Assault Leader.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career. [...] Mr. Zinke has said he took the trips to scout training locations in Montana and nearby parts of Washington and took leave while he was there to do construction work on a family home in Whitefish, Mont. But officials who were at the command said he had less reason to scout sites at the time because he was finishing a two-year tour as an assault team leader. They said one of the trips also seemed suspicious because he had sought reimbursement for excess airline baggage even though he was traveling alone.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]
- **January 2017: Officials Who Were At The Command Said One Of Zinke’s Trips Was Suspicious Because Of Excess Airline Baggage Reimbursements He Had Filed Despite Travelling Alone.** The New York Times reported, “While he has portrayed his accomplishments in the Navy in glowing terms, Mr. Zinke, a Republican and President-elect Donald J. Trump’s nominee for secretary of the interior, has acknowledged one ‘glitch’: that he improperly billed the government for travel to his home in Montana when he was a midlevel SEAL Team 6 officer in the late 1990s. He had to repay \$211 for one of two trips, he has said, maintaining that the episode did not derail what he described as a ‘brilliant’ career. [...] Mr. Zinke has said he took the trips to scout training locations in Montana and nearby parts of Washington and took leave while he was there to do construction work on a family home in Whitefish, Mont. But officials who were at the command said he had less reason to scout sites at the time because he was finishing a two-year tour as an assault team leader. They said one of the trips also seemed suspicious because he had sought reimbursement for excess airline baggage even though he was traveling alone.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

**New York Times: “But Some Former SEAL Team Members Claim That Mr. Zinke Has Also Exploited His Past - He Placed The SEALs’ Insignia (With Six Stars, Presumably For SEAL Team 6) On His Campaign Bus In Violation Of Defense Department Guidelines Against Politicizing Such Symbols.”** The New York Times reported, “But some former SEAL team members claim that Mr. Zinke has also exploited his past - he placed the SEALs’ insignia (with six stars, presumably for SEAL Team 6) on his campaign bus in violation of Defense Department guidelines against politicizing such symbols - and that he exaggerated what he did in his later military jobs to obscure that he never received commands of his own. He published an autobiography in November that was grandly titled ‘American Commander.’ And his biography on his congressional website says that he was ‘deputy and acting commander’ of a task force ‘where he led a force of over 3,500 Special Operations personnel in Iraq’ in 2004.” [New York Times, 1/16/17]

## **Office Renovation**

**March 2018: Zinke Spent \$139,000 To Renovate His Office Doors At The Interior Department.** The Washington Post reported, “Others considered at risk for being fired or reprimanded include Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, who has generated bad headlines for ordering a \$31,000 dining room set for his office; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, who has been under fire for his first-class travel at taxpayer expense; and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, whose agency spent \$139,000 to renovate his office doors. Meanwhile, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos drew attention this week when she stumbled through a pair of high-profile television interviews. Kelly watched DeVos’s sit-down with Lesley Stahl of CBS’s ‘60 Minutes’



with frustration and complained about the secretary's apparent lack of preparation, officials said. Other Trump advisers mocked DeVos's shaky appearance with Savannah Guthrie on NBC's 'Today' show." [Washington Post, [3/15/18](#)]

**March 2018: The Interior Department Spent \$139,000 To Upgrade Three Sets Of Double Doors In Zinke's Office.** The Denver Post reported, "The Interior Department is spending nearly \$139,000 to upgrade three sets of double doors in the office of Secretary Ryan Zinke. Zinke was not aware of the contract for the work prior to a request about it from The Associated Press, spokeswoman Heather Swift said." [Denver Post, 3/9/18]

- **Zinke's Spokeswoman Claimed That Zinke Was Not Aware Of The Contract.** The Denver Post reported, "The Interior Department is spending nearly \$139,000 to upgrade three sets of double doors in the office of Secretary Ryan Zinke. Zinke was not aware of the contract for the work prior to a request about it from The Associated Press, spokeswoman Heather Swift said." [Denver Post, 3/9/18]

**Zinke Drew Scrutiny As Interior Secretary After Replacing His Office Doors For \$130,000.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "ZINKE ATTRACTED scrutiny when he had the doors in his office replaced for more than \$130,000 in taxpayer money, and when he commissioned \$2,000 worth of commemorative coins, emblazoned with his name, to hand out to visitors and staff. He also required a special flag be flown whenever he or his deputy were in the Interior Department's headquarters. In less than two years as secretary, Zinke was subject to more than a dozen investigations by the agency's inspector general, Congress and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel — all of which he said were politically motivated. The probes focused on chartered flights and other transactions that mixed official and political business. Zinke stepped down at the start of 2019 — following a surprise presidential Twitter announcement — while the Department of Justice probed whether he had lied to his agency's inspector general investigators." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/29/21]

- **Letter To The Editor: "Have You Ever Priced Out The Cost Of A Door? Think About That A Minute. Probably Not, But As A Taxpayer You Have Paid \$139,000 For New Office Doors And Remodel For Ryan Zinke's Washington Office As Secretary Of The Department Of Interior."** According to a letter to the editor by Archie Thomas and Merry Schrupf in the Ravalli Republic, "Have you ever priced out the cost of a door? Think about that a minute. Probably not, but as a taxpayer you have paid \$139,000 for new office doors and remodel for Ryan Zinke's Washington office as Secretary of the Department of Interior. Have you ever considered a need for your own flag? Probably not, but you might want to ask your boss for one and further ask that somebody hike it up a pole every time you get to work in the morning. Ryan Zinke did just that on the days he was present at the Interior Department office building in DC." [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 10/9/22]

## ***PROOF Research***

**Washington Post: "Zinke, Who Is An Avid Hunter, Has Opened More Federal Land To Hunting As Interior Secretary... He Might Have Been At Least Partially Motivated To Do So Because He Owns Shares In A Montana Company 'That Manufactures And Sells Firearms And Advanced Weapons Materials, A Financial Interest He Did Not Disclose When Nominated Last Year.'"** The Washington Post reported, "Zinke, who is an avid hunter, has opened more federal land to hunting as Interior secretary. Now a new report from HuffPost suggests he might have been at least partially motivated to do so because he owns shares in a Montana company 'that manufactures and sells firearms and advanced weapons materials, a financial interest he did not disclose when nominated last year,' Itai Vardi reports. 'PROOF Research Inc. was first established in 2011 in Zinke's hometown of Whitefish, Montana, under the name Extreme Precision Armaments Inc., according to state of Montana business records. The company specializes in the production of lightweight rifles with high-precision carbon fiber barrels for hunting and military applications and was born as a merger of four smaller firearms and gun parts companies. It later changed its name to PROOF Research Inc. and moved to the nearby town of Columbia Falls.'" [Washington Post, [1/18/23](#)]



- **January 2018: Zinke Owned Shares In A Montana Company Called PROOF Research Inc, Which Was Originally Named Extreme Precision Armaments Inc And Did Not Disclose His Shares On His Financial Disclosure When Nominated To The Trump Cabinet.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke, who is an avid hunter, has opened more federal land to hunting as Interior secretary. Now a new report from HuffPost suggests he might have been at least partially motivated to do so because he owns shares in a Montana company ‘that manufactures and sells firearms and advanced weapons materials, a financial interest he did not disclose when nominated last year,’ Itai Vardi reports. ‘PROOF Research Inc. was first established in 2011 in Zinke’s hometown of Whitefish, Montana, under the name Extreme Precision Armaments Inc., according to state of Montana business records. The company specializes in the production of lightweight rifles with high-precision carbon fiber barrels for hunting and military applications and was born as a merger of four smaller firearms and gun parts companies. It later changed its name to PROOF Research Inc. and moved to the nearby town of Columbia Falls.’ [Washington Post, [1/18/23](#)]
  - **PROOF Research Inc. Specialized In Producing Lightweight, High-Precision Rifles For Hunting And Military Applications.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke, who is an avid hunter, has opened more federal land to hunting as Interior secretary. Now a new report from HuffPost suggests he might have been at least partially motivated to do so because he owns shares in a Montana company ‘that manufactures and sells firearms and advanced weapons materials, a financial interest he did not disclose when nominated last year,’ Itai Vardi reports. ‘PROOF Research Inc. was first established in 2011 in Zinke’s hometown of Whitefish, Montana, under the name Extreme Precision Armaments Inc., according to state of Montana business records. The company specializes in the production of lightweight rifles with high-precision carbon fiber barrels for hunting and military applications and was born as a merger of four smaller firearms and gun parts companies. It later changed its name to PROOF Research Inc. and moved to the nearby town of Columbia Falls.’ [Washington Post, [1/18/23](#)]
  - **January 2018: A HuffPost Report Suggested That Zinke Opened More Federal Land For Hunting Due To His Financial Stake In PROOF Research, Inc.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke, who is an avid hunter, has opened more federal land to hunting as Interior secretary. Now a new report from HuffPost suggests he might have been at least partially motivated to do so because he owns shares in a Montana company ‘that manufactures and sells firearms and advanced weapons materials, a financial interest he did not disclose when nominated last year,’ Itai Vardi reports. ‘PROOF Research Inc. was first established in 2011 in Zinke’s hometown of Whitefish, Montana, under the name Extreme Precision Armaments Inc., according to state of Montana business records. The company specializes in the production of lightweight rifles with high-precision carbon fiber barrels for hunting and military applications and was born as a merger of four smaller firearms and gun parts companies. It later changed its name to PROOF Research Inc. and moved to the nearby town of Columbia Falls.’ [Washington Post, [1/18/23](#)]
- 2012: Zinke Provided Consulting Services For PROOF Research.** The Washington Post reported, “‘PROOF Research Inc. was first established in 2011 in Zinke’s hometown of Whitefish, Montana, under the name Extreme Precision Armaments Inc., according to state of Montana business records. The company specializes in the production of lightweight rifles with high-precision carbon fiber barrels for hunting and military applications and was born as a merger of four smaller firearms and gun parts companies. It later changed its name to PROOF Research Inc. and moved to the nearby town of Columbia Falls. Zinke provided consulting services for the company in 2012, according to local Montana news reports and a disclosure he filed as a candidate for [House] two years later listing \$16,975 in compensation. After winning a House seat in November 2014, Zinke told a local newspaper that he planned to retain a small stake in PROOF Research ‘because it’s a great company.’” [Washington Post, [1/23/18](#)]
- **2014: Zinke Listed \$16,975 In Compensation From PROOF Research On His House Candidate Financial Disclosure.** The Washington Post reported, “‘PROOF Research Inc. was first established in 2011 in Zinke’s hometown of Whitefish, Montana, under the name Extreme Precision Armaments Inc., according to state of Montana business records. The company specializes in the production of lightweight rifles with high-precision



carbon fiber barrels for hunting and military applications and was born as a merger of four smaller firearms and gun parts companies. It later changed its name to PROOF Research Inc. and moved to the nearby town of Columbia Falls. Zinke provided consulting services for the company in 2012, according to local Montana news reports and a disclosure he filed as a candidate for [House] two years later listing \$16,975 in compensation. After winning a House seat in November 2014, Zinke told a local newspaper that he planned to retain a small stake in PROOF Research ‘because it’s a great company.’” [Washington Post, [1/23/18](#)]

**April 2017: Zinke And Other Interior Department Staff Met With Executives From Proof Research.** The New York Times reported, “In April 2017, Mr. Zinke and several members of his staff at the Interior Department participated in a meeting that included executives from Proof Research, a Montana-based firearms company, according to Mr. Zinke’s calendars, a meeting reported by Huffington Post. About six years ago, Mr. Zinke reported income from the company, which used a different name at the time, a 2014 disclosure showed. He did not disclose in financial filings that he retained a small stake in it. Mr. Zinke, in his 2018 financial disclosure, noted his interest, valuing it at less than \$1,000.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]

- **2014: Zinke Reported Income From Proof Research.** The New York Times reported, “In April 2017, Mr. Zinke and several members of his staff at the Interior Department participated in a meeting that included executives from Proof Research, a Montana-based firearms company, according to Mr. Zinke’s calendars, a meeting reported by Huffington Post. About six years ago, Mr. Zinke reported income from the company, which used a different name at the time, a 2014 disclosure showed. He did not disclose in financial filings that he retained a small stake in it. Mr. Zinke, in his 2018 financial disclosure, noted his interest, valuing it at less than \$1,000.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]
- **2018: Zinke Disclosed Having A Financial Interest In Proof Research.** The New York Times reported, “In April 2017, Mr. Zinke and several members of his staff at the Interior Department participated in a meeting that included executives from Proof Research, a Montana-based firearms company, according to Mr. Zinke’s calendars, a meeting reported by Huffington Post. About six years ago, Mr. Zinke reported income from the company, which used a different name at the time, a 2014 disclosure showed. He did not disclose in financial filings that he retained a small stake in it. Mr. Zinke, in his 2018 financial disclosure, noted his interest, valuing it at less than \$1,000.” [New York Times, 10/31/18]

## ***Response To Ethics Investigations***

**July 2019: Zinke Described The Ethics Investigations Against Him As “BS” And Claimed That “D.C. Is So Angry And Hateful” For Bringing Them.** The Boston Globe reported, “In an interview with Bloomberg News, the former congressman and Navy SEAL dismissed the 15 ethics probes of his dealings atop the Interior Department as ‘BS.’ ‘D.C. is so angry and hateful,’ Zinke said. Ultimately, he added, he stepped down from his Cabinet post in January amid concerns about mounting legal bills and the fear that ‘all these false allegations would be a distraction.’” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**July 2019: Regarding The Ethics Investigations That Caused Him To Resign From Office, Zinke Claimed That He “Got Investigated Over [His] Socks.”** The Boston Globe reported, “Zinke, who enraged environmentalists by, among other things, lifting an Obama administration moratorium on selling coal mining rights and scaling back protections on federal land, left the administration amid a swirl of federal investigations into his travel, potential conflicts of interest and his political activity — including a picture he posted on Twitter showing socks with Trump’s ‘Make America Great Again’ slogan. ‘My family got investigated. My family had death threats. I got investigated over my socks,’ Zinke said.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

- **Zinke Dismissed The Investigations As “False Allegations” With “No Substance.”** The Boston Globe reported, “Zinke, who enraged environmentalists by, among other things, lifting an Obama administration moratorium on selling coal mining rights and scaling back protections on federal land, left the administration amid a swirl of federal investigations into his travel, potential conflicts of interest and his political activity —

including a picture he posted on Twitter showing socks with Trump's 'Make America Great Again' slogan. 'My family got investigated. My family had death threats. I got investigated over my socks,' Zinke said. One inquiry focused on a potential conflict of interest involving a Montana land deal between a charitable foundation Zinke created and a property development foundation backed by David Lesar, the former chairman of oilfield services provider Halliburton. Another inquiry scrutinized Zinke's decision to block Indian tribes from building a casino in Connecticut after lobbying from their chief competitor, MGM Resorts International, despite the advice of employees with the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs. Zinke dismissed those and other investigations as 'false allegations' and said he had been exonerated in all of them. 'There was no substance; there never was,' he said." [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**2021 – Zinke: “It Was Vicious And I Understand They Weren’t After Me, They Were After President Trump. ... No, People See It For What It Is. I Went Through Over A Dozen Investigations; There Was No Wrongdoing.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Asked Thursday if the scandals will be an Achilles’ heel to his 2022 campaign, Zinke said he believes voters will identify those claims against him as partisan attacks. ‘I got attacked from day one,’ he said. ‘It was vicious and I understand they weren’t after me, they were after President Trump. ... No, people see it for what it is. I went through over a dozen investigations; there was no wrongdoing.’” [Ravalli Republic, 6/3/21]

**2022: Zinke Called The Inspector General Report Concerning His Involvement In A Land Deal With A Halliburton Executive A “Political Hit Job” By The Biden Administration And Called It “Shots Fired By The Deep State.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Another inspector general report released in February stated Zinke misused his position at Interior to advance a commercial development project in Whitefish and misled agency ethics official about his involvement. [...] Zinke characterized the report as a ‘political hit job’ to the Associated Press and accused Interior, now overseen by appointees of Democrat Joe Biden, of sitting on the report to MTN. On social media he said, ‘Shots fired by the deep state’ and ‘Not backing down.’ ‘It is in Trump’s mold of don’t back down, don’t give an inch, but one does have to wonder how big a problem it is for his narrative that this inspector general is a Republican and a Trump appointee,’ Saldin said.” [Billings Gazette, 2/16/22]

- **Zinke: “When You Start Exposing The Serpents When You Drain The Swamp, They Don’t Like It, And They Attack... And Time And Time Again, They Attack Me, And Time And Time Again If You Read The IG Report Closely, No Wrongdoing.”** The Independent Record reported, “Zinke has denounced the investigations at Interior as politically motivated and a product of the so-called ‘deep state.’ ‘When you start exposing the serpents when you drain the swamp, they don’t like it, and they attack,’ he said. ‘And time and time again, they attack me, and time and time again if you read the IG report closely, no wrongdoing.’ When asked about his opponents in the race, particularly those lodging attacks against him, Zinke replied, ‘You know I don’t think of them at all, I just think about my country and our state.’” [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

## ***Revolving Door***

**April 2019: Zinke Began Working As A Consultant For U.S. Gold Corp For Over \$100,000 A Year.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has a new job, making more than \$100,000 a year with a gold mining firm that’s pursuing project approvals involving the federal agency that Zinke left less than four months ago. Zinke said Tuesday that his work for Nevada-based U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development, would not constitute lobbying. But that company’s chief executive cited Zinke’s ‘excellent relationship’ with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining his hiring.” [Los Angeles Times, 4/17/19]

- **U.S. Gold Corp. Was A Mining Company Whose Projects Needed To Be Approved By The Interior Department.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has a new job, making more than \$100,000 a year with a gold mining firm that’s pursuing project approvals involving the federal agency that Zinke left less than four months ago. Zinke said Tuesday that his work for Nevada-based U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development, would not constitute lobbying. But that



company's chief executive cited Zinke's 'excellent relationship' with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining his hiring." [Los Angeles Times, 4/17/19]

- **The Company's Chief Executive Said That Zinke's "Excellent Relationship" With The Bureau Of Land Management Was A Factor Considered In Hiring Him.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has a new job, making more than \$100,000 a year with a gold mining firm that's pursuing project approvals involving the federal agency that Zinke left less than four months ago. Zinke said Tuesday that his work for Nevada-based U.S. Gold Corp., which focuses on mining exploration and development, would not constitute lobbying. But that company's chief executive cited Zinke's 'excellent relationship' with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department in explaining his hiring." [Los Angeles Times, 4/17/19]

**2022: U.S. Gold Corp. Announced That Zinke Would Resign From Its Board Of Directors At The End Of The Year.** The Independent Record reported, "U.S. Gold Corp. announced that Ryan Zinke will resign from its board of directors effective Dec. 31. Zinke won the election to Congress in Montana's western congressional district and will be divesting his interests in U.S. Gold and will have no ongoing agreements or relationship with the company after Dec. 31, the company said in a November news release." [Independent Record, 12/7/22]

**July 2019: Zinke Was A Consultant For Companies In Industries That He Oversaw As Secretary Of The Interior.** The Boston Globe reported, "Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke was a freshman representative from Montana in December 2016 when Donald Trump chose him to run the Interior Department, an \$11 billion agency that oversees drilling, mining, and other activities on public lands. Now, he's going to work for oil and mining companies. Among them: Texas pipeline supplier Cressman Tubular Products and Oasis Petroleum, a Houston-based oil and gas explorer that donated tens of thousands of dollars to Zinke when he was seeking reelection to the House. In April, Zinke joined the board of US Gold Corp., and is set to receive \$90,000 in consulting fees from the Nevada-based mining company, according to filings. He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides." [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**One Of Zinke's Clients Was A Pipeline Supplier, Cressman Tubular Products.** The Boston Globe reported, "Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke was a freshman representative from Montana in December 2016 when Donald Trump chose him to run the Interior Department, an \$11 billion agency that oversees drilling, mining, and other activities on public lands. Now, he's going to work for oil and mining companies. Among them: Texas pipeline supplier Cressman Tubular Products and Oasis Petroleum, a Houston-based oil and gas explorer that donated tens of thousands of dollars to Zinke when he was seeking reelection to the House. In April, Zinke joined the board of US Gold Corp., and is set to receive \$90,000 in consulting fees from the Nevada-based mining company, according to filings. He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides." [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**Another Of Zinke's Clients Was An Oil And Gas Explorer, Oasis Petroleum, Which Donated To Zinke's Reelection Campaign.** The Boston Globe reported, "Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke was a freshman representative from Montana in December 2016 when Donald Trump chose him to run the Interior Department, an \$11 billion agency that oversees drilling, mining, and other activities on public lands. Now, he's going to work for oil and mining companies. Among them:



Texas pipeline supplier Cressman Tubular Products and Oasis Petroleum, a Houston-based oil and gas explorer that donated tens of thousands of dollars to Zinke when he was seeking reelection to the House. In April, Zinke joined the board of US Gold Corp., and is set to receive \$90,000 in consulting fees from the Nevada-based mining company, according to filings. He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**Zinke Joined The Board Of U.S. Gold Corp, A Gold Mining Company That Planned To Pay Him \$90,000 In Consulting Fees.** The Boston Globe reported, “Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke was a freshman representative from Montana in December 2016 when Donald Trump chose him to run the Interior Department, an \$11 billion agency that oversees drilling, mining, and other activities on public lands. Now, he’s going to work for oil and mining companies. Among them: Texas pipeline supplier Cressman Tubular Products and Oasis Petroleum, a Houston-based oil and gas explorer that donated tens of thousands of dollars to Zinke when he was seeking reelection to the House. In April, Zinke joined the board of US Gold Corp., and is set to receive \$90,000 in consulting fees from the Nevada-based mining company, according to filings. He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**Zinke Was A Managing Director And Consultant For Artillery One, An Investment Banking Firm Based In North Carolina.** The Boston Globe reported, “Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke was a freshman representative from Montana in December 2016 when Donald Trump chose him to run the Interior Department, an \$11 billion agency that oversees drilling, mining, and other activities on public lands. Now, he’s going to work for oil and mining companies. Among them: Texas pipeline supplier Cressman Tubular Products and Oasis Petroleum, a Houston-based oil and gas explorer that donated tens of thousands of dollars to Zinke when he was seeking reelection to the House. In April, Zinke joined the board of US Gold Corp., and is set to receive \$90,000 in consulting fees from the Nevada-based mining company, according to filings. He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**Zinke Did Work Promoting U.S. LNG Exports.** The Boston Globe reported, “Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke was a freshman representative from Montana in December 2016 when Donald Trump chose him to run the Interior Department, an \$11 billion agency that oversees drilling, mining, and other activities on public lands. Now, he’s going to work for oil and mining companies. Among them: Texas pipeline supplier Cressman Tubular Products and Oasis Petroleum, a Houston-based oil and gas explorer that donated tens of thousands of dollars to Zinke when he was seeking reelection to the House. In April, Zinke joined the board of US Gold Corp., and is set to receive \$90,000 in consulting fees from the Nevada-based mining company, according to filings. He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides.” [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

**Zinke Was An Advisor To Turnberry Solutions, A Lobbying Firm With Many Former Advisors And Campaign Aides From The Trump Administration.** The Boston Globe reported, “Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke was a freshman



representative from Montana in December 2016 when Donald Trump chose him to run the Interior Department, an \$11 billion agency that oversees drilling, mining, and other activities on public lands. Now, he's going to work for oil and mining companies. Among them: Texas pipeline supplier Cressman Tubular Products and Oasis Petroleum, a Houston-based oil and gas explorer that donated tens of thousands of dollars to Zinke when he was seeking reelection to the House. In April, Zinke joined the board of US Gold Corp., and is set to receive \$90,000 in consulting fees from the Nevada-based mining company, according to filings. He is also a managing director and consultant for North Carolina-based private investment company Artillery One, and is promoting US liquefied natural gas to foreign markets. He is serving as an adviser to Turnberry Solutions, the Washington lobbying firm stacked with former Trump administration advisers and campaign aides." [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

- **Zinke Claimed That He Was Not Lobbying, But Instead Helping Companies To Navigate Local Energy Permitting Processes.** The Boston Globe reported, "Former Interior secretary Ryan Zinke is lining up consulting clients in industries regulated by his former department at the same time he decries the ethics investigations that drove him from the Trump administration. [...] Zinke said he is not lobbying but, rather, helping firms navigate local permitting processes. 'I promote energy,' he said. 'It is better to produce energy in this country with reasonable regulation than watch it get produced overseas with none.'" [Boston Globe, 7/24/19]

## ***Villages At Vigneto***

### **May 2022: Democrats On The House Natural Resources Committee Sent A Referral To The Department Of Justice For Investigation Of A Development Project That Occurred While Zinke Was Interior Secretary.**

The Arizona Republic reported, "Top Democrats with oversight of the U.S. Interior Department have asked federal prosecutors to investigate a proposed Benson development for possible political interference on the project under the Trump administration. The 37-page referral Wednesday to the U.S. Justice Department by the House Natural Resources Committee cites large, seemingly coordinated political contributions from Arizona donors to the campaign of former President Donald Trump and flags a Montana meeting that was kept off official schedules as potentially influencing the approval of a portion of the project. [...] The referral does not allege specific crimes by anyone. But it does suggest 'pay-to-play' politics helped advance a large-scale deal and seeks Justice Department scrutiny. The move, led by Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., who chairs the committee, is the latest turn for the long-sought Villages at Vigneto, a 28,000-home project on 12,000 acres near Arizona's threatened San Pedro River. It also adds more detail to the checkered tenure of Ryan Zinke, who was the Interior secretary at the time." [Arizona Republic, 5/12/22]

- **The Referral Alleged That There Were Coordinated Political Contributions From Arizona Donors To Trump's Campaign Made For The Purpose Of Advancing A Land Development Project To Create A 28,000 Home Project Named "Villages At Vigneto" Near Arizona's Threatened San Pedro River.** The Arizona Republic reported, "Top Democrats with oversight of the U.S. Interior Department have asked federal prosecutors to investigate a proposed Benson development for possible political interference on the project under the Trump administration. The 37-page referral Wednesday to the U.S. Justice Department by the House Natural Resources Committee cites large, seemingly coordinated political contributions from Arizona donors to the campaign of former President Donald Trump and flags a Montana meeting that was kept off official schedules as potentially influencing the approval of a portion of the project. [...] The referral does not allege specific crimes by anyone. But it does suggest 'pay-to-play' politics helped advance a large-scale deal and seeks Justice Department scrutiny. The move, led by Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., who chairs the committee, is the latest turn for the long-sought Villages at Vigneto, a 28,000-home project on 12,000 acres near Arizona's threatened San Pedro River. It also adds more detail to the checkered tenure of Ryan Zinke, who was the Interior secretary at the time." [Arizona Republic, 5/12/22]
- **The Report Alleged That Zinke Knew About An Undisclosed Meeting Between A Developer Associated With The Project And Zinke's Deputy David Bernhardt, A Meeting Which Had Not Been Disclosed On The Official Calendar And Which Closely Preceded A Reversal In Interior Department Policy**



**Regarding The Project That Was Directed By Bernhardt.** The Arizona Republic reported, “The new House referral says Vigneto developer Michael Ingram had breakfast on Aug. 18, 2017, in Billings, Montana, with David Bernhardt, then the No. 2 official at Interior. The meeting wasn’t disclosed in Bernhardt’s official calendar or travel records, the referral says. Two weeks later, a lawyer for the Interior Department pressed Steve Spangle, then a field supervisor with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to change his view that the Vigneto project required input from the Army Corps of Engineers, the referral claims. Bernhardt directed the legal call, the committee investigation found. [...] There were other signs of undue influence, the committee noted in its report. Ingram emailed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke at his Yahoo! account to say he was meeting with Bernhardt about the ‘Benson, AZ development.’ In another email to Zinke’s personal email, Ingram called for ‘high level action to ensure consistency and correct’ application of Fish and Wildlife regulations, the referral says. Afterward, Zinke failed to transmit the personal emails to his government email records, as federal law requires, the committee noted.” [Arizona Republic, 5/12/22]

- **The Report Also Alleged That Zinke Received An Email To His Personal Yahoo Account From The Developer Calling For “High Level Action” To Ensure Correct Application Of Fish And Wildlife Service Regulations, An Email That Zinke Did Not Transmit To His Government Records As Required By Federal Law.** The Arizona Republic reported, “The new House referral says Vigneto developer Michael Ingram had breakfast on Aug. 18, 2017, in Billings, Montana, with David Bernhardt, then the No. 2 official at Interior. The meeting wasn’t disclosed in Bernhardt’s official calendar or travel records, the referral says. Two weeks later, a lawyer for the Interior Department pressed Steve Spangle, then a field supervisor with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to change his view that the Vigneto project required input from the Army Corps of Engineers, the referral claims. Bernhardt directed the legal call, the committee investigation found. [...] There were other signs of undue influence, the committee noted in its report. Ingram emailed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke at his Yahoo! account to say he was meeting with Bernhardt about the ‘Benson, AZ development.’ In another email to Zinke’s personal email, Ingram called for ‘high level action to ensure consistency and correct’ application of Fish and Wildlife regulations, the referral says. Afterward, Zinke failed to transmit the personal emails to his government email records, as federal law requires, the committee noted.” [Arizona Republic, 5/12/22]

## ***Whitefish Energy***

**October 2017: Utility-Contracting Company Whitefish Energy Won A \$300 Million Contract With The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority To Build 100 Miles Of Power Transmission Lines.** The New York Times reported, “For the past two years, Andy Techmanski ran a tiny family utility-contracting company out of his home in the ski town of Whitefish, Mont., getting relatively modest jobs out West. They helped rebuild a fire-ravaged power line in mountainous Washington State and are in the process of supplying a transformer to a Montana electric cooperative. But now, Mr. Techmanski and his father-and-son firm, Whitefish Energy, are drawing widespread attention and congressional scrutiny for an outsized deal half a world away: a \$300 million contract with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority to rebuild 100 miles of power transmission lines across the island’s shattered electric grid. ‘We just answered the call,’ Mr. Techmanski said in an interview from Puerto Rico. ‘We got on a plane and came over here right after.’” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

**October 2017: Andy Techmanski Of Whitefish Energy Knew Zinke And Zinke’s Son Held A 2017 Summer Job Working On A Whitefish Energy Project In Washington State.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Luce, the company spokesman, said Mr. Techmanski had worked as a utility lineman and power-company executive for more than 20 years in the United States and abroad. His hometown, Whitefish, is also home to the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. The two men know each other, and Mr. Zinke’s son had a job this past summer working on a Whitefish project in Washington State, according to officials with the company and the Interior Department. But Interior officials as well as Mr. Techmanski said the secretary had not helped Whitefish Energy obtain the contract or held any meetings or taken any action on the company’s behalf. ‘We both come from the same town,’ Mr. Techmanski said of Mr. Zinke. ‘I knew him before he was a politician. But other than that, other than informing him that we were here, we have not requested anything from him.’” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

- **Techmanski: “We Both Come From The Same Town. I Knew Him Before He Was A Politician. But Other Than That, Other Than Informing Him That We Were Here, We Have Not Requested Anything From Him.”** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Luce, the company spokesman, said Mr. Techmanski had worked as a utility lineman and power-company executive for more than 20 years in the United States and abroad. His hometown, Whitefish, is also home to the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. The two men know each other, and Mr. Zinke’s son had a job this past summer working on a Whitefish project in Washington State, according to officials with the company and the Interior Department. But Interior officials as well as Mr. Techmanski said the secretary had not helped Whitefish Energy obtain the contract or held any meetings or taken any action on the company’s behalf. ‘We both come from the same town,’ Mr. Techmanski said of Mr. Zinke. ‘I knew him before he was a politician. But other than that, other than informing him that we were here, we have not requested anything from him.’” [New York Times, 10/24/17]
- **October 2017: Interior Department Officials Said That Zinke Had Not Helped Whitefish Energy Obtain The Puerto Rico Contract Or Taken Any Action For The Company.** The New York Times reported, “Mr. Luce, the company spokesman, said Mr. Techmanski had worked as a utility lineman and power-company executive for more than 20 years in the United States and abroad. His hometown, Whitefish, is also home to the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke. The two men know each other, and Mr. Zinke’s son had a job this past summer working on a Whitefish project in Washington State, according to officials with the company and the Interior Department. But Interior officials as well as Mr. Techmanski said the secretary had not helped Whitefish Energy obtain the contract or held any meetings or taken any action on the company’s behalf. ‘We both come from the same town,’ Mr. Techmanski said of Mr. Zinke. ‘I knew him before he was a politician. But other than that, other than informing him that we were here, we have not requested anything from him.’” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

**October 2017: Zinke’s Wife Lolita Had Liked Family and Profile Pictures On Facebook Uploaded By Techmanski’s Wife, Amanda At Least Four Times.** The Washington Post reported, “‘The original decision by PREPA to have Whitefish Energy come to the Puerto Rico only sped up the repairs, and if it were not for that action, crews would just now be getting to the island to begin the process of rebuilding the system and restoring power,’ Whitefish’s statement said. Whitefish Energy is based in Whitefish, Mont., the home town of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Techmanski and Zinke know one another, The Washington Post reported last week, and at least four times Zinke’s wife, Lolita, has ‘liked’ family and profile pictures uploaded by Techmanski’s wife, Amanda, on Facebook. One of the Zinkes’ sons had a summer job with Whitefish. Zinke’s office has said he had no role in Whitefish securing the Puerto Rico contract. Andrew Techmanski also has said Zinke was not involved.” [Washington Post, [10/29/17](#)]

**New York Times: “The Size Of The Contract And The Scale Of The Job Awarded To A Company That Had Just Two Full-Time Employees Is Now Raising Questions About How Puerto Rico’s Bankrupt Power Authority Awarded Contracts.”** The New York Times reported, “The size of the contract and the scale of the job awarded to a company that had just two full-time employees is now raising questions about how Puerto Rico’s bankrupt power authority awarded contracts and reached out for assistance in the chaotic days after Hurricane Maria, which snapped utility poles like Popsicle sticks and tore down hundreds of miles of power lines. ‘Absolutely outrageous,’ said Eduardo Bhatia, a Puerto Rican opposition senator who wrote an energy law in 2014. ‘A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?’ Mr. Bhatia said the authority did not appear to have made any open requests for proposals, to have performed any regular background checks or to have followed normal safeguards and checks before awarding the contract.” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

**October 2017: Puerto Rican Opposition Sen. Eduardo Bhatia Called Whitefish Energy’s Contract “Absolutely Outrageous.”** The New York Times reported, “The size of the contract and the scale of the job awarded to a company that had just two full-time employees is now raising questions about how Puerto Rico’s bankrupt power authority awarded contracts and reached out for assistance in the chaotic days after Hurricane

Maria, which snapped utility poles like Popsicle sticks and tore down hundreds of miles of power lines. ‘Absolutely outrageous,’ said Eduardo Bhatia, a Puerto Rican opposition senator who wrote an energy law in 2014. ‘A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?’ Mr. Bhatia said the authority did not appear to have made any open requests for proposals, to have performed any regular background checks or to have followed normal safeguards and checks before awarding the contract.” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

- **Bhatia: “Absolutely Outrageous. A Two-Employee Company From Whitefish, Mont. Gets A \$300 Million Contract Out Of Nowhere? Based On What?”** The New York Times reported, “The size of the contract and the scale of the job awarded to a company that had just two full-time employees is now raising questions about how Puerto Rico’s bankrupt power authority awarded contracts and reached out for assistance in the chaotic days after Hurricane Maria, which snapped utility poles like Popsicle sticks and tore down hundreds of miles of power lines. ‘Absolutely outrageous,’ said Eduardo Bhatia, a Puerto Rican opposition senator who wrote an energy law in 2014. ‘A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?’ Mr. Bhatia said the authority did not appear to have made any open requests for proposals, to have performed any regular background checks or to have followed normal safeguards and checks before awarding the contract.” [New York Times, 10/24/17]
- **Bhatia Said That The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority Had Not Made Any Open Requests For Proposals, Performed Background Checks, Or Followed Normal Safeguards Before Awarding The Whitefish Energy Contract.** The New York Times reported, “The size of the contract and the scale of the job awarded to a company that had just two full-time employees is now raising questions about how Puerto Rico’s bankrupt power authority awarded contracts and reached out for assistance in the chaotic days after Hurricane Maria, which snapped utility poles like Popsicle sticks and tore down hundreds of miles of power lines. ‘Absolutely outrageous,’ said Eduardo Bhatia, a Puerto Rican opposition senator who wrote an energy law in 2014. ‘A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?’ Mr. Bhatia said the authority did not appear to have made any open requests for proposals, to have performed any regular background checks or to have followed normal safeguards and checks before awarding the contract.” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

**October 2017: The House Committee On Natural Resources Was Investigating The Whitefish Energy Contract.** The New York Times reported, “‘Absolutely outrageous,’ said Eduardo Bhatia, a Puerto Rican opposition senator who wrote an energy law in 2014. ‘A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?’ Mr. Bhatia said the authority did not appear to have made any open requests for proposals, to have performed any regular background checks or to have followed normal safeguards and checks before awarding the contract. The House Committee on Natural Resources said on Tuesday that it was looking into the contract. Parish Braden, the committee’s communications director, said that members of the panel would travel to Puerto Rico this week to seek more answers about the details of the contract and how it was reached. Also on Tuesday, after a report about the contract by The Washington Post, Senator Maria Cantwell, Democrat of Washington, asked the Government Accountability Office to investigate the circumstances surrounding Whitefish’s contract.” [New York Times, 10/24/17]

**October 2017: Sen Maria Cantwell Asked The Government Accountability Office To Investigate The Whitefish Contract.** The New York Times reported, “‘Absolutely outrageous,’ said Eduardo Bhatia, a Puerto Rican opposition senator who wrote an energy law in 2014. ‘A two-employee company from Whitefish, Mont., gets a \$300 million contract out of nowhere? Based on what?’ Mr. Bhatia said the authority did not appear to have made any open requests for proposals, to have performed any regular background checks or to have followed normal safeguards and checks before awarding the contract. The House Committee on Natural Resources said on Tuesday that it was looking into the contract. Parish Braden, the committee’s communications director, said that members of the panel would travel to Puerto Rico this week to seek more answers about the details of the contract and how it was reached. Also on Tuesday, after a report about the contract by The Washington Post, Senator Maria Cantwell,



Democrat of Washington, asked the Government Accountability Office to investigate the circumstances surrounding Whitefish's contract." [New York Times, 10/24/17]

**October 2017: A Spokesman For Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Rob Bishop Agreed That Congressional Review Of The Whitefish Contract Was Necessary.** The Denver Post reported, "Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said Congress 'needs to understand why the Whitefish contract was awarded and whether other, more cost effective options were available.' A spokesman for Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, R Utah, agreed that congressional review was needed. The resources panel oversees Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. 'The size and unknown details of this contract raise numerous questions. This is one of many things the committee is taking a close look at as it continues to work with the resident commissioner, governor's office and oversight board to ensure Puerto Rico's recovery is robust, effective and sustained,' said Parish Braden, a spokesman for Bishop." [Denver Post, 10/25/17]

- **October 2017 – Bishop Spokesman Parish Braden: “The Size And Unknown Details Of This Contract Raise Numerous Questions.”** The Denver Post reported, "Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said Congress 'needs to understand why the Whitefish contract was awarded and whether other, more cost effective options were available.' A spokesman for Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, R Utah, agreed that congressional review was needed. The resources panel oversees Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. 'The size and unknown details of this contract raise numerous questions. This is one of many things the committee is taking a close look at as it continues to work with the resident commissioner, governor's office and oversight board to ensure Puerto Rico's recovery is robust, effective and sustained,' said Parish Braden, a spokesman for Bishop." [Denver Post, 10/25/17]

**October 2017: The Federal Emergency Management Agency Warned That It Might Not Help Pay For Storm Recovery In Puerto Rico If The Whitefish Energy Contract Was Found To Be Improper.** The New York Times reported, "The federal government's disaster relief agency said on Friday that it had 'significant concerns' about how a tiny Montana company won a contract for up to \$300 million to rebuild part of Puerto Rico's hurricane-ravaged electrical grid. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which normally would help pay for storm recovery, 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. 'Based on initial review and information from Prepa, FEMA has significant concerns with how Prepa procured this contract and has not confirmed whether the contract prices are reasonable,' the federal agency said in a statement on Friday." [New York Times, 10/27/17]

- **October 2017 – FEMA: “Based On Its Initial Review And Information From PREPA, FEMA Has Significant Concerns With How PREPA Procured This Contract And Has Not Confirmed Whether The Contract Prices Are Reasonable.”** The New York Times reported, "The federal government's disaster relief agency said on Friday that it had 'significant concerns' about how a tiny Montana company won a contract for up to \$300 million to rebuild part of Puerto Rico's hurricane-ravaged electrical grid. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which normally would help pay for storm recovery, 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. 'Based on initial review and information from Prepa, FEMA has significant concerns with how Prepa procured this contract and has not confirmed whether the contract prices are reasonable,' the federal agency said in a statement on Friday." [New York Times, 10/27/17]

**October 2017: The Governor Of Puerto Rico Moved To Cancel The Whitefish Contract.** The New York Times reported, "Facing withering criticism from members of Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the governor of Puerto Rico moved on Sunday to cancel a \$300 million contract awarded to a small Montana company to rebuild part of the island's battered power grid. While government officials in Washington and San Juan have argued over how a company from Whitefish, Mont., with connections to the secretary of the interior but only two full-time employees secured an emergency contract that requires the work of thousands of people, the majority of Puerto Rico is still without electricity, nearly six weeks after Hurricane Maria knocked



down thousands of poles and lines. Some stores, medical centers, restaurants and a fortunate few private residences are running on generators, but most of the island's 3.4 million people are plunged into darkness after sunset." [New York Times, 10/29/17]

**May 2018: The Trump Administration Hired Whitefish Energy Holdings, A Small Contractor Based In Zinke's Hometown Of Whitefish, Montana, To Help Restore The Electricity Grid In Puerto Rico.** The New York Times reported, "After Maria and the hurricane that preceded it, called Irma, Puerto Rico all but slipped from the modern era. Even now, while officials say the \$2.5 billion reconstruction effort has restored power to 98 percent of the grid's customers, swaths of hilly country across the island are still pitch black after dark, punctuated by lights run on private generators. (About 60 percent of Yabucoa's residents had power as of May 1.) Even restored sections of the grid are nightmarishly unreliable, as evidenced by last month's outage, the second major power failure in a week and the fourth since early February. On the mainland, much of the coverage of the recovery has focused on the struggles of the island's beleaguered power authority and its politically disastrous hiring of Whitefish Energy Holdings, a tiny and inexperienced Montana contractor linked to the Trump administration's interior secretary. [...] The political brouhaha ignited by the Whitefish hiring vastly complicated matters. Initially, questions focused on Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, whose hometown is Whitefish, Mont., where the company is based. Mr. Zinke and the company itself said he had nothing to do with awarding the contract, even though his son worked a summer job at Whitefish. Beyond questions about Whitefish's capability, the uproar was magnified by the opaque wording of the \$300 million contract, the size of the company's markups and a Twitter threat to withdraw from San Juan after criticism by the mayor. Whitefish soon apologized." [New York Times, 5/7/18]

- **Zinke Denied Having Anything To Do With The Contract, Despite The Fact That His Son Worked A Summer Job At Whitefish.** The New York Times reported, "After Maria and the hurricane that preceded it, called Irma, Puerto Rico all but slipped from the modern era. Even now, while officials say the \$2.5 billion reconstruction effort has restored power to 98 percent of the grid's customers, swaths of hilly country across the island are still pitch black after dark, punctuated by lights run on private generators. (About 60 percent of Yabucoa's residents had power as of May 1.) Even restored sections of the grid are nightmarishly unreliable, as evidenced by last month's outage, the second major power failure in a week and the fourth since early February. On the mainland, much of the coverage of the recovery has focused on the struggles of the island's beleaguered power authority and its politically disastrous hiring of Whitefish Energy Holdings, a tiny and inexperienced Montana contractor linked to the Trump administration's interior secretary. [...] The political brouhaha ignited by the Whitefish hiring vastly complicated matters. Initially, questions focused on Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, whose hometown is Whitefish, Mont., where the company is based. Mr. Zinke and the company itself said he had nothing to do with awarding the contract, even though his son worked a summer job at Whitefish. Beyond questions about Whitefish's capability, the uproar was magnified by the opaque wording of the \$300 million contract, the size of the company's markups and a Twitter threat to withdraw from San Juan after criticism by the mayor. Whitefish soon apologized." [New York Times, 5/7/18]
- **The New York Times Described Whitefish Energy "A Tiny And Inexperienced Montana Contractor" And Noted That ". Beyond Questions About Whitefish's Capability, The Uproar Was Magnified By The Opaque Wording Of The \$300 Million Contract, The Size Of The Company's Markups And A Twitter Threat To Withdraw From San Juan After Criticism By The Mayor."** The New York Times reported, "After Maria and the hurricane that preceded it, called Irma, Puerto Rico all but slipped from the modern era. Even now, while officials say the \$2.5 billion reconstruction effort has restored power to 98 percent of the grid's customers, swaths of hilly country across the island are still pitch black after dark, punctuated by lights run on private generators. (About 60 percent of Yabucoa's residents had power as of May 1.) Even restored sections of the grid are nightmarishly unreliable, as evidenced by last month's outage, the second major power failure in a week and the fourth since early February. On the mainland, much of the coverage of the recovery has focused on the struggles of the island's beleaguered power authority and its politically disastrous hiring of Whitefish Energy Holdings, a tiny and inexperienced Montana contractor linked to the Trump administration's interior secretary. [...] The political brouhaha ignited by the Whitefish hiring vastly complicated matters. Initially, questions focused on Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, whose hometown is Whitefish, Mont., where



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## Federal Employees & Deep State

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**2022: Zinke Said The First Bill He'd Introduce In Congress If Elected Was The Federal Employees Accountability And Reduction Act, Which Aimed To Cut The Federal Workforce By Capping Years Of Service And Salaries For Non-Military Employees, Blocking Appointees From Getting Permanent Jobs, And Creating A "Clear Pathway" To Fire Employees.** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Republican nominee for Montana's new western congressional district Ryan Zinke said the first bill he'd introduce if he wins in November would target certain federal employees, echoing concerns he raised while Secretary of the Interior of an 'entrenched' bureaucracy and tapping into GOP frustrations following a search of former President Donald Trump's home last week. The legislation would include proposals such as capping years of service and salary for non-military employees, preventing political appointees from obtaining permanent jobs and creating a 'clear pathway' for removing employees for cause. The Federal Employees Accountability and Reduction Act, or FEAR Act, would also aim to reduce the size of the federal government through employee attrition and defunding and repealing recent expansions of agencies such as the IRS." [Ravalli Republic, 8/17/22]

- **Zinke Repeatedly Attacked The "Deep State," Criticized Dr. Anthony Fauci, And Claimed That While In Trump's Cabinet, He Frequently Encountered Federal Workers Who He Thought Were Protected By The Bureaucracy Despite Cause For Discipline Or Termination.** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Zinke has spent much of this campaign railing against the so-called 'deep state,' alleging that an entrenched federal bureaucracy stifles meaningful change. He has heavily criticized officials such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, who was the public face of the federal government's pandemic response, and quickly went to Trump's defense following the recent FBI search at his Mar-a-Lago residence. Zinke says while at Interior he frequently ran up against federal employees that he believes were protected by the bureaucracy despite cause for discipline or termination." [Ravalli Republic, 8/17/22]
- **When Asked How His Bill Would Impact The 19 Percent Of Montanans Working In The Public Sector, Zinke Said His Legislation Was Not Meant To Target Field Staff, Claiming, "I Think (Field Staff Is) Going To Be As Frustrated With The Headquarters As I Am... This Strikes At What I Would Consider To Be The Elite, The Bureaucratic Elite."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "The campaign's press release does not differentiate which federal employees would be subject to the legislation's provisions besides an exemption for the military. When asked about potential impacts to agencies or a chilling effect on hiring quality employees, Zinke said the bill is not directed at those working in the field. [...] Government at all levels is a major employer in Montana, with one recent report pegging 19% of Montana employees working in the public sector. When asked about their potential reaction to the bill, Zinke again said the legislation is not meant to target field staff. 'I think (field staff is) going to be as frustrated with the headquarters as I am,' he said. '... This strikes at what I would consider to be the elite, the bureaucratic elite.'" [Ravalli Republic, 8/17/22]

**2022: Zinke Said Of His Proposed Legislation To Cut The Federal Workforce, "I Can Tell You Who Really Hates It; It's The Swamp... We're Going To Be Able To Fire For Cause. And We're Going To Drain The Swamp Because We're Going To Be Able To Rip Their Money Out."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "If elected, Zinke said his first order of business would be to introduce federal employee accountability legislation. 'I can tell you who really hates it; it's the swamp,' he said. 'We're going to be able to fire for cause. And we're going to drain the swamp because we're going to be able to rip their money out.'" [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]

**Zinke: "We Need To Take Back Our Country... The Biggest Thing We Could Change Is The Deep State."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Zinke voiced a lack of trust in the federal government including the FBI, calling

the investigation into collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign a ‘Clinton hoax’ and saying that ‘we need to take back our country.’ He also railed against the ‘deep state’ and said the first bill he would introduce would be his Federal Employee Accountability and Reduction Act. ‘There’s a lot of things to change,’ Zinke said. ‘And the biggest thing we could change is the deep state. People asked me, what’s the first bill? The acronym is FEAR because our federal government, the bureaucrats are like tenured professors on steroids. You can’t move them, can’t fire them. The bureaucrats should be accountable to the chain of command. And the president should be accountable to people. If we do not have accountability, then we do not have a country.’” [Ravalli Republic, 10/21/22]

- **Zinke: “What’s The First Bill? The Acronym Is Fear Because Our Federal Government, The Bureaucrats Are Like Tenured Professors On Steroids. You Can’t Move Them, Can’t Fire Them. The Bureaucrats Should Be Accountable To The Chain Of Command.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Zinke voiced a lack of trust in the federal government including the FBI, calling the investigation into collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign a ‘Clinton hoax’ and saying that ‘we need to take back our country.’ He also railed against the ‘deep state’ and said the first bill he would introduce would be his Federal Employee Accountability and Reduction Act. ‘There’s a lot of things to change,’ Zinke said. ‘And the biggest thing we could change is the deep state. People asked me, what’s the first bill? The acronym is FEAR because our federal government, the bureaucrats are like tenured professors on steroids. You can’t move them, can’t fire them. The bureaucrats should be accountable to the chain of command. And the president should be accountable to people. If we do not have accountability, then we do not have a country.’” [Ravalli Republic, 10/21/22]

**January 2023: Zinke Claimed Democrats Were Weaponizing The Federal Government To Persecute Republicans And Called For A House Investigation As House Republicans Voted To Create A Subcommittee To Investigate Federal Investigators.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Western Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke accused Democrats on Tuesday of weaponizing the federal government to persecute Republicans, using himself as an example and calling for a House investigation. The twice-elected representative and former Interior secretary spoke as House Republicans voted to create a subcommittee to investigate federal investigators. The ‘deep state’ refers to non-political-appointee federal government workers who aren’t turned out of office during transfers of power. The employees are viewed by some politicians as deeply entrenched partisans.” [Ravalli Republic, 1/10/23]

- **Zinke: “There Is No Doubt The Federal Government Deep State Coordinates Liberal Activists And Uses Politicians And Willing Media To Carry Their Water. The Deep State Run Secret Messaging Campaigns With One Goal In Mind To Increase Its Power To Censor And Persuade The American People.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Zinke, who backed McCarthy, spoke directly Tuesday to his brief term as secretary of The Department of Interior, during which liberal non-profits filed multiple public records requests concerning Zinke, producing information that led to investigations of Zinke by Interior’s inspector general. ‘There is no doubt the federal government deep state coordinates liberal activists and uses politicians and willing media to carry their water. The deep state run secret messaging campaigns with one goal in mind to increase its power to censor and persuade the American people,’ Zinke said.” [Ravalli Republic, 1/10/23]

## Financial Disclosures

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**2021: Zinke’s Campaign Acknowledged That It Had Missed A Deadline To File His Financial Disclosure And Claimed It Would File The Disclosure “In The Coming Days.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Republican Ryan Zinke’s campaign for Montana’s western congressional seat acknowledged this week that it blew a deadline to submit a report detailing the former Interior Secretary’s finances, and promised to file the disclosure statement ‘in a timely manner.’ [...] The first Republican to announce his candidacy, former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke previously said he received assurances from the House’s Office of the Clerk that he wouldn’t be required to file his disclosure statement until 2022. He sent a notice in May to the clerk’s office stating he had not raised \$5,000. According to his campaign’s third-quarter fundraising report, however, his campaign passed that mark at some point between July 1 and Sept. 30. He reported raising \$613,000 during that period. Zinke was also Montana’s



representative in Congress from 2015-2017. Following repeated inquiries from the Montana State News Bureau, his campaign on Monday evening said follow-up discussions with the offices of the House Clerk and the House Ethics Committee indicated he needed to file sooner. 'It was discovered in these conversations that the two offices had different guidance, causing the current situation,' spokesperson Heather Swift wrote in an email Monday. 'Zinke is working with House officials over the holiday weekend to collect and submit the required paperwork in a timely manner.' She added that he plans to file 'in the coming days.'" [Billings Gazette, 11/24/21]

- **Zinke's Financial Disclosure From 2016 Indicated That He Owned Two Pieces Of Residential Real Estate In Whitefish Worth Between \$500,000 And \$1,000,000 And Between \$100,000 And \$250,000.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke's most recent financial disclosure report, submitted in 2016 as part of the process before his swearing-in as President Donald Trump's first secretary of the Department of the Interior, listed family assets worth \$810,000 and \$2.8 million. His net worth was between \$260,000 and \$2.6 million. At the time, he reported two pieces of residential real estate in Whitefish; one worth between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000, and one between \$100,000 and \$250,000. Rent or royalties from both properties totaled between \$20,000 and \$65,000 at the time. He also listed residential and undeveloped land in Santa Barbara, California, worth more than \$1 million. Separately, state property tax records listed one of Zinke's companies, Continental Divide International LLC, as owning three adjacent properties in downtown Whitefish, worth a combined \$1.2 million as of their 2021 appraisals." [Billings Gazette, 11/24/21]
- **Zinke Also Owned Three Adjacent Properties In Whitefish Through His Company, Continental Divide International, Worth A Combined \$1.2 Million.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Zinke's most recent financial disclosure report, submitted in 2016 as part of the process before his swearing-in as President Donald Trump's first secretary of the Department of the Interior, listed family assets worth \$810,000 and \$2.8 million. His net worth was between \$260,000 and \$2.6 million. At the time, he reported two pieces of residential real estate in Whitefish; one worth between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000, and one between \$100,000 and \$250,000. Rent or royalties from both properties totaled between \$20,000 and \$65,000 at the time. He also listed residential and undeveloped land in Santa Barbara, California, worth more than \$1 million. Separately, state property tax records listed one of Zinke's companies, Continental Divide International LLC, as owning three adjacent properties in downtown Whitefish, worth a combined \$1.2 million as of their 2021 appraisals." [Billings Gazette, 11/24/21]

**2021: Zinke's Financial Disclosure Indicated That He Owned Assets Worth Between \$8 Million And \$34.39 Million, Including Between \$6 And \$30 Million In Property In Santa Barbara, California And Property Worth Between \$1.1 Million And \$1.75 Million In Whitefish And The Flathead Valley.** The Independent Record reported, "After previously saying he wasn't required to file a financial disclosure, Republican U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke did so Monday, showing assets between \$8 million and \$34.39 million. [...] Zinke's report shows he and his wife, Lolita, own property worth between \$7.1 million and \$32.2 million. That includes between \$1.1 million and \$1.75 million in Whitefish and the Flathead Valley. Some properties are tied to DoubleTap LLC and Snowfrog LLC, which are associated with a brewery and bed and breakfast Zinke once tried to open but ended up abandoning plans for after neighbors raised concerns. Zinke reported his wife owning property worth between \$6 million and \$30 million in Santa Barbara, California. One property was transferred to Lolita Zinke in 2021 and is worth between \$5 million and \$25 million. This year the property has generated between \$50,000 to \$100,000 in income and a previous form filed by Zinke in 2016 said his wife was the 'day-to-day manager of the rental property.'" [Independent Record, 11/30/21]

- **Zinke's Disclosure Indicated That He Had Earned \$788,000 From His Consulting Business In 2021 And \$547,025 In 2020 From Business With JVL Enterprises, Conoco Philips, And Cyber Range Solutions.** The Independent Record reported, "Zinke's other assets include bank account balances and stocks, which together range between \$568,010 and \$1.09 million. Zinke reported earning \$788,000 from his consulting business this year, outpacing his 2020 income of \$547,025. Neither of those income figures include about \$38,000 in retirement income from the U.S. Navy. The report shows through Continental Divide International, Zinke's consulting firm, he was paid \$350,000 so far this year from JVL Enterprises, a company based in



Dallas, Texas; \$220,000 from the oil company Conoco Phillips; and \$50,000 from a company called Cyber Range Solutions.” [Independent Record, 11/30/21]

**June 2022: Zinke Missed A Deadline To File His Financial Disclosure By More Than A Month, With His Spokeswoman Saying The Campaign Planned To File The Report In The Coming Week And Claiming, “Lost Track Of The Deadline” Over Text.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “GOP congressional candidate Ryan Zinke has yet to file his updated financial disclosure report, after missing the deadline by more than a month. His Democratic opponent for Montana’s new western U.S. House district, Missoula attorney Monica Tranel, filed the required paperwork last month. It was due May 16. Her financial disclosure shows slight increases in her asset and salary ranges from her previous report, filed last November. Zinke, a former congressman who earlier this month won a tight primary race to become the Republican nominee, also blew the previous financial disclosure deadline. His campaign filed the report months later following media inquiries. Campaign spokesperson Heather Swift said last week the campaign planned to submit his 2022 financial disclosure report Monday. ‘Lost track of the deadline,’ Swift stated in a text message last week.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/20/22]

**2022: Zinke’s Disclosure Indicated That He Was Still A Consultant For U.S. Gold Corp But Had Stopped Working For Multiple Other Private Companies Such As ConocoPhillips, Drawing Income Between \$370,000 And \$486,000.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Republican congressional candidate Ryan Zinke remains a consultant for a gold exploration company but dropped his work for several other private firms, according to a disclosure report filed Tuesday. The former congressman’s latest financial disclosure included few other changes from his prior report, filed in November. He reported income between \$370,000 and \$486,000 so far for 2022, most of which came from consulting work and rental income. Congressional candidates report their incomes, assets and liabilities in broad ranges. [...] Zinke has continued to work for U.S. Gold Corp. this year, according to the report. [...] Campaign spokesperson Heather Swift said via text message Wednesday that Zinke ended his consulting work for several other companies, including oil giant ConocoPhillips, at the end of 2021. He continues to earn a \$100,000 salary through his consulting company.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/22/22]

- **2022: Zinke’s Assets Increased Slightly In Value Over His Previous Report, And Were Worth Between \$8.7 Million And \$35.6 Million, Most Of Which Came From Rental Properties In Santa Barbara And Whitefish.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “The value of Zinke’s assets increased slightly from his prior report, and amount to between \$8.7 million and \$35.6 million. Most of that is in the form of rental properties in Santa Barbara and Whitefish. Zinke’s opponents have honed in on his family’s out-of-state property holdings to suggest he isn’t actually a Montana resident. The Whitefish native has maintained that his primary residence remains in the Flathead despite his wife claiming California residency for tax purposes.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/22/22]

## Gridlock

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**2024: Zinke Said He Agreed That The House Was Dysfunctional, But That It Would Be Worse Without A Republican Majority.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Saying he agreed with the assessment the U.S House is dysfunctional, Zinke told the crowd it would be worse if there wasn’t a GOP majority in the chamber. ‘The House blocks. Yeah, we block the Democratic agenda. We did. We also blocked our agenda in many cases. Hell, to give a football analogy, we blocked the referees. We’re a blocking machine. But we need to maintain the House. Because if we don’t, the first thing that’s going to happen is they’re going to impeach Donald J. Trump,’ Zinke said.” [Billings Gazette, 4/28/24]

- **Zinke: “The House Blocks. Yeah, We Block The Democratic Agenda. We Did. We Also Blocked Our Agenda In Many Cases. Hell, To Give A Football Analogy, We Blocked The Referees. We’re A Blocking Machine.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Saying he agreed with the assessment the U.S House is dysfunctional, Zinke told the crowd it would be worse if there wasn’t a GOP majority in the chamber. ‘The House blocks. Yeah, we block the Democratic agenda. We did. We also blocked our agenda in many cases. Hell, to give a football analogy, we blocked the referees. We’re a blocking machine. But we need to maintain



the House. Because if we don't, the first thing that's going to happen is they're going to impeach Donald J. Trump,' Zinke said." [Billings Gazette, 4/28/24]

- **Zinke: "But We Need To Maintain The House. Because If We Don't, The First Thing That's Going To Happen Is They're Going To Impeach Donald J. Trump."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Saying he agreed with the assessment the U.S House is dysfunctional, Zinke told the crowd it would be worse if there wasn't a GOP majority in the chamber. 'The House blocks. Yeah, we block the Democratic agenda. We did. We also blocked our agenda in many cases. Hell, to give a football analogy, we blocked the referees. We're a blocking machine. But we need to maintain the House. Because if we don't, the first thing that's going to happen is they're going to impeach Donald J. Trump,' Zinke said." [Billings Gazette, 4/28/24]

**2024: Zinke's Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming Him For Being "Part Of The Most Unproductive Congress In History, Spending Time On Chaos And Petty In-Fighting Rather Than Voting To Get The Nation's Business Done."** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, "It wouldn't surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it's up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn't spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation's business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them." [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

## **Reorganization & Agency Headquarters**

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### ***Agency Headquarters***

**December 2017: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop Held A Hearing To Examine Zinke's Plan To Remove Federal Agency Headquarters From D.C.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "The Trump administration will probably put it to the test soon. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a Montanan, is aiming to move the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation out of Washington as soon as logistically possible. Western politicians like Sen. Corey Gardner (R-Colo.) are cheering him on. 'Ninety-nine percent of the nearly 250 million acres of land managed by BLM is west of the Mississippi River, and having the decision makers present in the communities they impact in Colorado or across the region will lead to better results,' Gardner wrote in an email. He wants the bureau headquartered in his state, and Colorado's Democratic governor, John Hickenlooper, has joined Gardner's lobbying campaign. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), who held a hearing Thursday to examine Zinke's plan, said in an interview that his constituents are so distrustful of what they see as a heavy-handed National Park Service that he had to abandon his plan to elevate Dinosaur National Monument to a national park, a move that he hoped would lure a world-class research center to the state and boost tourism." [Los Angeles Times, 12/11/17]

**December 2017: Rep. Raul Grijalva Criticized Zinke's Plan To Move Federal Agencies Outside Of D.C. As An Effort To Weaken The Interior Department.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Some Democrats, though, see a sham at a time Zinke has also been unabashed about his plans to shrink the Interior Department's workforce, which includes pushing workers out by relocating them. 'This reorganization is an exercise in weakening the Department of Interior by driving employees out,' said Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.). 'Once they're gone, the extractive industries will be able to check off the top item on their wish list'—getting the stewards of public land out of their way. A lot of the broader relocation debate is familiar. And some scholars project that though a few hundred jobs might get moved here or there, the broader vision of moving large pieces of Washington officialdom





hundreds or thousands of miles away will end up in the shredder, as tends to happen with outsize plans to reinvent and reimagine government. The politics are messy, the logistics are tough, and the status quo is entrenched.” [Los Angeles Times, 12/11/17]

- **December 2017 – Rep. Raul Grijalva: “This Reorganization Is An Exercise In Weakening The Department Of Interior By Driving Employees Out. Once They’re Gone, The Extractive Industries Will Be Able To Check Off The Top Item On Their Wishlist.”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Some Democrats, though, see a sham at a time Zinke has also been unabashed about his plans to shrink the Interior Department’s workforce, which includes pushing workers out by relocating them. ‘This reorganization is an exercise in weakening the Department of Interior by driving employees out,’ said Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.). ‘Once they’re gone, the extractive industries will be able to check off the top item on their wish list’— getting the stewards of public land out of their way. A lot of the broader relocation debate is familiar. And some scholars project that though a few hundred jobs might get moved here or there, the broader vision of moving large pieces of Washington officialdom hundreds or thousands of miles away will end up in the shredder, as tends to happen with outsize plans to reinvent and reimagine government. The politics are messy, the logistics are tough, and the status quo is entrenched.” [Los Angeles Times, 12/11/17]

**December 2017: Zinke Proposed A Plan To Move The Headquarters Of The Bureau Of Land Management, The Fish And Wildlife Service, And The Bureau Of Reclamation Out Of D.C.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “The Trump administration will probably put it to the test soon. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a Montanan, is aiming to move the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation out of Washington as soon as logistically possible. Western politicians like Sen. Corey Gardner (R-Colo.) are cheering him on. ‘Ninety-nine percent of the nearly 250 million acres of land managed by BLM is west of the Mississippi River, and having the decision makers present in the communities they impact in Colorado or across the region will lead to better results,’ Gardner wrote in an email. He wants the bureau headquartered in his state, and Colorado’s Democratic governor, John Hickenlooper, has joined Gardner’s lobbying campaign. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), who held a hearing Thursday to examine Zinke’s plan, said in an interview that his constituents are so distrustful of what they see as a heavy-handed National Park Service that he had to abandon his plan to elevate Dinosaur National Monument to a national park, a move that he hoped would lure a world-class research center to the state and boost tourism.” [Los Angeles Times, 12/11/17]

**2023: Zinke Said He Supported “Moving The Bureau Of Land Management, Moving The U.S. Geological Survey, Moving Those Decisions That Primarily Affect The West, Let’s Move Them Out Of D.C. And Put Them Where At Least They Can Pick Up A Phone Call And We Can Talk To Them.”** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “The panelists also talked about the structure of the federal government. Zinke compared going to the nation’s capital to being ‘dropped in behind enemy lines because everyone is in the opposite party.’ Zinke and Sheehy said more federal agencies should be located outside of the nation’s capital. ‘For me getting the power out of D.C. is one of the ways,’ Zinke said. ‘Moving the Bureau of Land Management, moving the U.S. Geological Survey, moving those decisions that primarily affect the West, let’s move them out of D.C. and put them where at least they can pick up a phone call and we can talk to them.’” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 8/4/23]

**July 2019: The Bureau Of Land Management Moved Its Headquarters From D.C. To Grand Junction, Colorado As Part Of A Plan By Zinke To Reorganize The Department Of The Interior.** The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported, “The Trump administration’s plan to move the government’s largest land management office from Washington to Colorado evoked a mix of praise, criticism and questions on Tuesday. The Bureau of Land Management confirmed the bureau’s headquarters would move to Grand Junction, Colorado, to get it closer to the lands it oversees. [...] The move is part of a broader plan to reorganize the Interior Department, launched by then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.” [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/17/19]

- **Environmental Agencies And Former Bureau Officials Criticized The Decision For Turning The Agency Into An “Afterthought” And Taking It Farther Away From Congressional Briefings And Budget**

**Negotiations.** The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported, “The Trump administration’s plan to move the government’s largest land management office from Washington to Colorado evoked a mix of praise, criticism and questions on Tuesday. The Bureau of Land Management confirmed the bureau’s headquarters would move to Grand Junction, Colorado, to get it closer to the lands it oversees. [...] Steve Ellis, another retired bureau official who served as deputy director of the agency, questioned how effective senior leaders could be if they are in western Colorado while budget negotiations and briefings for Congress take place in Washington. ‘Those functions are critical, and they’re time-sensitive,’ he said. ‘My concern is, they’re not going to operate well with key people west of the Rockies.’ [...] ‘This move will further remove BLM career leadership from policy decisions that will still be made in Washington by the (Interior) department,’ Ellis said. The Center for Western Priorities, an environmental group, also scoffed at the argument that moving the headquarters west would lead to better decisions. ‘This announcement is nothing but a PR stunt,’ the group’s executive director, Jennifer Rokala, said in a written statement.’ Moving senior BLM leadership would only turn the agency into an afterthought, rather than a core piece of the Interior Department.” [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/17/19]

- **Steve Ellis, Retired Bureau Of Land Management Official: “My Concern Is, They’re Not Going To Operate Well With Key People West Of The Rockies... This Move Will Further Remove BLM Career Leadership From Policy Decisions That Will Still Be Made In Washington By The (Interior) Department.”** The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported, “The Trump administration’s plan to move the government’s largest land management office from Washington to Colorado evoked a mix of praise, criticism and questions on Tuesday. The Bureau of Land Management confirmed the bureau’s headquarters would move to Grand Junction, Colorado, to get it closer to the lands it oversees. [...] Steve Ellis, another retired bureau official who served as deputy director of the agency, questioned how effective senior leaders could be if they are in western Colorado while budget negotiations and briefings for Congress take place in Washington. ‘Those functions are critical, and they’re time-sensitive,’ he said. ‘My concern is, they’re not going to operate well with key people west of the Rockies.’ [...] ‘This move will further remove BLM career leadership from policy decisions that will still be made in Washington by the (Interior) department,’ Ellis said. The Center for Western Priorities, an environmental group, also scoffed at the argument that moving the headquarters west would lead to better decisions. ‘This announcement is nothing but a PR stunt,’ the group’s executive director, Jennifer Rokala, said in a written statement.’ Moving senior BLM leadership would only turn the agency into an afterthought, rather than a core piece of the Interior Department.” [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/17/19]
- **Jennifer Rokala, Executive Director Of Environmental Group The Center For Western Priorities: “Moving Senior BLM Leadership Would Only Turn The Agency Into An Afterthought, Rather Than A Core Piece Of The Interior Department.”** The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported, “The Trump administration’s plan to move the government’s largest land management office from Washington to Colorado evoked a mix of praise, criticism and questions on Tuesday. The Bureau of Land Management confirmed the bureau’s headquarters would move to Grand Junction, Colorado, to get it closer to the lands it oversees. [...] Steve Ellis, another retired bureau official who served as deputy director of the agency, questioned how effective senior leaders could be if they are in western Colorado while budget negotiations and briefings for Congress take place in Washington. ‘Those functions are critical, and they’re time-sensitive,’ he said. ‘My concern is, they’re not going to operate well with key people west of the Rockies.’ [...] ‘This move will further remove BLM career leadership from policy decisions that will still be made in Washington by the (Interior) department,’ Ellis said. The Center for Western Priorities, an environmental group, also scoffed at the argument that moving the headquarters west would lead to better decisions. ‘This announcement is nothing but a PR stunt,’ the group’s executive director, Jennifer Rokala, said in a written statement.’ Moving senior BLM leadership would only turn the agency into an afterthought, rather than a core piece of the Interior Department.” [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/17/19]

## ***Reorganization***

**June 2017: Zinke Promised Reorganization “On A Scale Of 100 Years” Without Offering Specifics At The Western Governors’ Association Annual Meeting In Montana.** The Denver Post reported, “Removing

bureaucratic obstacles to development on federal land can create jobs and offer hope to nearby communities, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Tuesday in hinting at long term changes in store for federal agencies including the Interior Department. Promising reorganization ‘on a scale of 100 years’ but without offering specifics, Zinke told the Western Governors’ Association annual meeting in his hometown of Whitefish, Mont., the Interior Department and other land management agencies need to better cooperate. ‘Jobs matter. There’s a social cost of not having jobs. And we love environmental regulations fair and equitable, but it takes wealth to make sure that we can maintain those regulations and improve,’ Zinke said.” [Denver Post, 6/28/17]

**July 2017: Zinke Advisor Vincent DeVito Laid Out A Plan To Transform The Interior Department Into A Profit Generator.** The Denver Post reported, “Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. agency that manages the national park system is tweaking its mission to include a new priority: generating cash. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke aims to retool the agency into a federal profit center focused on increasing energy production, according to a plan laid out by his special adviser, Vincent DeVito. ‘Our objective here is to bring as many resources online as responsibly as we can,’ DeVito said during an event in Washington on Thursday. ‘We are changing the way the government is doing business.’ That means running the government as though it actually is a business, according to DeVito, who refers to himself as a ‘senior manager’ within ‘the Department of Interior Energy.’” [Denver Post, 7/29/17]

- **July 2017: DeVito Referred To Himself As A “Senior Manager” Within The “Department Of Interior Energy.”** The Denver Post reported, “Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. agency that manages the national park system is tweaking its mission to include a new priority: generating cash. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke aims to retool the agency into a federal profit center focused on increasing energy production, according to a plan laid out by his special adviser, Vincent DeVito. ‘Our objective here is to bring as many resources online as responsibly as we can,’ DeVito said during an event in Washington on Thursday. ‘We are changing the way the government is doing business.’ That means running the government as though it actually is a business, according to DeVito, who refers to himself as a ‘senior manager’ within ‘the Department of Interior Energy.’” [Denver Post, 7/29/17]

**February 2018: Zinke Revised A Proposal To Reorganize The Interior Department After Receiving Criticism From The Oil And Gas Industry.** The Denver Post reported, “U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke disclosed Friday in an Associated Press interview that he’s revamping a sweeping overhaul of his department that’s supposed to speed up permitting for development on public lands, but Democrats asserted it was just a ploy to let the energy industry get its way. [...] Zinke wants to divide the department into 13 regions, with boundaries that more closely follows state lines instead of the natural boundaries he initially proposed, he said. ‘At present we are mismanaging and squandering our assets through a layered bureaucracy that reflects a very old department that really has not reorganized since the turn of the last century,’ he said. ‘We will be moving assets to the front lines and moving authority to make decisions and, I would argue, better decisions to the front lines.’ Zinke said Friday that his focus was on three areas: improving recreational access, simplifying environmental reviews and speeding up the permitting process for energy exploration and other projects on public lands. [...] The new proposal resulted from discussions with governors, members of Congress and senior leaders at the agency, Interior officials said. Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said the original proposal had been a ‘discussion draft’ rather than a finished document and was now being refined through a collaborative process. Among those opposed to Zinke’s original plan was the oil and gas industry. It said a reorganization based on watersheds was too similar to proposals from former President Barack Obama.” [Denver Post, 2/25/18]

- **Zinke Originally Released A Reorganization Proposal That Would Divide The Department Into Regions Based On Natural Boundaries Such As Watersheds.** The Denver Post reported, “U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke disclosed Friday in an Associated Press interview that he’s revamping a sweeping overhaul of his department that’s supposed to speed up permitting for development on public lands, but Democrats asserted it was just a ploy to let the energy industry get its way. [...] Zinke wants to divide the department into 13 regions, with boundaries that more closely follows state lines instead of the natural boundaries he initially proposed, he said. ‘At present we are mismanaging and squandering our assets through a layered bureaucracy that reflects a

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- **The Oil And Gas Industry Criticized Zinke's Original Proposal As Being Too Similar To An Obama-Era Reorganization Proposal.** The Denver Post reported, "U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke disclosed Friday in an Associated Press interview that he's revamping a sweeping overhaul of his department that's supposed to speed up permitting for development on public lands, but Democrats asserted it was just a ploy to let the energy industry get its way. [...] Zinke wants to divide the department into 13 regions, with boundaries that more closely follows state lines instead of the natural boundaries he initially proposed, he said. 'At present we are mismanaging and squandering our assets through a layered bureaucracy that reflects a very old department that really has not reorganized since the turn of the last century,' he said. 'We will be moving assets to the front lines and moving authority to make decisions and, I would argue, better decisions to the front lines.' Zinke said Friday that his focus was on three areas: improving recreational access, simplifying environmental reviews and speeding up the permitting process for energy exploration and other projects on public lands. [...] The new proposal resulted from discussions with governors, members of Congress and senior leaders at the agency, Interior officials said. Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said the original proposal had been a 'discussion draft' rather than a finished document and was now being refined through a collaborative process. Among those opposed to Zinke's original plan was the oil and gas industry. It said a reorganization based on watersheds was too similar to proposals from former President Barack Obama." [Denver Post, 2/25/18]
- **The Revised Proposal Divided The Department Along Boundaries That Were Closer To State Lines.** The Denver Post reported, "U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke disclosed Friday in an Associated Press interview that he's revamping a sweeping overhaul of his department that's supposed to speed up permitting for development on public lands, but Democrats asserted it was just a ploy to let the energy industry get its way. [...] Zinke wants to divide the department into 13 regions, with boundaries that more closely follows state lines instead of the natural boundaries he initially proposed, he said. 'At present we are mismanaging and squandering our assets through a layered bureaucracy that reflects a very old department that really has not reorganized since the turn of the last century,' he said. 'We will be moving assets to the front lines and moving authority to make decisions and, I would argue, better decisions to the front lines.' Zinke said Friday that his focus was on three areas: improving recreational access, simplifying environmental reviews and speeding up the permitting process for energy exploration and other projects on public lands. [...] The new proposal resulted from discussions with governors, members of Congress and senior leaders at the agency, Interior officials said. Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said the original proposal had been a 'discussion draft' rather than a finished document and was now being refined through a collaborative process. Among those opposed to Zinke's original plan was the oil and gas industry. It said a reorganization based on watersheds was too similar to proposals from former President Barack Obama." [Denver Post, 2/25/18]
- **Zinke Said The Goal Of The Proposal Was To Improve Recreational Access, Simplify Environmental Review, And Speed Up The Process For Energy Exploration.** The Denver Post reported, "U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke disclosed Friday in an Associated Press interview that he's revamping a sweeping overhaul of his department that's supposed to speed up permitting for development on public lands, but Democrats asserted it was just a ploy to let the energy industry get its way. [...] Zinke wants to divide the department into 13 regions, with boundaries that more closely follows state lines instead of the natural boundaries he initially proposed, he said. 'At present we are mismanaging and squandering our assets through a



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- **Many Former Interior Department Officials Criticized Zinke's Reorganization For Being Unnecessary Due To The Organization's Strong Existing Infrastructure For Localized Decision-Making.** The Denver Post reported, "U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's plan for a major realignment to put more of his department's decision makers in the field has a fundamental flaw in the eyes of some who spent their careers making those decisions: They're already out there. Eleven former Interior Department officials with decades of experience in both Washington and in local offices told The Associated Press the agency already has a well established system for decentralized decision making. 'Ninety percent plus of the decisions that get made get made at the local level,' said Scott Florence, who retired after 38 years with the Bureau of Land Management, the Interior Department's second largest branch. The problem, some said, is that over the past few years, an increasing number of decisions that should have been made locally were ultimately decided in Washington because of political pressure, under both Democratic and Republican administrations. And since 91.5 percent of the department's workforce of about 70,000 is already based outside the Washington area, most of the former interior employees said they doubted pushing more employees out of Washington would improve things." [Denver Post, 3/1/18]

## Travel

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### *Hockey Donor Dinner*

**September 2017: Zinke Had Expensed The Use Of A Chartered Airplane For Several Flights As Interior Secretary, Including A \$12,000 Trip To Las Vegas For A Speech Celebrating A New Professional Hockey Team.** The New York Times reported, "Mr. Price may not be the only senior official to face anger over travel bills. In recent days, a slew of reports about the fast-lane habits of the cabinet have resulted in a mounting public relations headache for the Trump administration, which is stocked by billionaires accustomed to using private jets. Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, used a chartered airplane for several flights, including a \$12,000 trip to deliver a speech celebrating a new professional hockey team in Las Vegas. Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, has spent more than \$58,000 on chartered and military flights, and David Shulkin, the veterans affairs secretary, took his wife on a 10-day trip to Europe that mixed business meetings and sightseeing, according to The Washington Post." [New York Times, 9/29/17]

- **September 2017: Zinke Took A Private Flight Costing \$12,000 Back To His Montana Home After A Nevada Dinner With A Hockey Team Owned By A Political Benefactor.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Price said his resignation took effect just before midnight Friday. Three other Cabinet members—Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt—also have taken multiple taxpayer-paid flights on private or military aircraft. Zinke on Friday defiantly defended his three private flights, which included one costing \$12,000 that took him to his Montana home after a Nevada dinner with a hockey team owned by a political benefactor. Zinke said suggestions that the flights were improper was 'a little B.S.' 'Every time I travel, I send the travel plan to the ethics department that reviews it line by line to make sure I am above the law and I follow the law,' he said in a speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation on Friday. The reports about Price and Zinke followed earlier questions about private flights taken by Mnuchin, including one from New York to Washington and another to



Kentucky, where he watched the recent solar eclipse with his new wife and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. The Washington Post also reported that Pruitt had taken multiple taxpayer-paid flights on private or military aircraft, at a cost of more than \$58,000. The paper also raised questions about a trip to London by Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shul-kin that included a Wimbledon tennis match.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]

- **Los Angeles Times: “Zinke On Friday Defiantly Defended His Three Private Flights... Zinke Said Suggestions That The Flights Were Improper Was ‘A Little B.S.’ ‘Every Time I Travel, I Send The Travel Plan To The Ethics Department That Reviews It Line By Line To Make Sure I Am Above The Law And I Follow The Law.’”** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Price said his resignation took effect just before midnight Friday. Three other Cabinet members—Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt—also have taken multiple taxpayer-paid flights on private or military aircraft. Zinke on Friday defiantly defended his three private flights, which included one costing \$12,000 that took him to his Montana home after a Nevada dinner with a hockey team owned by a political benefactor. Zinke said suggestions that the flights were improper was ‘a little B.S.’ ‘Every time I travel, I send the travel plan to the ethics department that reviews it line by line to make sure I am above the law and I follow the law,’ he said in a speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation on Friday. The reports about Price and Zinke followed earlier questions about private flights taken by Mnuchin, including one from New York to Washington and another to Kentucky, where he watched the recent solar eclipse with his new wife and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. The Washington Post also reported that Pruitt had taken multiple taxpayer-paid flights on private or military aircraft, at a cost of more than \$58,000. The paper also raised questions about a trip to London by Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shul-kin that included a Wimbledon tennis match.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]

**September 2017: Zinke’s Private Flight From Las Vegas To Nevada Was Aboard A Plane Owned By Oil And Gas Executive Jay Nielson.** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke chartered a flight from Las Vegas to near his home in Montana this summer aboard a plane owned by oil-and-gas executives, internal documents show. [...] Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson & Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm, co-owns the plane through a holding company, but he said he was not in control of the plane at the time and that it was chartered through a company called Choice Aviation. He told The Washington Post he was unsure whether Zinke flew on the plane and added, ‘Part of why people charter planes is they like to remain somewhat private.’ A representative at Choice Aviation, who declined to give her name, said she was unsure whether Choice chartered a flight for Zinke, then said the company did not charter the flight. She then ended the call.” [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

- **September 2017: Nielson Co-Owned The Private Plane Through A Holding Company And Said The Plan Was Chartered Through A Company Called Choice Aviation.** The Washington Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke chartered a flight from Las Vegas to near his home in Montana this summer aboard a plane owned by oil-and-gas executives, internal documents show. [...] Jay Nielson, the executive vice president of Nielson & Associates, an oil-and-gas exploration and production firm, co-owns the plane through a holding company, but he said he was not in control of the plane at the time and that it was chartered through a company called Choice Aviation. He told The Washington Post he was unsure whether Zinke flew on the plane and added, ‘Part of why people charter planes is they like to remain somewhat private.’ A representative at Choice Aviation, who declined to give her name, said she was unsure whether Choice chartered a flight for Zinke, then said the company did not charter the flight. She then ended the call.” [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

**September 2017: Zinke Was In Nevada The Day Of The Hockey Team Dinner On Official Department Business And Was Scheduled To Be In Montana For A Western Governors Association Meeting The Next Day.** The Los Angeles Times reported, “Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team dinner. The team is owned



by Bill Foley, one of Zinke's most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke's or Pruitt's travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin's actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price." [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]

- **The Hockey Team Was Owned By Bill Foley, Who Was Reportedly One Of Zinke's "Most Generous Political Donors."** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team dinner. The team is owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke's most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke's or Pruitt's travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin's actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price." [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]
- **October 2017: Employees And PACs Associated With Bill Foley's Fidelity National Financial Had Contributed Close To \$200,000 To Zinke's Past Congressional Campaigns.** The Denver Post reported, "The flight cost taxpayers \$12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as \$300. Zinke's spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said no commercial flight was available that would have worked with his schedule that night. Zinke appeared at an event held by a major campaign donor, giving a motivational speech at a dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a hockey team owned by Bill Foley, the chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and PACs associated with the financial services company have given close to \$200,000 to Zinke's past congressional campaigns. 'Claims that the Secretary's full schedule required the use of chartered aircraft deserve scrutiny,' the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Kendall last week. 'It appears as though Secretary Zinke and his staff could have taken a commercial flight from Las Vegas to Montana if he did not attend the motivational speech to the hockey team owned by his friend and campaign contributor.'" [Denver Post, 10/3/17]
- **A Letter By Lawmakers Concerning Zinke's Private Flight Read, "Claims That The Secretary's Full Schedule Required The Use Of Chartered Aircraft Deserve Scrutiny... It Appears As Though Secretary Zinke And His Staff Could Have Taken A Commercial Flight From Las Vegas To Montana If He Did Not Attend The Motivational Speech... By His Friend And Campaign Contributor."** The Denver Post reported, "The flight cost taxpayers \$12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as \$300. Zinke's spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said no commercial flight was available that would have worked with his schedule that night. Zinke appeared at an event held by a major campaign donor, giving a motivational speech at a dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a hockey team owned by Bill Foley, the chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and PACs associated with the financial services company have given close to \$200,000 to Zinke's past congressional campaigns. 'Claims that the Secretary's full schedule required the use of chartered aircraft deserve scrutiny,' the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Kendall last week. 'It appears as though Secretary Zinke and his staff could have taken a commercial flight from Las Vegas to Montana if he did not attend the motivational speech to the hockey team owned by his friend and campaign contributor.'" [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

**September 2017: Zinke Could Have Taken A Less-Expensive Commercial Flight Between His Department Business In Nevada And The Western Governors Association Meeting In Montana, But Would Have Missed The Hockey Team Dinner.** The Los Angeles Times reported, "Like Trump, Zinke opened what was to be a policy speech with a defense of his actions. On the day of his \$12,000 flight, Zinke said, he was in Nevada for department business and was due to attend a meeting the next day in Montana of the Western Governors Assn. He could have taken a less-expensive commercial flight between those two events, but he would have missed the hockey team



dinner. The team is owned by Bill Foley, one of Zinke's most generous political donors. Trump has not commented on Zinke's or Pruitt's travel. In brief remarks Sunday he seemed to excuse Mnuchin's actions, which included requesting a government plane for his honeymoon in Europe. (The request was canceled before the trip.) Even then, the president took pains to distance himself from Price." [Los Angeles Times, 9/30/17]

- **Denver Post: "The Flight Cost Taxpayers \$12,375, According To An Interior Department Spokeswoman. Commercial Airlines Run Daily Flights Between The Two Airports And Charge As Little As \$300."** The Denver Post reported, "The flight cost taxpayers \$12,375, according to an Interior Department spokeswoman. Commercial airlines run daily flights between the two airports and charge as little as \$300. Zinke's spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said no commercial flight was available that would have worked with his schedule that night. Zinke appeared at an event held by a major campaign donor, giving a motivational speech at a dinner for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, a hockey team owned by Bill Foley, the chairman of Fidelity National Financial. Employees and PACs associated with the financial services company have given close to \$200,000 to Zinke's past congressional campaigns. 'Claims that the Secretary's full schedule required the use of chartered aircraft deserve scrutiny,' the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Kendall last week. 'It appears as though Secretary Zinke and his staff could have taken a commercial flight from Las Vegas to Montana if he did not attend the motivational speech to the hockey team owned by his friend and campaign contributor.'" [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

**October 2017: Campaign For Accountability, A Watchdog Group, Requested An Investigation Into Whether Zinke's Speech To The Hockey Team As Part Of His Official Duties Violated The Hatch Act.** The Denver Post reported, "The secretary and his official entourage also boarded private flights between the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix during a three day trip to the Virgin Islands in March, his first month on the job. Swift said Zinke's charter flights were authorized by ethics officials and booked only when feasible commercial flights were unavailable. She said previous interior secretaries flew charter flights when needed. The watchdog group Campaign for Accountability also requested an investigation into whether Zinke violated the federal Hatch Act by speaking to the hockey team as part of his official duties. The act prevents executive branch employees from engaging in partisan political activity. It is unclear whether taxpayers paid the costs of Zinke's political appearances. In remarks on American energy independence at the Heritage Foundation last Friday, Zinke called the media scrutiny 'a little B.S.' and defended flights he has taken on military and charter aircraft since he took office." [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

**October 2017: The Interior Department's Inspector General Opened An Investigation Into Zinke's Travel During His First Seven Months In Office, Which Included Taxpayer Funded Military Plane Use.** The Denver Post reported, "The inspector general for the Interior Department has opened an investigation into Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel during seven months in office, from his use of taxpayer funded charter and military planes to his mixing of official trips with political appearances. Nancy DiPaolo, a spokesperson for Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall, described a broad investigation into Zinke's 'travel in general,' including 'modes of travel, costs and schedules.' 'It's not just one trip,' she said. 'It's seven months of travel.' She said the probe was prompted by numerous complaints from employees and the public and recent newspaper articles. Reps. Ra\xFAI M. Grijalva, Ariz., and Donald McEachin, Va., the top Democrats, respectively, on the House Committee on Natural Resources and the panel's subcommittee on oversight and investigations, also requested an investigation." [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

- **Nancy DiPaolo, A Spokesperson For Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall, Said The Investigation Was Into Zinke's "Travel In General," Including "Modes Of Travel, Costs And Schedules... It's Not Just One Trip...It's Seven Months Of Travel."** The Denver Post reported, "The inspector general for the Interior Department has opened an investigation into Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel during seven months in office, from his use of taxpayer funded charter and military planes to his mixing of official trips with political appearances. Nancy DiPaolo, a spokesperson for Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall, described a broad investigation into Zinke's 'travel in general,' including 'modes of travel, costs and schedules.' 'It's not just one trip,' she said. 'It's seven months of travel.' She said the probe was prompted by numerous complaints from

employees and the public and recent newspaper articles. Reps. Raúl M. Grijalva, Ariz., and Donald McEachin, Va., the top Democrats, respectively, on the House Committee on Natural Resources and the panel's subcommittee on oversight and investigations, also requested an investigation." [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

**September 2017: Center For Western Priorities Spokesman Aaron Weiss Called Zinke's Nevada Trip A "Flimsy Excuse For A Political Event" And "A Thank-You Dinner With His Biggest Campaign Bundler."**

The Washington Post reported, "Just before the Golden Knights dinner, Zinke had appeared in the tiny rural Nevada town of Pahrump to announce a routine local funding grant from Congress to rural communities. It was one of several official trips that coincided with weekends Zinke spent at his homes in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Montana. Aaron Weiss of the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, said, 'Secretary Zinke's entire Nevada trip appears to be a flimsy excuse for a political event in Tahoe and a thank-you dinner with his biggest campaign bundler. 'There was no legitimate reason for the secretary to be there in the first place,' Weiss said. 'Then he saddles taxpayers with the bill for a private plane when he could have easily flown commercial.'" [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

- **Weiss: "Secretary Zinke's Entire Nevada Trip Appears To Be A Flimsy Excuse For A Political Event In Tahoe And A Thank-You Dinner With His Biggest Campaign Bundler."** The Washington Post reported, "Just before the Golden Knights dinner, Zinke had appeared in the tiny rural Nevada town of Pahrump to announce a routine local funding grant from Congress to rural communities. It was one of several official trips that coincided with weekends Zinke spent at his homes in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Montana. Aaron Weiss of the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, said, 'Secretary Zinke's entire Nevada trip appears to be a flimsy excuse for a political event in Tahoe and a thank-you dinner with his biggest campaign bundler. 'There was no legitimate reason for the secretary to be there in the first place,' Weiss said. 'Then he saddles taxpayers with the bill for a private plane when he could have easily flown commercial.'" [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]
- **Weiss: "There Was No Legitimate Reason For The Secretary To Be There In The First Place. Then He Saddles Taxpayers With The Bill For A Private Plane When He Could Have Easily Flown Commercial."** The Washington Post reported, "Just before the Golden Knights dinner, Zinke had appeared in the tiny rural Nevada town of Pahrump to announce a routine local funding grant from Congress to rural communities. It was one of several official trips that coincided with weekends Zinke spent at his homes in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Montana. Aaron Weiss of the Center for Western Priorities, a nonprofit conservation and advocacy group, said, 'Secretary Zinke's entire Nevada trip appears to be a flimsy excuse for a political event in Tahoe and a thank-you dinner with his biggest campaign bundler. 'There was no legitimate reason for the secretary to be there in the first place,' Weiss said. 'Then he saddles taxpayers with the bill for a private plane when he could have easily flown commercial.'" [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

**2018: Zinke Was Cleared By Federal Investigators Of An Alleged Hatch Act Violation Over The Cost Of A Charter Flight To Give A Speech To The Golden Knights NHL Team, Whose Owner Was A Zinke Campaign Donor.**

The Billings Gazette reported, "In June of 2018, federal investigators cleared Zinke in a complaint filed by the group Campaign For Accountability for a speech he gave to the Golden Knights NHL team. The complaint alleged Hatch Act violations due to the cost of a charter flight to the speech and Zinke's ties to team owner Bill Foley, a contributor to Zinke's political campaigns. But investigators concluded that the donations alone were not enough to constitute a violation. The Office of Special Counsel also cleared Zinke of travel violations for several other events that included both official and political events. Investigators found the travel was properly documented and approved." [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**2017: Zinke Was Criticized For His Use Of Taxpayer Money To Fund Charter And Military Planes For Personal Use, Including A \$12,000 Flight To Las Vegas To For A Speaking Engagement With The City's Hockey Team.** The New York Times reported, "In 2017, Mr. Zinke became the focus of news reports for his use of charter and military planes at taxpayer expense, including a \$12,000 flight to Las Vegas for a speaking engagement with the Golden Knights, then the city's new hockey team, whose owner had donated to Mr. Zinke's congressional





campaigns. The inspector general for the Interior Department found that the flights did not violate any laws, but that the cost of the flight could have been avoided.” [New York Times, 6/9/22]

- **The Team’s Owner Had Donated To Zinke’s Congressional Campaign.** The New York Times reported, “In 2017, Mr. Zinke became the focus of news reports for his use of charter and military planes at taxpayer expense, including a \$12,000 flight to Las Vegas for a speaking engagement with the Golden Knights, then the city’s new hockey team, whose owner had donated to Mr. Zinke’s congressional campaigns. The inspector general for the Interior Department found that the flights did not violate any laws, but that the cost of the flight could have been avoided.” [New York Times, 6/9/22]

## ***Other Travel***

**December 2017: Zinke Spent Over \$53,000 On Three Helicopter Trips During Summer 2017.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spent more than \$53,000 on three helicopter trips this summer, including one that allowed him to return to Washington in time for a horseback ride with Vice President Mike Pence, newly released records show. Records released by the Interior Department in response to a Freedom of Information Act request show Zinke spent more than \$39,000 on a July helicopter tour above two national monuments in Nevada. Zinke was considering whether to recommend downsizing the sites.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]

- **2017: One Of Zinke’s Helicopter Trips Allowed Him To Return To Washington On Time For A Horseback Ride With Vice President Mike Pence.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spent more than \$53,000 on three helicopter trips this summer, including one that allowed him to return to Washington in time for a horseback ride with Vice President Mike Pence, newly released records show. Records released by the Interior Department in response to a Freedom of Information Act request show Zinke spent more than \$39,000 on a July helicopter tour above two national monuments in Nevada. Zinke was considering whether to recommend downsizing the sites.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]
- **July 2017: Zinke Spent Over \$39,000 On A Helicopter Tour Above Two National Monuments In Nevada While He Was Considering Downsizing The Monuments.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spent more than \$53,000 on three helicopter trips this summer, including one that allowed him to return to Washington in time for a horseback ride with Vice President Mike Pence, newly released records show. Records released by the Interior Department in response to a Freedom of Information Act request show Zinke spent more than \$39,000 on a July helicopter tour above two national monuments in Nevada. Zinke was considering whether to recommend downsizing the sites.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]
- **2017: Zinke Spent \$8,000 On A Round Trip To An Emergency Management Exercise In Shepherdstown, West Virginia.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spent more than \$53,000 on three helicopter trips this summer, including one that allowed him to return to Washington in time for a horseback ride with Vice President Mike Pence, newly released records show. Records released by the Interior Department in response to a Freedom of Information Act request show Zinke spent more than \$39,000 on a July helicopter tour above two national monuments in Nevada. Zinke was considering whether to recommend downsizing the sites. He also spent \$8,000 on a round trip to an emergency management exercise in Shepherdstown, W. Va., and \$6,200 to and from Yorktown, Va., to tour a Revolutionary War battlefield and attend a boating industry round table. Zinke went horseback riding with Pence and other officials after returning from Virginia. The helicopter trips were first reported by Politico. Zinke and other Cabinet members have faced questions about travel after Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price was forced to resign amid criticism for using costly chartered planes.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]
- **2017: Zinke Spent \$6,200 To And From Yorktown, Virginia To Tour A Revolutionary War Battlefield And Attend A Boating Industry Round Table Event.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spent more than \$53,000 on three helicopter trips this summer, including one that allowed him to return to Washington in time for a horseback ride with Vice President Mike Pence, newly released records show.



Records released by the Interior Department in response to a Freedom of Information Act request show Zinke spent more than \$39,000 on a July helicopter tour above two national monuments in Nevada. Zinke was considering whether to recommend downsizing the sites. He also spent \$8,000 on a round trip to an emergency management exercise in Shepherdstown, W. Va., and \$6,200 to and from Yorktown, Va., to tour a Revolutionary War battlefield and attend a boating industry round table. Zinke went horseback riding with Pence and other officials after returning from Virginia. The helicopter trips were first reported by Politico. Zinke and other Cabinet members have faced questions about travel after Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price was forced to resign amid criticism for using costly chartered planes.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]

- **2017: Zinke Went Horseback Riding With Vice President Mike Pence And Other Officials After He Returned From Yorktown, Virginia.** The Denver Post reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spent more than \$53,000 on three helicopter trips this summer, including one that allowed him to return to Washington in time for a horseback ride with Vice President Mike Pence, newly released records show. Records released by the Interior Department in response to a Freedom of Information Act request show Zinke spent more than \$39,000 on a July helicopter tour above two national monuments in Nevada. Zinke was considering whether to recommend downsizing the sites. He also spent \$8,000 on a round trip to an emergency management exercise in Shepherdstown, W. Va., and \$6,200 to and from Yorktown, Va., to tour a Revolutionary War battlefield and attend a boating industry round table. Zinke went horseback riding with Pence and other officials after returning from Virginia. The helicopter trips were first reported by Politico. Zinke and other Cabinet members have faced questions about travel after Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price was forced to resign amid criticism for using costly chartered planes.” [Denver Post, 12/9/17]

**April 2018: A Partial Report Found That Zinke’s Travel Did Not Violate The Law, But It Questioned A \$12,000 Charter Flight That He Took From A Dinner With A Nevada Hockey Team To The Western Governors’ Association’s Annual Meeting.** The New York Times reported, “On Monday, a partial report found that Mr. Zinke’s travel practices ‘generally followed relevant law,’ but called into question a \$12,000 publicly funded charter flight the secretary took from a dinner with a Nevada hockey team to Whitefish, where the Western Governors’ Association was holding its annual meeting. The hockey team is owned by Bill Foley, a top donor of Mr. Zinke’s who also owns much of Whitefish.” [New York Times, 4/16/18]

- **The Owner Of The Hockey Team Was A Major Donor To Zinke’s Congressional Campaign.** The New York Times reported, “On Monday, a partial report found that Mr. Zinke’s travel practices ‘generally followed relevant law,’ but called into question a \$12,000 publicly funded charter flight the secretary took from a dinner with a Nevada hockey team to Whitefish, where the Western Governors’ Association was holding its annual meeting. The hockey team is owned by Bill Foley, a top donor of Mr. Zinke’s who also owns much of Whitefish.” [New York Times, 4/16/18]
- **The Report Said That Zinke’s Staff Failed To Include Relevant Information To The Government Ethics Team That Approved The Trip.** The New York Times reported, “The report said that a government ethics team approved the trip with incomplete information from Mr. Zinke’s staff, which failed to mention, for example, the cost of the flight, the fact that the team’s owner had funded Mr. Zinke’s campaigns, and the fact that the secretary’s speech to hockey players would not mention the Department of the Interior. ‘If ethics officials had known Zinke’s speech would have no nexus to the DOI,’ the report says, ‘they likely would not have approved this as an official event.’” [New York Times, 4/16/18]
- **Ethics Officials Said That If They Had Known All The Information About The Travel, They Would Not Have Approved Zinke’s Trip.** The New York Times reported, “The report said that a government ethics team approved the trip with incomplete information from Mr. Zinke’s staff, which failed to mention, for example, the cost of the flight, the fact that the team’s owner had funded Mr. Zinke’s campaigns, and the fact that the secretary’s speech to hockey players would not mention the Department of the Interior. ‘If ethics officials had known Zinke’s speech would have no nexus to the DOI,’ the report says, ‘they likely would not have approved this as an official event.’” [New York Times, 4/16/18]

**2018: The Office Of Special Counsel Cleared Zinke Of Alleged Travel Violations For Multiple Events That Included Both Official And Political Events, Including A Government Helicopter Flight Allowing Zinke To Return To Washington, D.C. In Time For A Horse Ride With Vice President Mike Pence And Senator Roy Blunt.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In June of 2018, federal investigators cleared Zinke in a complaint filed by the group Campaign For Accountability for a speech he gave to the Golden Knights NHL team. The complaint alleged Hatch Act violations due to the cost of a charter flight to the speech and Zinke’s ties to team owner Bill Foley, a contributor to Zinke’s political campaigns. But investigators concluded that the donations alone were not enough to constitute a violation. The Office of Special Counsel also cleared Zinke of travel violations for several other events that included both official and political events. Investigators found the travel was properly documented and approved. Among the travel issues raised by Democrats was a government helicopter flight that allowed him to return to Washington, D.C., in time to go on a planned horseback ride with then-Vice President Mike Pence and Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

## ***Virgin Islands***

**March 2017: Zinke And His Official Entourage Had Boarded Private Flights Between The Islands Of St. Thomas And St. Croix During A Three-Day Trip To The Virgin Islands During His First Month On The Job.** The Denver Post reported, “Zinke was in the Las Vegas area that day after flying on a commercial Southwest Airlines jet from Reno, Nevada, where he spoke the night before at a nearby dinner in Lake Tahoe held by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a conservative group of attorneys general backed by the Koch brothers. Just before the Golden Knights dinner, Zinke had appeared in the tiny rural Nevada town of Pahrump to announce a routine local funding grant from Congress to rural communities. It was one of several official trips that coincided with weekends Zinke spent at his homes in Santa Barbara, California, and Montana. The secretary and his official entourage also boarded private flights between the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix during a three day trip to the Virgin Islands in March, his first month on the job. Swift said Zinke’s charter flights were authorized by ethics officials and booked only when feasible commercial flights were unavailable. She said previous interior secretaries flew charter flights when needed.” [Denver Post, 10/3/17]

- **March 2017: Zinke And His Staff Took An Official Snorkeling Tour Of The Nearby Buck Island Reef National Monument During Their Virgin Islands Trip.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke and his official entourage also boarded private flights between the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix during a three-day trip to the Virgin Islands in March, his first month on the job. The spring trip included an official snorkeling tour of the nearby Buck Island Reef National Monument, a centennial ceremony for a local holiday celebrating the islands’ transfer to the United States, and a viewing of a military parade. Zinke also attended a Virgin Islands GOP event and spoke on behalf of President Trump. John Canegata, chairman of the Republican group, said in a statement then that ‘Secretary Zinke’s visit to our islands in his first month on the job is a reaffirmation of the strong commitment that President Trump made to the Virgin Islands during his campaign.’ He added, ‘By contrast, the now-former administration failed to send the Interior secretary to the territory until the final months of its second term.’” [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]
- **March 2017: Zinke Attended A Virgin Islands GOP Event And Spoke On Behalf Of President Trump During His Virgin Islands Trip.** The Washington Post reported, “Zinke and his official entourage also boarded private flights between the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix during a three-day trip to the Virgin Islands in March, his first month on the job. The spring trip included an official snorkeling tour of the nearby Buck Island Reef National Monument, a centennial ceremony for a local holiday celebrating the islands’ transfer to the United States, and a viewing of a military parade. Zinke also attended a Virgin Islands GOP event and spoke on behalf of President Trump. John Canegata, chairman of the Republican group, said in a statement then that ‘Secretary Zinke’s visit to our islands in his first month on the job is a reaffirmation of the strong commitment that President Trump made to the Virgin Islands during his campaign.’ He added, ‘By contrast, the now-former administration failed to send the Interior secretary to the territory until the final months of its second term.’” [Washington Post, [9/28/17](#)]

## *Wife*

**October 2018: A Report By The Interior Department’s Inspector General Found That Zinke Violated The Department’s Policy By Allowing His Wife To Travel With Him In Government Vehicles.** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated his agency’s travel policy by having his wife travel with him in government vehicles, a new report by the Interior Department’s inspector general found. The report, which has not yet been made public but was posted online Thursday by The Washington Post, also found that Mr. Zinke considered requesting that his wife, Lolita, become an Interior Department volunteer in order to legitimize her travel. Mr. Zinke also had an agency security detail travel with him and his family during a vacation, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$25,000.” [New York Times, 10/18/18]

- **The Report Also Found That Zinke Considered Requesting That His Wife Become A Volunteer With The Department To Allow Her To Travel In Government Vehicles.** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated his agency’s travel policy by having his wife travel with him in government vehicles, a new report by the Interior Department’s inspector general found. The report, which has not yet been made public but was posted online Thursday by The Washington Post, also found that Mr. Zinke considered requesting that his wife, Lolita, become an Interior Department volunteer in order to legitimize her travel. Mr. Zinke also had an agency security detail travel with him and his family during a vacation, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$25,000.” [New York Times, 10/18/18]
- **The Report Found That Zinke Had An Interior Department Security Detail Travel With Him And His Family While They Were On Vacation, Costing Taxpayers Over \$25,000.** The New York Times reported, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated his agency’s travel policy by having his wife travel with him in government vehicles, a new report by the Interior Department’s inspector general found. The report, which has not yet been made public but was posted online Thursday by The Washington Post, also found that Mr. Zinke considered requesting that his wife, Lolita, become an Interior Department volunteer in order to legitimize her travel. Mr. Zinke also had an agency security detail travel with him and his family during a vacation, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$25,000.” [New York Times, 10/18/18]

**2018: An Inspector General Report Found That Zinke’s Wife Was Allowed To Ride In Government Vehicles, In Violation Of Agency Rules, And That Agency Officials Who Preapproved The Trips Believed The Zinkes Were Not Bound By The Rules.** The Billings Gazette reported, “A 2018 inspector general report found that Ryan Zinke’s wife, Lola Zinke, was allowed to ride in government vehicles with him in violation of agency rules. Interior ethics officials preapproved the trips where Lola Zinke traveled with him in vehicles, boats and Air Force One. That violated rules, but investigators found trips were approved by officials who believed the secretary was not bound by the policy. The Zinkes reimbursed the department for the travel expenses, ABC News reported.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

- **The Zinkes Reportedly Reimbursed The Interior Department For The Travel Expenses.** The Billings Gazette reported, “A 2018 inspector general report found that Ryan Zinke’s wife, Lola Zinke, was allowed to ride in government vehicles with him in violation of agency rules. Interior ethics officials preapproved the trips where Lola Zinke traveled with him in vehicles, boats and Air Force One. That violated rules, but investigators found trips were approved by officials who believed the secretary was not bound by the policy. The Zinkes reimbursed the department for the travel expenses, ABC News reported.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]
- **The Report Found That Zinke Asked Interior Department Officials To Research The Implications Of Making His Wife An Official Volunteer With The Department, But That He Denied To Investigators That The Purpose Was To Eliminate Travel Reimbursement Restrictions.** The Billings Gazette reported, “A 2018 inspector general report found that Ryan Zinke’s wife, Lola Zinke, was allowed to ride in government vehicles with him in violation of agency rules. Interior ethics officials preapproved the trips where Lola Zinke traveled with him in vehicles, boats and Air Force One. That violated rules, but investigators found trips were

approved by officials who believed the secretary was not bound by the policy. The Zinkes reimbursed the department for the travel expenses, ABC News reported. The same OIG report found Ryan Zinke asked department officials to research the implications of making Lola Zinke an official volunteer with the department. He denied to investigators that the purpose was to ease the travel and reimbursement restrictions and she ultimately was never named a volunteer, the report states.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

- **The Report Also Investigated The Use Of An Interior Department Staffer For Security During The Zinkes’ Two Week Trip To Istanbul And An Allegation That Zinke Asked An Employee To Walk His Dog.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The same OIG report found Ryan Zinke asked department officials to research the implications of making Lola Zinke an official volunteer with the department. He denied to investigators that the purpose was to ease the travel and reimbursement restrictions and she ultimately was never named a volunteer, the report states. The report also investigated the use of an agency staffer for security purposes during a two-week vacation. Investigators found that the department assigned security due to the Zinkes’ travel through Istanbul, but it was not directly requested by the secretary. In one section of the report, investigators say they looked into whether a department employee who was resigning had insinuated Zinke required her to walk his dog. The former employee said the allegation was untrue and that she liked the dog and volunteered to walk it. Zinke confirmed to investigators that he occasionally brought the dog to work, the report states.” [Billings Gazette, 10/9/22]

**2018: A Federal Watchdog Concluded That Zinke Violated Interior Department Policy By Allowing His Wife To Accompany Him In Government Vehicles.** The New York Times reported, “Other investigations into Mr. Zinke include his decision to block a proposal from two Native American tribes to expand a casino operation in Connecticut. And in 2018, a government watchdog concluded that he violated department policy by having his wife accompany him in government vehicles.” [New York Times, 2/16/22]

## U.S. Geological Survey

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**June 2018: Zinke’s Interior Department Required Scientists At The U.S. Geological Survey To Submit Presentation Titles For Review By The Interior Department To Get Approval To Attend Two Major Conferences And Explain How Their Research Related To Zinke’s Priorities.** The Washington Post reported, “Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey must now submit their presentation titles for review by the Interior Department to get approval to attend two major conferences, and they will have to identify how their research relates to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s priorities. In guidelines posted on the agency’s internal website this week and obtained by The Washington Post, the USGS’s Office of Administration told employees they will have to provide a detailed ‘attendee justification’ when applying for travel approval for the annual meetings of the American Geophysical Union in Washington and the Geological Society of America in Indianapolis later this year.” [Washington Post, [6/14/18](#)]

- **June 2018: The U.S. Geological Survey’s Office Of Administration Told Employees They Would Need To Provide A Detailed “Attendee Justification” When Applying For Travel Approval For Annual Geological Meetings.** The Washington Post reported, “Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey must now submit their presentation titles for review by the Interior Department to get approval to attend two major conferences, and they will have to identify how their research relates to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s priorities. In guidelines posted on the agency’s internal website this week and obtained by The Washington Post, the USGS’s Office of Administration told employees they will have to provide a detailed ‘attendee justification’ when applying for travel approval for the annual meetings of the American Geophysical Union in Washington and the Geological Society of America in Indianapolis later this year.” [Washington Post, [6/14/18](#)]

## Foreign Policy



## China

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**Zinke In June 2017: “I View China As A Competitor, Not An Enemy.”** According to an interview with Ryan Zinke on CNN, Zinke was asked “Are you concerned that now China can take the reins and step into the leadership position?” Zinke replied, “You know, I view China as a competitor, not an enemy. I view Russia as an aggressor, not an enemy.” [CNN, Interview, 6/2/17]

**2023: Zinke Criticized The Biden Administration’s Handling Of A Chinese Spy Balloon.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Biden has also failed to adequately deal with China and the Chinese Communist Party, Zinke said, highlighting the administration’s handling of an errant Chinese spy balloon that flew over Montana as it crossed the continent. A U.S. Air Force F-22 shot the balloon down over the waters off of South Carolina in February. Zinke also raised concerns about the social media platform TikTok. Gov. Greg Gianforte signed a bill banning TikTok in the state earlier this year, though the move is being challenged in court. The ban is set to go into effect in January. ‘There is no difference between a business and the Communist Party if they are both Chinese,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/4/23]

**2023: Zinke Criticized TikTok, Saying, “There Is No Difference Between A Business And The Communist Party If They Are Both Chinese.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Biden has also failed to adequately deal with China and the Chinese Communist Party, Zinke said, highlighting the administration’s handling of an errant Chinese spy balloon that flew over Montana as it crossed the continent. A U.S. Air Force F-22 shot the balloon down over the waters off of South Carolina in February. Zinke also raised concerns about the social media platform TikTok. Gov. Greg Gianforte signed a bill banning TikTok in the state earlier this year, though the move is being challenged in court. The ban is set to go into effect in January. ‘There is no difference between a business and the Communist Party if they are both Chinese,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/4/23]

**2023: Zinke Called China A “Near Adversarial” Nation.** The Sidney Herald reported, “decentralizing federal agencies away from Washington, D.C. The remainder of the town hall focused primarily on foreign policy, particularly as it relates to immigration and fentanyl. Sheehy joined the other panelists in rattling sabers at China a ‘near adversarial’ nation, as Zinke put it and Mexico, a ‘failed narco state,’ per Whitaker.” [Sidney Herald, 8/8/23]

**2023: Zinke Co-Wrote A Letter To The University Of Montana Asking The University To Cut Ties With China By Cancelling A Planned Law Student Exchange Program Over The Summer.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke last week called on the University of Montana to cut ties with China, asking them to cancel a law student exchange program set to take place this summer. ‘When you go to China... you’re dealing with the Chinese Communist Party,’ Zinke said Tuesday, saying he was shocked when he learned of the initiative. The request came shortly on the heels of the University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law, and its affiliated Max S. Baucus Institute, announcing two study abroad programs, one in Ireland and the other in China. There are two proposed China trips. One is designed as a cultural exchange for two weeks and the other is a four-week trip with an emphasis on the environment and climate. The trips, according to the Baucus Institute website, are to familiarize law students with the ‘ever-changing nature of the Chinese economy’ and the rising superpower’s complex political and legal systems. Zinke, alongside two other legislators, including Montana Rep. Matt Rosendale, sent a letter to university President Seth Bodnar on Dec. 4 raising concerns about the trips, which are hosted and funded by the China-United States Exchange Foundation.” [Daily Inter Lake, 12/7/23]

- **The Trips Included A Two Week Cultural Exchange Trip And A Four Week Trip With Emphasis On The Environment And Climate, With Both Meant To Familiarize U.S. Law Students With The “Ever-Changing Nature Of The Chinese Economy.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke last week called on the University of Montana to cut ties with China, asking them to cancel a law student exchange program set to take place this summer. ‘When you go to China... you’re dealing with the Chinese Communist Party,’ Zinke said Tuesday, saying he was shocked when he learned of the initiative. The request came shortly on the heels of the University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law, and its affiliated Max S. Baucus Institute, announcing two study abroad programs, one in Ireland and the other in China. There are two



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- **Letter Co-Written By Zinke: “[The China-United States Exchange Foundation] Is Not A Benign Entity Interested In The Objective Education Of Montanans—It Is An Organ Of The [Chinese Communist Party’s] Approach To Influence Operations, Including Those Intended To Shape Americans’ Views Toward The [Chinese Communist Party]-Controlled People’s Republic Of China Government.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke, alongside two other legislators, including Montana Rep. Matt Rosendale, sent a letter to university President Seth Bodnar on Dec. 4 raising concerns about the trips, which are hosted and funded by the China-United States Exchange Foundation. ‘[The China-United States Exchange Foundation] is not a benign entity interested in the objective education of Montanans—it is an organ of the [Chinese Communist Party’s] approach to influence operations, including those intended to shape Americans’ views toward the [Chinese Communist Party]-controlled People’s Republic of China government,’ the legislators wrote.” [Daily Inter Lake, 12/7/23]
- **Zinke Argued That “There Is A Reason They Are Bringing Students Over There,” Citing Chinese Theft Of American Intellectual Property.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke expressed admiration for Bodnar, saying that he thinks the university is going in the right direction under their leadership. Still, he wanted to raise alarm bells in an effort to protect the university, he said. ‘... As you go through the culture, you know buyer-beware, that there is a reason that they are bringing students over there,’ Zinke said. When asked what reasons, Zinke’s major concerns included ‘science and technology,’ citing the theft of intellectual property, the stealing of research and the illegal harvesting of organs.” [Daily Inter Lake, 12/7/23]

**2024: A Letter To The Editor Commended Zinke For Criticizing China For Forced Organ Harvesting, Noting That Zinke Called The Practice “Extraordinarily Concerning. The Entire World Ought To Be Horrified At Such Practices... We Have A Relationship With China. I Think China Should Know That’s One Of Our Key Concerns.”** According to a letter to the editor by Katherine Combes in the Lake County Leader & Advertiser Lake County Leader & Advertiser reported, “I would like to commend Rep. Ryan Zinke for his remarks made Feb. 1 after a Congressional Executive Commission on China (CECC) hearing to assess the recent U.N. review of China’s human rights record. Mr. Zinke, who sits on the CECC, said the Party’s forced organ harvesting is ‘extraordinarily concerning. The entire world ought to be horrified at such practices,’ he told The Epoch Times, adding that Congress should ‘push the State Department to bring it up in person and have answers.’ ‘We have a relationship with China. I think China should know that’s one of our key concerns.’ The issue should ‘absolutely’ be on the agenda in the U.S.–China talks, he said.” [Lake County Leader & Advertiser, Letter to the Editor, 2/22/24]

**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill To Ban TikTok If It Did Not Divest From Its Chinese Parent Company.** The Belgrade News reported, “The TikTok ban passed 360-58 and would ban the popular social media app if it is not divest from its Chinese parent company. Biden backs the ban while former President Donald Trump opposes. Zinke voted for the measure which was included in a measure with U.S. sanctions against Iran,, Russia and China. Rosendale voted no on the TikTok ban measure. Zinke and Rosendale both backed a previous TikTok ban passed by the U.S. House.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]

**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill Sending \$8.12 Billion In Military Aid To Taiwan, Saying, “China Is Not Our Friend. They Are A Competitor At Best, Enemy At Worst And I Would Say Right Now They Are Clearly Our Adversary. With Weak Leadership In The White House, They See The Opportunity So Many Of Our Adversaries Are Capitalizing On.”** The Belgrade News reported, “A measure to send \$8.12 billion in U.S. military aid to Taiwan and the Pacific amid Chinese saber rattling also passed the House with support from Zinke

and opposition from Rosendale. ‘China is not our friend. They are a competitor at best, enemy at worst and I would say right now they are clearly our adversary. With weak leadership in the White House, they see the opportunity so many of our adversaries are capitalizing on. The United States territories and compact states extend deep into the Pacific and are on the front lines of a conflict with China. The U.S. cannot afford to cede territory in the Pacific because the next stop is right here on mainland soil,’ Zinke said.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]

- **Zinke: “The United States Territories And Compact States Extend Deep Into The Pacific And Are On The Front Lines Of A Conflict With China. The U.S. Cannot Afford To Cede Territory In The Pacific Because The Next Stop Is Right Here On Mainland Soil.”** The Belgrade News reported, “A measure to send \$8.12 billion in U.S. military aid to Taiwan and the Pacific amid Chinese saber rattling also passed the House with support from Zinke and opposition from Rosendale. ‘China is not our friend. They are a competitor at best, enemy at worst and I would say right now they are clearly our adversary. With weak leadership in the White House, they see the opportunity so many of our adversaries are capitalizing on. The United States territories and compact states extend deep into the Pacific and are on the front lines of a conflict with China. The U.S. cannot afford to cede territory in the Pacific because the next stop is right here on mainland soil,’ Zinke said.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]

## Iran

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**October 2023: Zinke Said That The Biden Administration “Continues To Deny That Iran Is The Principal Driver Of Terrorism” In The Middle East.** The New York Times reported, “Representative Ryan Zinke, a Montana Republican who was interior secretary in the Trump administration, gave an interview to Breitbart in which he accused the Biden administration of being in ‘intelligence denial’ about Iran. ‘Look at Iran. Iran hasn’t changed their behavior,’ Mr. Zinke told the conservative website. ‘This administration continues to deny that Iran is the principal driver of terrorism in the region.’” [New York Times, 10/15/23]

## Israel

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**2023: Zinke Said He Had No Doubt That Iran Was Involved In Hamas’s Attack On Israel, Saying, “You Look At The Coordination And No Surprise That Russia, China, And Iran Were Doing Offshore Military Operations In The Persian Gulf. This Is A Coordinated Effort.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke in an early morning interview on FOX news said there was no doubt about Iranian involvement. Biden interview in special counsel documents investigation suggests sprawling probe near conclusion ‘You look at the coordination and no surprise that Russia, China, and Iran were doing offshore military operations in the Persian Gulf. This is a coordinated effort,’ Zinke said. ‘And what’s astonishing is our State Department yesterday (Monday), again, evidently gets their intelligence in the Washington Post or the Washington Journal, or the Times. Clearly there’s a link between Iran and Hamas in this case. We funded billions of dollars in this. And then you got of course, you have an . . . envoy today, which now suggests that pro-Iranians may have funneled billions of dollars in the back door into Iran. This is absolutely astonishing,’ Zinke’s mention of offshore military operations between Russian, China and Iran references joint naval drills in the Gulf of Oman, which occurred in March and are not part of the Hamas attack on Israel.” [Billings Gazette, 10/10/23]

- **Zinke: “Clearly There’s A Link Between Iran And Hamas In This Case. We Funded Billions Of Dollars In This. And Then You Got Of Course, You Have An . . . Envoy Today, Which Now Suggests That Pro-Iranians May Have Funneled Billions Of Dollars In The Back Door Into Iran.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke in an early morning interview on FOX news said there was no doubt about Iranian involvement. Biden interview in special counsel documents investigation suggests sprawling probe near conclusion ‘You look at the coordination and no surprise that Russia, China, and Iran were doing offshore military operations in the Persian Gulf. This is a coordinated effort,’ Zinke said. ‘And what’s astonishing is our State Department yesterday (Monday), again, evidently gets their intelligence in the Washington Post or the Washington Journal, or the Times. Clearly there’s a link between Iran and Hamas in this case. We funded billions of dollars in this. And then you got of course, you have an . . . envoy today, which now suggests that

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- **Zinke And Other Members Of Montana’s Congressional Delegation Called For The Biden Administration To Continue To Freeze \$6 Billion In Iranian Oil Assets Following Hamas’s Attack On Israel.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Until more is known about Sunday’s deadly Hamas attack in Israel, Montana’s congressional delegation is asking the Biden Administration not to unfreeze \$6 billion in Iranian oil assets as agreed to in a hostage exchange brokered in August. [...] U.S. Sen Jon Tester, a Democrat facing reelection in 2024, joined Republicans on Tuesday calling for the \$6 billion to be withheld. Tester called for an investigation, while GOP lawmakers were confident Iran played a role in an attack that’s killed more than 1,000 Israelis.” [Billings Gazette, 10/10/23]

**2023: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming President Biden For “Constant War And Chaos,” Citing “Hamas’ Brutal Attack” On Israel.** the According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Israel is under attack by an Iranian-backed terrorists. More than a thousand Israelis have been murdered since Hamas’ brutal attack on the Jewish State – more than thirty Americans have been taken hostage. A spokesperson for the Israeli president said, ‘It’s no exaggeration to say yesterday was the darkest day in Jewish history since the end of the Holocaust.’ The attack against our ally follows a pattern of weakness by President Biden and a radical and dangerous shift by the Democrat party. Under three years of Biden, we’ve had constant war and chaos. Afghanistan collapsed under Taliban control. Russia invaded Ukraine. North Korea resumed nuclear missile tests. China is positioning to invade Taiwan. China, Russia and Iran are conducting joint exercises. Iranian funded terrorists attacked on our ally. And now, dozens of American servicemembers have been wounded in attacks on U.S. bases in the Middle East.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 11/1/23]

- **Zinke: “I Demand Action. Last Month The Republican House Sent The Senate Two Appropriations Bills... So Far, The Senate Has Done Nothing. Both Have Funding For Our Troops Forward Deployed In The Middle East And Complete Aid Packages To Support For Israel.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “While President Biden has declared his support for Israel, his party continues to call for Israel to lay down their defensive arms. Worse yet, his Administration has been caught funneling tens of billions of dollars to Iran by circumventing mandated sanctions. Enough is enough. I demand action. Last month the Republican House sent the Senate two appropriations bills: the Department of Defense Appropriations Act and the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. So far, the Senate has done nothing. Both have funding for our troops forward deployed in the Middle East and complete aid packages to support for Israel. We don’t need a supplemental funding bill for Israel, we need the Senate to do their jobs. Senator Tester is uniquely positioned to take the leadership role here and come to the table on DOD and Israel appropriations as the Democrat chair of the Senate subcommittee.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 11/1/23]
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- **Zinke: “Israeli Communities Have Been Ripped Apart, Children Beheaded And Burned Alive, And Women Raped And Tortured.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Israeli communities have been ripped apart, children beheaded and burned alive, and women raped and tortured. This is the same chilling hate Reagan spoke about 40 years ago. Here’s the facts: Hamas is funded and supported by Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism on the planet. The same Iran that chants ‘Death to Israel’ and ‘Death to America’ while simultaneously accepting billions of dollars from the Biden Administration. The same Iran that was responsible for killing U.S. servicemen in Iraq, and the same Iran that is now coordinating attacks against American embassies and bases in the Middle East.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 11/1/23]
- **Zinke: “Here’s The Facts: Hamas Is Funded And Supported By Iran, The Largest State Sponsor Of Terrorism On The Planet. The Same Iran That Chants ‘Death To Israel’ And ‘Death To America’ While Simultaneously Accepting Billions Of Dollars From The Biden Administration.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Israeli communities have been ripped apart, children beheaded and burned alive, and women raped and tortured. This is the same chilling hate Reagan spoke about 40 years ago. Here’s the facts: Hamas is funded and supported by Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism on the planet. The same Iran that chants ‘Death to Israel’ and ‘Death to America’ while simultaneously accepting billions of dollars from the Biden Administration. The same Iran that was responsible for killing U.S. servicemen in Iraq, and the same Iran that is now coordinating attacks against American embassies and bases in the Middle East.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 11/1/23]
- **Zinke: “While President Biden Has Declared His Support For Israel, His Party Continues To Call For Israel To Lay Down Their Defensive Arms. Worse Yet, His Administration Has Been Caught Funneling Tens Of Billions Of Dollars To Iran By Circumventing Mandated Sanctions.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “While President Biden has declared his support for Israel, his party continues to call for Israel to lay down their defensive arms. Worse yet, his Administration has been caught funneling tens of billions of dollars to Iran by circumventing mandated sanctions. Enough is enough. I demand action. Last month the Republican House sent the Senate two appropriations bills: the Department of Defense Appropriations Act and the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. So far, the Senate has done nothing. Both have funding for our troops forward deployed in the Middle East and complete aid packages to support for Israel. We don’t need a supplemental funding bill for Israel, we need the Senate to do their jobs. Senator Tester is uniquely positioned to take the leadership role here and come to the table on DOD and Israel appropriations as the Democrat chair of the Senate subcommittee.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 11/1/23]

**2024: Zinke Voted Against A \$26.4 Billion Military Aid Package For Israel, Saying He Opposed It Because It Contained \$9.2 Billion In Humanitarian Aid For Gaza.** The Belgrade News reported, “The U.S. House of Representatives approved \$95 billion in war aid Saturday backing Israel and Ukraine and forwarded a national ban of TikTok if the social media app is not divested from its Chinese parent. The measures were backed by House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, and President Joe Biden. Montana U.S. Reps. Ryan Zinke and Matt Rosendale, both Republicans, voted against a \$26.4 billion package for Israel (which includes \$9.2 billion in relief



aid for Gaza and other global trouble spots) and a \$60.8 billion measure that sends more American weapons, munitions and military aid to Ukraine in its fight against invading Russian forces. [...] Zinke said he opposed the Israel war bill because he wants aid to the \$9.2 billion relief aid to Gaza stripped out because of concerns the money will be used by Hamas.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]

- **Zinke: “I’ve Been To A Lot Of Battles In My Life, And I’ve Never Seen The President Of The United States Send Aid To The Enemy While Allied Troops Are Under Fire. This Bill Included More Than \$9 Billion For Biden’s USAID To Send Money To Gaza, And Thereby Sending It Directly To The Front Lines Of Hamas. No Aid For Gaza Until An Unconditional Surrender And Release Of Hostages.”** The Belgrade News reported, “‘I’ve been to a lot of battles in my life, and I’ve never seen the President of the United States send aid to the enemy while allied troops are under fire. This bill included more than \$9 billion for Biden’s USAID to send money to Gaza, and thereby sending it directly to the front lines of Hamas. No aid for Gaza until an unconditional surrender and release of hostages,’ Zinke said. Hamas and other Islamic militants still hold a number of hostages include five to six with dual Israel-American citizenship who were taken during the Oct. 7 terror attacks.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]
- **Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Slammed Zinke’s Vote, Saying, “Ryan Zinke Voted To Put America’s Safety And Security At Risk. Zinke Was One Of A Handful Of The Most Extreme People Voting Against Aid To Israel And Humanitarian Relief For Gaza. Zinke Voted Against A Bipartisan Bill That Provides Critical Support To Our Allies, Including Israel After The Unprovoked Attack From Iran.** The Belgrade News reported, “Monica Tranel, a Democrat running against Zinke in the 2024 election, criticized his vote against the Israel package. ‘Ryan Zinke voted to put America’s safety and security at risk. Zinke was one of a handful of the most extreme people voting against aid to Israel and humanitarian relief for Gaza. Zinke voted against a bipartisan bill that provides critical support to our allies, including Israel after the unprovoked attack from Iran,’ Tranel said. ‘America must stand with our democratic ally in supporting stability and security in the Middle East. Ryan Zinke’s actions embolden Iran and threaten the safety of Americans.’ Backers of Israel and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the passage.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]
- **Tranel: “America Must Stand With Our Democratic Ally In Supporting Stability And Security In The Middle East. Ryan Zinke’s Actions Embolden Iran And Threaten The Safety Of Americans.”** The Belgrade News reported, “Monica Tranel, a Democrat running against Zinke in the 2024 election, criticized his vote against the Israel package. ‘Ryan Zinke voted to put America’s safety and security at risk. Zinke was one of a handful of the most extreme people voting against aid to Israel and humanitarian relief for Gaza. Zinke voted against a bipartisan bill that provides critical support to our allies, including Israel after the unprovoked attack from Iran,’ Tranel said. ‘America must stand with our democratic ally in supporting stability and security in the Middle East. Ryan Zinke’s actions embolden Iran and threaten the safety of Americans.’ Backers of Israel and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the passage.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]
- **The Bill Was Backed By Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.** The Belgrade News reported, “Monica Tranel, a Democrat running against Zinke in the 2024 election, criticized his vote against the Israel package. ‘Ryan Zinke voted to put America’s safety and security at risk. Zinke was one of a handful of the most extreme people voting against aid to Israel and humanitarian relief for Gaza. Zinke voted against a bipartisan bill that provides critical support to our allies, including Israel after the unprovoked attack from Iran,’ Tranel said. ‘America must stand with our democratic ally in supporting stability and security in the Middle East. Ryan Zinke’s actions embolden Iran and threaten the safety of Americans.’ Backers of Israel and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the passage.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]

## Romania

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**Zinke Attended A Reception Honoring The Romanian Defense Minister And A Top Romanian General.** The New York Times reported, “That fall, Mr. Broidy organized a reception at the Washington hotel featuring cocktails,



dinner and a ‘cigar social hour’—all honoring the Romanian defense minister and a top general who oversaw the kinds of programs Mr. Broidy was eyeing for business. Mr. Broidy and his team invited U.S. officials, including the ambassador to Romania and Wilbur Ross, the commerce secretary. He also invited Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, and ‘many important VIPs,’ according to emails obtained through a public-records request. Mr. Ross ultimately did not attend, but Mr. Zinke and the ambassador did.” [New York Times, 10/11/20]

- **The Reception Was Organized By Elliott Broidy, A Businessman And Trump Associate, With The Intentions Of Making A Business Agreement With The Romanian Government.** The New York Times reported, “Some patrons of Mr. Trump’s properties used them to build relations with foreign leaders. Mr. Broidy, the California businessman and new Mar-a-Lago member, had been dining with Mr. Dragnea and arranged an impromptu introduction to Mr. Trump. He would later seek to win business from the Romanian government and others. In February 2017, Mr. Broidy wrote to the Angolan defense minister discussing plans for a visit to Mar-a-Lago while also seeking payments from the nation’s government to his defense firm, Circinus. That fall, Mr. Broidy organized a reception at the Washington hotel featuring cocktails, dinner and a ‘cigar social hour’—all honoring the Romanian defense minister and a top general who oversaw the kinds of programs Mr. Broidy was eyeing for business. Mr. Broidy and his team invited U.S. officials, including the ambassador to Romania and Wilbur Ross, the commerce secretary. He also invited Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, and ‘many important VIPs,’ according to emails obtained through a public-records request. Mr. Ross ultimately did not attend, but Mr. Zinke and the ambassador did. About five months later, Mr. Broidy’s company signed a cooperation agreement with Romania’s state-owned defense firm, laying the groundwork for contracts worth as much as \$200 million. The contracts never were awarded, however. Mr. Dragnea was convicted of abuse of office and sent to prison, and Mr. Broidy’s arrangements with foreign clients came under federal investigation.” [New York Times, 10/11/20]
- **Broidy’s Company Later Signed A Business Agreement With Romania’s State-Owned Defense Firm.** The New York Times reported, “Some patrons of Mr. Trump’s properties used them to build relations with foreign leaders. Mr. Broidy, the California businessman and new Mar-a-Lago member, had been dining with Mr. Dragnea and arranged an impromptu introduction to Mr. Trump. He would later seek to win business from the Romanian government and others. In February 2017, Mr. Broidy wrote to the Angolan defense minister discussing plans for a visit to Mar-a-Lago while also seeking payments from the nation’s government to his defense firm, Circinus. That fall, Mr. Broidy organized a reception at the Washington hotel featuring cocktails, dinner and a ‘cigar social hour’—all honoring the Romanian defense minister and a top general who oversaw the kinds of programs Mr. Broidy was eyeing for business. Mr. Broidy and his team invited U.S. officials, including the ambassador to Romania and Wilbur Ross, the commerce secretary. He also invited Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, and ‘many important VIPs,’ according to emails obtained through a public-records request. Mr. Ross ultimately did not attend, but Mr. Zinke and the ambassador did. About five months later, Mr. Broidy’s company signed a cooperation agreement with Romania’s state-owned defense firm, laying the groundwork for contracts worth as much as \$200 million. The contracts never were awarded, however. Mr. Dragnea was convicted of abuse of office and sent to prison, and Mr. Broidy’s arrangements with foreign clients came under federal investigation.” [New York Times, 10/11/20]
- **Broidy Later Came Under Federal Investigation For His Business Dealings With Foreign Clients.** The New York Times reported, “Some patrons of Mr. Trump’s properties used them to build relations with foreign leaders. Mr. Broidy, the California businessman and new Mar-a-Lago member, had been dining with Mr. Dragnea and arranged an impromptu introduction to Mr. Trump. He would later seek to win business from the Romanian government and others. In February 2017, Mr. Broidy wrote to the Angolan defense minister discussing plans for a visit to Mar-a-Lago while also seeking payments from the nation’s government to his defense firm, Circinus. That fall, Mr. Broidy organized a reception at the Washington hotel featuring cocktails, dinner and a ‘cigar social hour’—all honoring the Romanian defense minister and a top general who oversaw the kinds of programs Mr. Broidy was eyeing for business. Mr. Broidy and his team invited U.S. officials, including the ambassador to Romania and Wilbur Ross, the commerce secretary. He also invited Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, and ‘many important VIPs,’ according to emails obtained through a public-records

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## Russia

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**2022: Zinke Said The Investigation Into Collusion Between Russia And The Trump Campaign Was A "Clinton Hoax."** The Ravalli Republic reported, "Zinke voiced a lack of trust in the federal government including the FBI, calling the investigation into collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign a 'Clinton hoax' and saying that 'we need to take back our country.' He also railed against the 'deep state' and said the first bill he would introduce would be his Federal Employee Accountability and Reduction Act." [Ravalli Republic, 10/21/22]

**2023: Zinke Called For Marc Fogel To Be Released From Russia After He Was Arrested At A Russian Airport For Having Medical Marijuana.** The Billings Gazette reported, "It will be two years this August since American Marc Fogel was arrested in a Russian airport. His family pleaded with members of Congress this week to get the 62-year-old home. They met with Montana's delegation. Marc's sister, Anne, lives in Missoula, which was reason enough for Sens. Steve Daines and Jon Tester, as well as Rep. Ryan Zinke to write the Biden Administration urging that Fogel be recognized by the U.S. State Department as wrongfully detained and released. American national detained in North Korea; new RSV drug approved; Elton John testifies in Kevin Spacey trial | Hot off the Wire podcast Daines, a Republican, spoke on the Senate floor last week about the importance of Fogel being recognized by U.S. officials as being wrongfully detained. He likened Fogel's detention in August 2021 to the February 2022 detention of WNBA star Brittney Griner. Both were using the prescription cannabis products for medical needs. Griner had cannabis oil in her luggage, Fogel had medical marijuana." [Billings Gazette, 7/29/23]

## Turkey

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**2019 – 2021: Zinke's Wife Had Family Ties To Turkey And The Zinkes Traveled There Often, Including At Least Three Separate Trips Documented On Lolita Zinke's Instagram In 2019.** Politico reported, "When I visited Whitefish in July, the towering Mission Mountains, famous for surrounding the Flathead Valley with their snowy peaks and as the gateway to Glacier National Park, were invisible through the screen of brown, ashy air blown in from the wildfires raging in Idaho and Oregon. It's the type of weather Zinke seized on as Interior secretary to explain how the lack of logging in mismanaged national forests fuels fires. But Zinke wasn't in town. His campaign consultant had not responded to requests to make him available for an interview in his home state. I eventually learned from his wife's Instagram account that the Zinkes were on a beach vacation in Bodrum, Turkey. (Lolita has family ties to Turkey, and the Zinkes travel there often, including at least three separate trips documented on Lolita's Instagram account in 2019.) [...] Other sources have placed Zinke in Santa Barbara, as well. In 2019, months after Zinke had resigned from the Interior Department, the Zinkes hosted former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim for brunch at their home in Santa Barbara, before Yildirim traveled to New York to attend the annual United Nations General Assembly, according to the Montecito Journal." [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

**2019: The Zinkes Hosted Former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim For A Brunch At Their Home In Santa Barbara After Zinke Had Resigned From His Position In The Department Of The Interior.** Politico reported, "When I visited Whitefish in July, the towering Mission Mountains, famous for surrounding the Flathead Valley with their snowy peaks and as the gateway to Glacier National Park, were invisible through the screen of brown, ashy air blown in from the wildfires raging in Idaho and Oregon. It's the type of weather Zinke seized on as Interior secretary to explain how the lack of logging in mismanaged national forests fuels fires. But Zinke wasn't in town. His campaign consultant had not responded to requests to make him available for an interview in his home state. I eventually learned from his wife's Instagram account that the Zinkes were on a beach vacation in Bodrum, Turkey. (Lolita has family ties to Turkey, and the Zinkes travel there often, including at least three separate trips documented on Lolita's Instagram account in 2019.) [...] Other sources have placed Zinke in Santa Barbara, as well.



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**Politico: “The Towering Mission Mountains...Were Invisible Through The Screen Of Brown, Ashy Air Blown In From The Wildfires... But Zinke Wasn’t In Town. His Campaign Consultant Had Not Responded To Requests To Make Him Available For An Interview In His Home State. I Eventually Learned From His Wife’s Instagram Account That The Zinkes Were On A Beach Vacation In Bodrum, Turkey.”** Politico reported, “When I visited Whitefish in July, the towering Mission Mountains, famous for surrounding the Flathead Valley with their snowy peaks and as the gateway to Glacier National Park, were invisible through the screen of brown, ashy air blown in from the wildfires raging in Idaho and Oregon. It’s the type of weather Zinke seized on as Interior secretary to explain how the lack of logging in mismanaged national forests fuels fires. But Zinke wasn’t in town. His campaign consultant had not responded to requests to make him available for an interview in his home state. I eventually learned from his wife’s Instagram account that the Zinkes were on a beach vacation in Bodrum, Turkey. (Lolita has family ties to Turkey, and the Zinkes travel there often, including at least three separate trips documented on Lolita’s Instagram account in 2019.) [...] Other sources have placed Zinke in Santa Barbara, as well. In 2019, months after Zinke had resigned from the Interior Department, the Zinkes hosted former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim for brunch at their home in Santa Barbara, before Yildirim traveled to New York to attend the annual United Nations General Assembly, according to the Montecito Journal.” [Politico, [10/8/21](#)]

## Ukraine

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**2022: Zinke Said The United States Should Support Ukraine With Advanced Drone Weaponry And Air Drop Humanitarian Aid Into The Country And That Vladimir Putin Was “The Face Of Evil.”** Hungry Horse News reported, “Zinke was formerly a Montana Congressman from 2015-2017 before becoming Secretary of Interior under the Trump Administration. ‘The campaign is going great,’ he said. ‘America is fixable.’ In a brief interview while shaking hands with folks, he said the U.S. needs to get back to energy independence and could shut down the southern border in three months to stop illegal immigration if need be. He said he would support building the southern border wall on the Mexican border and would support empowering the Border Patrol to do its job. On the war in Ukraine he said the U.S. should support them with advanced drone weaponry and he supported air dropping humanitarian aid to cities. ‘This is the face of evil,’ he said of Russian President Vladimir Putin. ‘I stand for freedom,’ Zinke, a former Navy SEAL added.” [Hungry Horse News, 3/16/22]

**2023: Zinke Said He Opposed Additional Military Aid To Ukraine Unless There Was A Plan To End The War.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke lands on the same square as several Freedom Caucus member on things like defense spending. He opposes providing gender-affirming care for members of the military. He said he needs to see a plan for ending the Russian war against Ukraine before supporting more funding for Ukraine. He disagreed with the decision to provide cluster bombs to Ukraine earlier this year as other ordinance ran out.” [Billings Gazette, 9/12/23]

**2023: Zinke Said He Opposed Sending Cluster Munitions To Ukraine.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke lands on the same square as several Freedom Caucus member on things like defense spending. He opposes providing gender-affirming care for members of the military. He said he needs to see a plan for ending the Russian war against Ukraine before supporting more funding for Ukraine. He disagreed with the decision to provide cluster bombs to Ukraine earlier this year as other ordinance ran out.” [Billings Gazette, 9/12/23]

**2024: Zinke Voted Against A \$60.8 Billion Military Aid Package For Ukraine.** The Belgrade News reported, “The U.S. House of Representatives approved \$95 billion in war aid Saturday backing Israel and Ukraine and forwarded a national ban of TikTok if the social media app is not divested from its Chinese parent. The measures were backed by House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, and President Joe Biden. Montana U.S. Reps. Ryan Zinke and Matt Rosendale, both Republicans, voted against a \$26.4 billion package for Israel (which includes \$9.2 billion in relief aid for Gaza and other global trouble spots) and a \$60.8 billion measure that sends more American

weapons, munitions and military aid to Ukraine in its fight against invading Russian forces.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]

- **Zinke: “Congress And Biden Have Sent Billions And Billions Of Taxpayer Dollars To Fund A War In Ukraine, And For What?... I’ve Asked Everyone In A Position Of Power In The Biden Administration, And I Can Think Of What The Plan Is In Ukraine, And Nobody Seems To Know.”** The Belgrade News reported, “The Ukraine measure which adds to the \$75 billion the Biden administration has already provided to Kyiv since Russia’s 2022 invasion was approved 311 to 112. All of the dissenting votes came from Republicans and some Democratic U.S. lawmakers waved Ukrainian flags on the House floor after the approval. ‘Congress and Biden have sent billions and billions of taxpayer dollars to fund a war in Ukraine, and for what?,’ Zinke said in a statement. ‘I’ve asked everyone in a position of power in the Biden administration, and I can think of what the plan is in Ukraine, and nobody seems to know. I’m a believer in fighting for freedom and supporting our allies, but I am not a supporter of a blank check on the taxpayer’s dime. I can’t justify sending a blank check to Ukraine, especially when our own borders are being invaded every day, our police and schools are under financial stress, and Montanans can’t afford gas and groceries due to inflation,’ Zinke continued.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]
- **Zinke: “I’m A Believer In Fighting For Freedom And Supporting Our Allies, But I Am Not A Supporter Of A Blank Check On The Taxpayer’s Dime. I Can’t Justify Sending A Blank Check To Ukraine, Especially When Our Own Borders Are Being Invaded Every Day.”** The Belgrade News reported, “The Ukraine measure which adds to the \$75 billion the Biden administration has already provided to Kyiv since Russia’s 2022 invasion was approved 311 to 112. All of the dissenting votes came from Republicans and some Democratic U.S. lawmakers waved Ukrainian flags on the House floor after the approval. ‘Congress and Biden have sent billions and billions of taxpayer dollars to fund a war in Ukraine, and for what?,’ Zinke said in a statement. ‘I’ve asked everyone in a position of power in the Biden administration, and I can think of what the plan is in Ukraine, and nobody seems to know. I’m a believer in fighting for freedom and supporting our allies, but I am not a supporter of a blank check on the taxpayer’s dime. I can’t justify sending a blank check to Ukraine, especially when our own borders are being invaded every day, our police and schools are under financial stress, and Montanans can’t afford gas and groceries due to inflation,’ Zinke continued.” [Belgrade News, 4/21/24]

## Guns

### NRA

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**April 2017: The National Rifle Association Celebrated Zinke’s Nomination To Interior Secretary.** The Washington Post reported, “Trump, the first sitting president to address the NRA since Ronald Reagan did so, pledged during the campaign to ‘save our Second Amendment’ and nominate judges who would support expansive gun rights. Already, the NRA has cheered Trump’s first Supreme Court pick, Neil M. Gorsuch, as well as his choice of Jeff Sessions as attorney general and Ryan Zinke as interior secretary. Both Cabinet members have views largely in sync with the NRA’s.” [Washington Post, [4/27/17](#)]

### Rifles

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**2022: During A Candidate Forum That Zinke Did Not Attend, His Primary Opponent Criticized Him For Opposing The Sale Of 50-Caliber Rifles To The Public.** The Ravalli Republic reported, “During the event, Olszewski repeatedly called into question Zinke’s commitment to gun rights, citing his opponent’s past opposition to allowing 50-caliber rifles to be sold to the public. Zinke has long distanced himself from that position, though, saying in a debate in 2014 that he changed his mind after traveling the state and learning that Montanans wanted access to those firearms. Zinke has also touted his A+ rating from the National Rifle Association. Olszewski has the endorsement of the Montana Shooting Sports Association.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/1/22]



- **Ravalli Republic: “Zinke Has Long Distanced Himself From That Position, Though, Saying In A Debate In 2014 That He Changed His Mind After Traveling The State And Learning That Montanans Wanted Access To Those Firearms.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “During the event, Olszewski repeatedly called into question Zinke’s commitment to gun rights, citing his opponent’s past opposition to allowing 50-caliber rifles to be sold to the public. Zinke has long distanced himself from that position, though, saying in a debate in 2014 that he changed his mind after traveling the state and learning that Montanans wanted access to those firearms. Zinke has also touted his A+ rating from the National Rifle Association. Olszewski has the endorsement of the Montana Shooting Sports Association.” [Ravalli Republic, 6/1/22]
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## Second Amendment

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**2022: Zinke’s Spokesperson Said, “Secretary Zinke Has Practiced And Defended Our Constitutional Rights His Entire Life And Knows The Answer To Curbing Acts Of Evil Is Not Taking Away The Rights Of Law-Abiding Americans, It’s Addressing Root Causes, Mental Health, School Safety, Recognizing An Emerging Threat, Etc.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “On the Republican side, four of the five candidates in the GOP primary appeared at a forum hosted by the Montana Shooting Sports Association last month. The event ended up being held the same day as the mass shooting at a grocery store in Buffalo earlier in the day, in which 10 people were killed and three were injured. The shooting was mentioned just once during the roughly 90-minute debate. Presumed front runner Ryan Zinke did not attend the forum. In a statement this week, a campaign spokesperson said ‘Secretary Zinke has practiced and defended our constitutional rights his entire life and knows the answer to curbing acts of evil is not taking away the rights of law-abiding Americans, it’s addressing root causes, mental health, school safety, recognizing an emerging threat, etc.’” [Ravalli Republic, 6/1/22]

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported The Second Amendment, Claiming, Zinke Said “I’m Pro-Gun, You Ain’t Taking The Guns Away From Montana.”** The Independent Record reported, “With recent pushes for stricter laws on firearms following the mass shooting that killed 19 students and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, the candidates stated support for the Second Amendment. ‘You can’t take guns from good people to stop bad people,’ Lamb said. Zinke stated his support for the rights of firearm owners, saying, ‘I’m pro-gun, you ain’t taking the guns away from Montana,’ but also adding that mental health is an important factor. The current community-based mental health system is not working, he said, and other options may need to be explored.” [Independent Record, 9/29/22]

## Health Care

### Abortion

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**Letter To The Editor By Bo Brooks: “Zinke Voted Repeatedly To Defund Planned Parenthood And Ban Abortions After 20 Weeks.”** According to a letter to the editor by Bo Brooks in the Ravalli Republic, “This is why I am supporting Ryan Zinke because of his record of fighting for life at both the state and federal level. As Montana’s at-large congressman, Ryan Zinke voted repeatedly to defund Planned Parenthood and ban abortions after 20 weeks. As a state Senator, Ryan Zinke sponsored a bill that would criminalize an offense that results in the death of an unborn child and voted for 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. Here's the truth, Ryan Zinke is the only candidate who has fought to protect the unborn in the state legislature, in Congress, and in the Executive Branch and is the only choice to represent Montana's values in Washington." [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 4/27/22]

- **Letter To The Editor: "Zinke Sponsored A Bill That Would Criminalize An Offense That Results In The Death Of An Unborn Child And Voted For 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."** According to a letter to the editor by Bo Brooks in the Ravalli Republic, "This is why I am supporting Ryan Zinke because of his record of fighting for life at both the state and federal level. As Montana's at-large congressman, Ryan Zinke voted repeatedly to defund Planned Parenthood and ban abortions after 20 weeks. As a state Senator, Ryan Zinke sponsored a bill that would criminalize an offense that results in the death of an unborn child and voted for 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. Here's the truth, Ryan Zinke is the only candidate who has fought to protect the unborn in the state legislature, in Congress, and in the Executive Branch and is the only choice to represent Montana's values in Washington." [Ravalli Republic, Letter to the Editor, 4/27/22]

**As A State Senator, Zinke Received A 65 Percent Rating From NARAL Pro-Choice Montana In 2009, But Received A 0 Percent Rating In 2011.** The Billings Gazette reported, "During the campaign, Olszewski and fellow candidate Mary Todd have been critical of Ryan Zinke, Montana's former at-large congressman and former secretary of the Department of the Interior, on the issue of abortion. Specifically, they point to votes while Zinke was a state senator against so-called personhood bills in 2009. 'I'm just holding him accountable for his votes,' Olszewski said. In his first session in 2009, Zinke received a 65% rating from NARAL Pro-Choice Montana, but would then receive a 0% rating in 2011. In 2011 he sponsored an anti-abortion bill to protect 'unborn victims' from violent crimes, that was later vetoed, and supported other legislation opposing abortion." [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

**2011: Zinke Sponsored An Anti-Abortion Bill To Protect "Unborn Victims" From Violent Crimes.** The Billings Gazette reported, "During the campaign, Olszewski and fellow candidate Mary Todd have been critical of Ryan Zinke, Montana's former at-large congressman and former secretary of the Department of the Interior, on the issue of abortion. Specifically, they point to votes while Zinke was a state senator against so-called personhood bills in 2009. 'I'm just holding him accountable for his votes,' Olszewski said. In his first session in 2009, Zinke received a 65% rating from NARAL Pro-Choice Montana, but would then receive a 0% rating in 2011. In 2011 he sponsored an anti-abortion bill to protect 'unborn victims' from violent crimes, that was later vetoed, and supported other legislation opposing abortion." [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

**In His 2014 Run For Congress, Zinke Received An Endorsement From Montana Right To Life.** The Billings Gazette reported, "In his 2014 run for Congress Zinke's record on abortion became a campaign issue during the Republican Primary when his opponents highlighted the 2009 votes. Zinke pushed back and received an endorsement from Montana Right to Life and continued to see 100% ratings from groups such as the National Right to Life Committee as a congressman. Zinke is again defending his record on abortion in this primary. A February letter sent to supporters calls the attacks 'attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke's pro-life record,' and says he is 'a committed pro-life conservative.' Zinke pointed to his rating from National Right to Life in an interview and commended the Supreme Court's draft opinion, while also denouncing the leak. 'I applaud the court's decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child,' Zinke said on social media." [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

**Zinke Received 100 Percent Ratings From The National Right To Life Committee As A Congressman.** The Billings Gazette reported, "In his 2014 run for Congress Zinke's record on abortion became a campaign issue during the Republican Primary when his opponents highlighted the 2009 votes. Zinke pushed back and received an endorsement from Montana Right to Life and continued to see 100% ratings from groups such as the National Right to Life Committee as a congressman. Zinke is again defending his record on abortion in this primary. A



February letter sent to supporters calls the attacks ‘attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s pro-life record,’ and says he is ‘a committed pro-life conservative.’ Zinke pointed to his rating from National Right to Life in an interview and commended the Supreme Court’s draft opinion, while also denouncing the leak. ‘I applaud the court’s decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child,’ Zinke said on social media.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

**2022: Zinke’s Campaign Sent A Letter To Supports Criticizing “Attempts To Smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s Pro-Life Record” And Which Called Zinke A “Committed Pro-Life Conservative.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In his 2014 run for Congress Zinke’s record on abortion became a campaign issue during the Republican Primary when his opponents highlighted the 2009 votes. Zinke pushed back and received an endorsement from Montana Right to Life and continued to see 100% ratings from groups such as the National Right to Life Committee as a congressman. Zinke is again defending his record on abortion in this primary. A February letter sent to supporters calls the attacks ‘attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s pro-life record,’ and says he is ‘a committed pro-life conservative.’ Zinke pointed to his rating from National Right to Life in an interview and commended the Supreme Court’s draft opinion, while also denouncing the leak. ‘I applaud the court’s decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child,’ Zinke said on social media.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

**2022: Zinke Commended The Supreme Court’s Draft Opinion Overturning Roe V. Wade, Writing, “I Applaud The Court’s Decision And Agree There Is No Constitutional Right To Murder An Unborn Child.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In his 2014 run for Congress Zinke’s record on abortion became a campaign issue during the Republican Primary when his opponents highlighted the 2009 votes. Zinke pushed back and received an endorsement from Montana Right to Life and continued to see 100% ratings from groups such as the National Right to Life Committee as a congressman. Zinke is again defending his record on abortion in this primary. A February letter sent to supporters calls the attacks ‘attempts to smear Secretary Ryan Zinke’s pro-life record,’ and says he is ‘a committed pro-life conservative.’ Zinke pointed to his rating from National Right to Life in an interview and commended the Supreme Court’s draft opinion, while also denouncing the leak. ‘I applaud the court’s decision and agree there is no constitutional right to murder an unborn child,’ Zinke said on social media.” [Billings Gazette, 5/6/22]

**2022: A Letter To The Editor Claimed That Zinke Had “Repeatedly Voted Against Abortion Services, In Favor Of Defunding Family Planning Organizations That Provide Preventative Care And Cancer Screenings, And Has Been Endorsed By Anti-Choice Groups.”** According to a letter to the editor by Quincy Purcell in the Billings Gazette, “Zinke’s shameful voting record is an assault on women’s rights, health care, and reproductive freedom. He’s repeatedly voted against abortion services, in favor of defunding family planning organizations that provide preventative care and cancer screenings, and has been endorsed by anti-choice groups. A woman’s medical decisions are her own to make, not a politician’s. [...] Montana is already facing an endemic of abuse and violence against Indigenous women. Stripping the reproductive freedoms of Indigenous women and blocking access to safe and legal abortions will only perpetuate domestic violence against both mothers and children, derailing educational and career-focused pursuits and placing a greater financial burden on the shoulders of struggling mothers.” [Billings Gazette, Letter to the Editor, 7/3/22]

- **Letter To The Editor: “Stripping The Reproductive Freedoms Of Indigenous Women And Blocking Access To Safe And Legal Abortions Will Only Perpetuate Domestic Violence Against Both Mothers And Children, Derailing Educational And Career-Focused Pursuits And Placing A Greater Financial Burden On The Shoulders Of Struggling Mothers.”** According to a letter to the editor by Quincy Purcell in the Billings Gazette, “Zinke’s shameful voting record is an assault on women’s rights, health care, and reproductive freedom. He’s repeatedly voted against abortion services, in favor of defunding family planning organizations that provide preventative care and cancer screenings, and has been endorsed by anti-choice groups. A woman’s medical decisions are her own to make, not a politician’s. [...] Montana is already facing an endemic of abuse and violence against Indigenous women. Stripping the reproductive freedoms of Indigenous women and blocking access to safe and legal abortions will only perpetuate domestic violence against both



mothers and children, derailing educational and career-focused pursuits and placing a greater financial burden on the shoulders of struggling mothers.” [Billings Gazette, Letter to the Editor, 7/3/22]

**2022: During A Debate, Zinke Said He Was “Pro-Life” When Asked About The Overturning Of Roe V. Wade, Adding, “Life Is Not Perfect, Is It?... Wouldn’t It Be Nice If We Didn’t Have Any Unwanted Pregnancy? Really Nice If There Wasn’t Incest, Rape, Issues Of Health Of The Mother Or Child? Wouldn’t It Be Nice? But That’s Not True, Is It? Well, I Think A Ban Is Too Harsh.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “The first question submitted from the audience went straight to the issue of abortion access following the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade earlier this summer. Zinke told the crowd he’s ‘pro-life,’ but said the issue for him was complex. ‘Life is not perfect, is it?’ Zinke said. ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if we didn’t have any unwanted pregnancy? Really nice if there wasn’t incest, rape, issues of health of the mother or child? Wouldn’t it be nice? But that’s not true, is it? Well, I think a ban is too harsh.’ In the past, Zinke has voted to limit abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for the life of the mother. Tranel said she would vote for ‘women’s rights to live life on our own terms and to be able to choose how, when and whether we become parents.’” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

- **Zinke Had Previously Voted To Ban Abortion After 20 Weeks Of Pregnancy, With An Exception For The Life Of The Mother.** The Billings Gazette reported, “The first question submitted from the audience went straight to the issue of abortion access following the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade earlier this summer. Zinke told the crowd he’s ‘pro-life,’ but said the issue for him was complex. ‘Life is not perfect, is it?’ Zinke said. ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if we didn’t have any unwanted pregnancy? Really nice if there wasn’t incest, rape, issues of health of the mother or child? Wouldn’t it be nice? But that’s not true, is it? Well, I think a ban is too harsh.’ In the past, Zinke has voted to limit abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for the life of the mother. Tranel said she would vote for ‘women’s rights to live life on our own terms and to be able to choose how, when and whether we become parents.’” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

**During The Debate, Zinke’s Democratic Opponent Tied Him To Republicans Who Supported More Expansive Abortion Bans, Though Zinke Reiterated That He Supported Rape And Incest Exceptions And Claimed He Would Not Support A Full Ban Without Exceptions.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Though Zinke said he wouldn’t back a full ban without exceptions, Tranel still attacked him over stances Republicans nationally have staked out to ban abortion in all cases. She pointed to recent reporting about how confusion over what’s legal in states that ban abortion with carve-outs for a woman’s health has led to doctors delaying care. Zinke reiterated he felt a ban was too harsh in the case of rape and incest and said it was a woman’s ‘right to make sure she saves herself on these medical conditions.’” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

**2022: Zinke Said He Was “Pro-Life And Proud Of It,” That He Believed “Banning Was Too Harsh,” And That He Supported Letting States Decide On Abortion.** The Independent Record reported, “In light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down Roe v. Wade, candidates were asked about at what point, if any, abortion should be legal. Zinke said he is ‘pro-life and proud of it,’ but that life is not always perfect. He also believed the decision to be a states-rights issue. ‘So I’ve always believed that banning is too harsh’ he said, going on to accuse Tranel of supporting the right to an abortion up to full term.” [Independent Record, 9/29/22]

**2022: Zinke Agreed With The Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe V. Wade.** The Billings Gazette reported, “While he agrees with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down Roe v. Wade, Zinke has a more moderate position than some in the GOP now seeking a national abortion ban. He supports exceptions in the case of rape, incest, fatal fetal abnormality and to protect the life of the mother. He also says birth control should be available over the counter. ‘You can’t legislate all circumstances, and some women have to face very, very difficult circumstances,’ he said in a recent interview in Bozeman. ‘(Abortion) should be rare and by exception rather than routine.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/16/22]

**Zinke: “(Abortion) Should Be Rare And By Exception Rather Than Routine.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “While he agrees with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down Roe v. Wade, Zinke has a more moderate position than some in the GOP now seeking a national abortion ban. He supports exceptions in the case of



rape, incest, fatal fetal abnormality and to protect the life of the mother. He also says birth control should be available over the counter. ‘You can’t legislate all circumstances, and some women have to face very, very difficult circumstances,’ he said in a recent interview in Bozeman. ‘(Abortion) should be rare and by exception rather than routine.’” [Billings Gazette, 10/16/22]

**Billings Gazette: “Zinke, However, Has Consistently Said During His Campaign That He Favors Exceptions For Allowing Abortion Such As Pregnancy Due To Rape Or To Save The Life Of The Mother. Any Such Legislation Should Also Include Easing Access To Birth Control, He Says, With His Support For Any Potential Legislation Hinging On Those Provisions.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In a recent television ad, Tranel criticizes Zinke over abortion, saying he supports banning abortion with no exceptions and that while in Congress she would protect people’s rights to make their own decisions. Zinke, however, has consistently said during his campaign that he favors exceptions for allowing abortion such as pregnancy due to rape or to save the life of the mother. Any such legislation should also include easing access to birth control, he says, with his support for any potential legislation hinging on those provisions.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

- **Billings Gazette: “In A Recent Television Ad, Tranel Criticizes Zinke Over Abortion, Saying He Supports Banning Abortion With No Exceptions.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “In a recent television ad, Tranel criticizes Zinke over abortion, saying he supports banning abortion with no exceptions and that while in Congress she would protect people’s rights to make their own decisions. Zinke, however, has consistently said during his campaign that he favors exceptions for allowing abortion such as pregnancy due to rape or to save the life of the mother. Any such legislation should also include easing access to birth control, he says, with his support for any potential legislation hinging on those provisions.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]
- **Billings Gazette: “Over The Summer, Montana’s Republican Party Voted To Add To Their Platform Support Of A Ban Without Exceptions In The State.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke, however, has consistently said during his campaign that he favors exceptions for allowing abortion such as pregnancy due to rape or to save the life of the mother. Any such legislation should also include easing access to birth control, he says, with his support for any potential legislation hinging on those provisions. That comes as a more moderate stance than some in the GOP who have drafted a bill for a national abortion ban following the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, which had protected access to pre-viability abortion. While Congress could step in to either federally codify abortion access or impose further restrictions, the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* puts abortion in the hands of state Legislatures, with some Republican-led states invoking total bans. Over the summer, Montana’s Republican Party voted to add to their platform support of a ban without exceptions in the state.” [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

**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]

**2022: Zinke Said He Thought “A Ban Is Too Harsh Because It Doesn’t Take Into Account Dire Circumstances... 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.”** 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]

**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, But Then Reversed Course In 2011 And Voted For A Similar Referendum.** 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]

**During His First Term In Congress, Zinke Co-Sponsored A Bill To Ban Abortion After 20 Weeks With Exceptions For The Life Of The Mother And For Rape And Incest.** The Billings Gazette reported, "During his first term in Congress Zinke co-sponsored the 'Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,' a bill that passed the U.S. House but stalled in the Senate. The bill, which came while access to pre-viability abortion remained under the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, did not legislate restrictions before 20 weeks of pregnancy. After 20 weeks, the bill outlawed abortion with exceptions to save the life of the mother, if the pregnancy is the result of rape in an adult, or is the result of rape or incest in a minor. The bill further put reporting requirements on physicians and imposed penalties including fines and up to five years in prison for performing an unauthorized abortion." [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

- **Zinke: "Would I Support A Bill With Further Restrictions? I Would Have To See The Bill Because The Bill Also Has To Include Access To Birth Control, Alternatives, Because If You're Going To Say You Have To Have A Child, Then What's The Alternative? Are You Going To Support That Child? Is There Access To Education?"** The Billings Gazette reported, "When asked about his policy pre-20 versus post-20 weeks gestational age, Zinke says he must see legislation. 'So the heart of the matter, would I support a bill with further restrictions? I would have to see the bill because the bill also has to include access to birth control, alternatives, because if you're going to say you have to have a child, then what's the alternative? Are you going to support that child? Is there access to education? There's all sorts of things, but I'm adamantly unambiguous in I'm pro-life, but I think a ban is too harsh because it doesn't include dire circumstances you cannot legislate,' he told the Montana State News Bureau." [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]
- **Zinke: "There's All Sorts Of Things, But I'm Adamantly Unambiguous In I'm Pro-Life, But I Think A Ban Is Too Harsh Because It Doesn't Include Dire Circumstances You Cannot Legislate."** The Billings Gazette reported, "When asked about his policy pre-20 versus post-20 weeks gestational age, Zinke says he must see legislation. 'So the heart of the matter, would I support a bill with further restrictions? I would have to see the bill because the bill also has to include access to birth control, alternatives, because if you're going to say you have to have a child, then what's the alternative? Are you going to support that child? Is there access to education? There's all sorts of things, but I'm adamantly unambiguous in I'm pro-life, but I think a ban is too harsh because it doesn't include dire circumstances you cannot legislate,' he told the Montana State News Bureau." [Billings Gazette, 11/2/22]

## **Affordable Care Act**

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**October 2016: Zinke Maintained That He Supported The Effort To Repeal And Replace Obamacare.** The Whitefish Pilot reported, "Zinke formed his own health care advisory committee, made up of doctors, administrators, and other health care professionals, he said to provide recommendations to him on health care issues. Zinke called for the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Health Care Act, while saying there is a need for frontier health care reforms. He said Montanans are working second jobs to afford health care and that shouldn't be the case. Zinke said in Montana the 'one size fits all' solutions that often come out of Washington, D.C. don't work. 'Obamacare probably had a noble purpose, but the execution of it has hurt Montana and it has hurt the people that need health care the most,' he said. 'Government is going to be a part of health care, but government shouldn't





drive the decisions on what is best for the patient that should be the medical professional.” [Whitefish Pilot, 10/26/16]

- **Zinke: “Obamacare Probably Had A Noble Purpose, But The Execution Of It Has Hurt Montana And It Has Hurt The People That Need Health Care The Most.”** The Whitefish Pilot reported, “Zinke formed his own health care advisory committee, made up of doctors, administrators, and other health care professionals, he said to provide recommendations to him on health care issues. Zinke called for the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Health Care Act, while saying there is a need for frontier health care reforms. He said Montanans are working second jobs to afford health care and that shouldn’t be the case. Zinke said in Montana the ‘one size fits all’ solutions that often come out of Washington, D.C. don’t work. ‘Obamacare probably had a noble purpose, but the execution of it has hurt Montana and it has hurt the people that need health care the most,’ he said. ‘Government is going to be a part of health care, but government shouldn’t drive the decisions on what is best for the patient that should be the medical professional.’” [Whitefish Pilot, 10/26/16]

## Drug Price Negotiation

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**2024: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming Him For Being A “Party Loyalist And Member Of The Republican Study Committee... [Who] Allied Himself With Extremists In His Party Who Would... Stop Allowing Medicare To Negotiate Drug Prices, And Repeal Both The \$35 Medicare Cap On The Price Of Insulin And \$2,000 Cap On Part D Out-Of-Pocket Costs.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn’t surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it’s up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn’t spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation’s business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

## Fossil Fuel Health Effects Studies

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**2017 – 2018: Zinke Killed A Study By The National Academies Of Science, Engineering, And Medicine That Would Have Determined Health Effects On People Living Near Coal Excavation Blast Sites.** The Washington Post reported, “‘We don’t see that as the end of it,’ he said. ‘I think there are facts that need to come out... The public’s got a right to know about some of these decisions, and who’s gaining from them.’ For the 21 months of Zinke’s reign, Grijalva could only watch as Zinke killed scientific studies and weakened regulations to protect federal lands. One study by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine sought to determine the health effects faced by people who live near sites where mountaintops are blasted away to excavate coal, and another by the group sought to find ways to make working on offshore oil platforms safer.” [Washington Post, [12/20/18](#)]

**2017 – 2018: Zinke Killed A Study By The National Academies Of Science, Engineering, And Medicine That Would Have Researched Ways To Make Working On Offshore Oil Platforms Safer.** The Washington Post reported, “‘We don’t see that as the end of it,’ he said. ‘I think there are facts that need to come out... The public’s got a right to know about some of these decisions, and who’s gaining from them.’ For the 21 months of Zinke’s reign, Grijalva could only watch as Zinke killed scientific studies and weakened regulations to protect federal lands. One study by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine sought to determine the health effects



faced by people who live near sites where mountaintops are blasted away to excavate coal, and another by the group sought to find ways to make working on offshore oil platforms safer.” [Washington Post, [12/20/18](#)]

**August 2017: Sierra Club “Beyond Coal Campaign” Representative Bill Price Called The Trump Administration’s Halt Of The Coal Health Effects Study “Infuriating.”** The Washington Post reported, “Industry analysts saw little chance of that. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis said power plants’ relatively new reliance on natural gas over coal is the reason the industry is bleeding jobs. As of March, when the executive order was signed, six plants had closed since the president’s election and at least 40 were slated to close during his term. ‘It’s infuriating that Trump would halt this study... that people in Appalachia have been demanding for years,’ said Bill Price, a representative for the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign. ‘Everyone knows there are major health risks living near mountaintop removal coal mining sites, but communities living with daily health threats were counting on finally getting the full story from the professionals at the National Academies of Science.’” [Washington Post, [8/21/17](#)]

- **Price: “It’s Infuriating That Trump Would Halt This Study ... That People In Appalachia Have Been Demanding For Years.”** The Washington Post reported, “Industry analysts saw little chance of that. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis said power plants’ relatively new reliance on natural gas over coal is the reason the industry is bleeding jobs. As of March, when the executive order was signed, six plants had closed since the president’s election and at least 40 were slated to close during his term. ‘It’s infuriating that Trump would halt this study... that people in Appalachia have been demanding for years,’ said Bill Price, a representative for the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign. ‘Everyone knows there are major health risks living near mountaintop removal coal mining sites, but communities living with daily health threats were counting on finally getting the full story from the professionals at the National Academies of Science.’” [Washington Post, [8/21/17](#)]
- **Price: “Everyone Knows There Are Major Health Risks Living Near Mountaintop Coal Mining Sites, But Communities Living With The Daily Health Threats Were Counting On Finally Getting The Full Story.”** The Washington Post reported, “Industry analysts saw little chance of that. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis said power plants’ relatively new reliance on natural gas over coal is the reason the industry is bleeding jobs. As of March, when the executive order was signed, six plants had closed since the president’s election and at least 40 were slated to close during his term. ‘It’s infuriating that Trump would halt this study... that people in Appalachia have been demanding for years,’ said Bill Price, a representative for the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign. ‘Everyone knows there are major health risks living near mountaintop removal coal mining sites, but communities living with daily health threats were counting on finally getting the full story from the professionals at the National Academies of Science.’” [Washington Post, [8/21/17](#)]

## **Inflation Reduction Act**

**2022: Zinke Said The Inflation Reduction Act Was An “Oxymoron” That Would “Raise Costs, If You Have Private Medical Insurance, For 220 Million Americans.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “He called the Inflation Reduction Act an ‘oxymoron’ and said it would just increase the monthly cost of living for Montana families. Zinke cited the Wall Street Journal when he told the audience the IRA ‘will raise costs, if you have private medical insurance, for 220 million Americans.’ While the bill makes changes to eventually cap out-of-pocket drug costs for people covered by Medicare at \$2,000 per year, Zinke spokesperson Heather Swift said that the changes there will come at the cost of insurance companies charging more for those covered through their employer or private plans.” [Billings Gazette, [8/8/22](#)]

- **Zinke’s Spokeswoman Claimed The Law’s Provisions To Cut Prescription Drug Costs Would Cause Insurance Companies To Charge More To People Covered Through Their Employer Or Private Plans.** The Billings Gazette reported, “He called the Inflation Reduction Act an ‘oxymoron’ and said it would just increase the monthly cost of living for Montana families. Zinke cited the Wall Street Journal when he told the

audience the IRA ‘will raise costs, if you have private medical insurance, for 220 million Americans.’ While the bill makes changes to eventually cap out-of-pocket drug costs for people covered by Medicare at \$2,000 per year, Zinke spokesperson Heather Swift said that the changes there will come at the cost of insurance companies charging more for those covered through their employer or private plans.” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

## Medicaid

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**2023: Zinke Said He Supported Increasing Flexibility In Medicaid Reimbursement Rates To Address The Differential In The Cost Of Living In Certain Areas Of Montana.** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “Zinke talked about the issues with Gallatin County Sheriff Dan Springer, Bozeman Health CEO Kathryn Bertany and Tracy Ellig, Montana State University’s vice president of university communications. Bertany, who recently became Bozeman Health’s permanent CEO after serving in the interim role for months, told Zinke that they are struggling with reimbursements for Medicaid services. Bertany noted how expensive the cost of living is in Bozeman compared to not only the rest of the country, but also other areas of the state. ‘We’re reimbursed the same for the same services on the federal level,’ Bertany said. ‘It would be nice if we were able to see the giant landmass of Montana as not all the same.’ Zinke, who said he is hoping there can be more flexibility in reimbursement rates in the future, joked that people in the nation’s capital see Montana through the lens of Yellowstone the show. Zinke said he tells people that ‘Yellowstone is a wonderful drama set in Montana just like Star Wars is a wonderful drama set in space they’re dramas, it really isn’t the way things are out here.’” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 7/25/23]

**2023: Zinke Reportedly “Took His Swings At... Congress For The Amount Of Mandatory Spending In... The Budget Lines That Include Medicare And Social Security, Among Other Ongoing Statutory Programs.”** The Sidney Hearld reported, “‘When I was a SEAL, it didn’t matter to me whether a person was a Democrat or a Republican,’ he said. ‘It really doesn’t matter to me today. But it does matter whether you love the country. It does matter whether you want to make things better for your neighbor. It does matter whether you want to protect what’s important Montana’s lifestyle. That matters. It should matter to us all.’ He took his swings at the Biden administration for its Waters of the United States rulemaking and at Congress for the amount of mandatory spending in the federal budget the budget lines that include Medicare and Social Security, among other ongoing statutory programs. And he echoed lines from his Interior Department days about boosting domestic energy production as a national security measure.” [Sidney Hearld, 2/21/23]

**2023: Zinke Reportedly Said That Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid Should Be Reviewed For Wasteful Spending Because Mandatory Spending For Those Programs Made Up Most Of The Federal Budget.** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “Programs like Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare are designed to work well when people are putting in more money than what is being taken out, Zinke said. When the opposite happens, that leads to budget issues. He said that spending at the federal level is 28% discretionary spending for agencies like the Department of Defense or Department of the Interior. The larger chunk is mandatory spending for entitlement programs, Zinke said. Programs under those entitlements should be reviewed because there are likely areas that have been neglected or programs that have not been doing what they should have done, he said. ‘There’s other areas we need to attend to, obviously mental health is one, because we’re paying for it,’ Zinke said.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 3/17/23]

**2024: Montana Democrats Reportedly Tried To Pin The Republican Study Committee Memo Calling For Cuts To Social Security On Zinke.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. ‘Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they’re the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,’ Zinke said on ‘Fox Business’ Thursday. ‘I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there’s a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you’re right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there,



Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they're sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we're, we're going to have to." [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

- **2024: Zinke Said, "Seventy Percent Of The Budget Is In Overdrive With Mandates, They're The Big Three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I Want To Save That."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. 'Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they're the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,' Zinke said on 'Fox Business' Thursday. 'I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there's a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you're right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they're sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we're, we're going to have to.'" [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]
- **Zinke: "I Want To Solve Security, You Know, People Have Earned It. So, I Want To Save It. We Got To Get People Working. Number One, There's A Lot Of Ways To Save It And I Think Everything Should Be Looked At, But You're Right."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. 'Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they're the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,' Zinke said on 'Fox Business' Thursday. 'I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there's a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you're right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they're sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we're, we're going to have to.'" [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]
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**2024: Zinke's Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Wrote An Op-Ed Noting That The Gianforte Administration Was Being Slow To Re-Enroll Eligible People Who Had Been Kicked Off Of Medicaid After Pandemic-Era Provisions Allowing People To Remain Covered Without Demonstrating That They Qualified Expired.** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, "During the pandemic, Congress allowed people enrolled in Medicaid to stay enrolled, without having to demonstrate they still qualified for coverage. When the crisis was over, that ended. Across the country, more than 20 million people lost coverage until they could demonstrate they could still qualify. Loss of coverage wasn't supposed to be that bad: States were expected to re-enroll those who still qualified within 45 days, and indeed most states did a lot better than that. Nationally, more than two thirds of re-enrollment applications were processed within a week. But not by the Gianforte administration in Montana. Over 130,000 Montanans were kicked off Medicaid last year. Getting them re-enrolled has taken a nightmarish amount of time, and many applications have been rejected or still not been



processed. Almost 40% of re-enrollment applications have taken more than 45 days to process, making Montana one of the worst states in the nation to leave people hanging, unable to pay the doctor bills for themselves and their kids, or not going to the doctor when they really need to. Meanwhile, hospitals are laying off employees and freezing needed hires. It wouldn't surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it's up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke." [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

- **Tranel: “It Wouldn’t Surprise Anybody To Find Out That The Gianforte Administration Is Deliberately Trying To Undo Medicaid Expansion... Extremist Republicans Have Already Said They Will Attempt To Scuttle It. In That Effort, They Can Always Hope To Get A Hand From Ryan Zinke.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn't surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it's up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn't spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation's business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]
- **Tranel: “Where Is Zinke In All This? He Hasn’t Spoken Up On Behalf Of Thousands Of Montanans Losing Health Coverage, But Has Aligned With Gianforte In Other Extremist Positions.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn't surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it's up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn't spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation's business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

## Medicare

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**2023: Zinke Reportedly “Took His Swings At... Congress For The Amount Of Mandatory Spending In... The Budget Lines That Include Medicare And Social Security, Among Other Ongoing Statutory Programs.”** The Sidney Hearld reported, “‘When I was a SEAL, it didn't matter to me whether a person was a Democrat or a Republican,’ he said. ‘It really doesn't matter to me today. But it does matter whether you love the country. It does matter whether you want to make things better for your neighbor. It does matter whether you want to protect what's important Montana's lifestyle. That matters. It should matter to us all.’ He took his swings at the Biden administration for its Waters of the United States rulemaking and at Congress for the amount of mandatory spending in the federal budget the budget lines that include Medicare and Social Security, among other ongoing statutory programs. And he echoed lines from his Interior Department days about boosting domestic energy production as a national security measure.” [Sidney Hearld, 2/21/23]



**2023: Zinke Reportedly Said That Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid Should Be Reviewed For Wasteful Spending Because Mandatory Spending For Those Programs Made Up Most Of The Federal Budget.** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, “Programs like Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare are designed to work well when people are putting in more money than what is being taken out, Zinke said. When the opposite happens, that leads to budget issues. He said that spending at the federal level is 28% discretionary spending for agencies like the Department of Defense or Department of the Interior. The larger chunk is mandatory spending for entitlement programs, Zinke said. Programs under those entitlements should be reviewed because there are likely areas that have been neglected or programs that have not been doing what they should have done, he said. ‘There’s other areas we need to attend to, obviously mental health is one, because we’re paying for it,’ Zinke said.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 3/17/23]

**2024: Montana Democrats Reportedly Tried To Pin The Republican Study Committee Memo Calling For Cuts To Social Security On Zinke.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. ‘Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they’re the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,’ Zinke said on ‘Fox Business’ Thursday. ‘I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there’s a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you’re right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they’re sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we’re, we’re going to have to.’” [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

- **2024: Zinke Said, “Seventy Percent Of The Budget Is In Overdrive With Mandates, They’re The Big Three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I Want To Save That.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. ‘Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they’re the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,’ Zinke said on ‘Fox Business’ Thursday. ‘I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there’s a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you’re right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they’re sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we’re, we’re going to have to.’” [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]
- **Zinke: “I Want To Solve Security, You Know, People Have Earned It. So, I Want To Save It. We Got To Get People Working. Number One, There’s A Lot Of Ways To Save It And I Think Everything Should Be Looked At, But You’re Right.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. ‘Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they’re the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,’ Zinke said on ‘Fox Business’ Thursday. ‘I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there’s a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you’re right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they’re sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we’re, we’re going to have to.’” [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]
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**2024: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming Him For Being A “Party Loyalist And Member Of The Republican Study Committee... [Who] Allied Himself With Extremists In His Party Who Would Raise The Retirement Age For Social Security And Medicare.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn’t surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it’s up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn’t spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation’s business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

## Montana State Hospital

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**2023: Zinke Proposed A Major Investment In The Montana State Hospital At Warm Springs To Make It A National Model For Mental Health Care And Said He Supported “Cut[ting] Back On The Regulation, Too, To Make Things Work Better.”** The Montana Standard reported, “In an interview with The Montana Standard, U.S. Rep Ryan Zinke (R) proposed a major reinvestment in the troubled Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs to make it a ‘national model’ for mental health care. Zinke was selected to serve on the U.S. House Appropriations Committee in January, making him Montana’s first congressman on the committee in almost 20 years. During the Jan. 20 interview, Zinke talked about how mental health problems are a significant part of homelessness ‘even in Montana.’ ‘It probably started back in JFK’s time when we decided to move away from institutionalizing people and going to community-based care,’ Zinke said. ‘Then Reagan came along and privatized that. I won’t pass judgment on how we got here (to a mental health crisis), but we’re here.’” [Montana Standard, 2/14/23]

- **Montana Standard: “Warm Springs Lost Its Federal Medicaid Reimbursement Last Year After An Inspection Revealed Significant Care Problems Due To Inadequate Staffing, Including A Number Of Injuries And Deaths.”** The Montana Standard reported, “In an interview with The Montana Standard, U.S. Rep Ryan Zinke (R) proposed a major reinvestment in the troubled Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs to make it a ‘national model’ for mental health care. [...] He suggested that a state-federal partnership on such a pilot project could work well. When it was mentioned that Warm Springs lost its federal Medicaid reimbursement last year after an inspection revealed significant care problems due to inadequate staffing, including a number of injuries and deaths, he said, ‘Maybe we have to cut back on the regulation, too, to make things work better.’” [Montana Standard, 2/14/23]
- **Zinke: “It Probably Started Back In JFK’s Time When We Decided To Move Away From Institutionalizing People And Going To Community-Based Care... Then Reagan Came Along And Privatized That. I Won’t Pass Judgment On How We Got Here [To A Mental Health Crisis], But We’re Here.”** The Montana Standard reported, “In an interview with The Montana Standard, U.S. Rep Ryan Zinke (R) proposed a major reinvestment in the troubled Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs to make it a

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- **Zinke Had Previously Opposed Moving The State Hospital To A Larger Population Center.** The Montana Standard reported, “‘This is just a Ryan Zinke idea at this point’ and it needs fleshing out, he said, adding, ‘Reviewing entitlement programs doesn’t always mean ‘cut.’ It means appropriate the money to where the problems are.’ The idea is an alternative to another idea that circulated in recent months that Montana State Hospital and Montana State Prison should be moved to larger population centers, an idea Zinke previously spoke out against to Powell County Commissioners.” [Montana Standard, 2/14/23]

## Housing

### 50 Year Mortgages

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Opening Federal Financing Programs To More Types Of Housing And Offering 50-Year Mortgages To Address Affordability.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke has also proposed ideas to address housing affordability, such as opening up federal financing programs to more types of housing, or offering 50-year mortgages. ‘I hear a lot about affordable housing, just the concern that property values have gone up, that means taxes will go up, rental costs have gone up, it’s the lack of ability and affordability of housing across the board,’ he said in an interview.” [Billings Gazette, 10/16/22]

**2022: Zinke Said 50 Year Mortgages Would Reduce Monthly Loan Payments And Would Make It So That People Would Be Able To Buy A Home.** The Billings Gazette The Billings Gazette reported, “The housing crisis is unmistakable in the Clark Fork Valley as it is for the rest of the state, and Zinke endorses cutting regulations where possible and backing purchases of condos or other multi-family units with federal mortgage programs. He also supports offering 50-year mortgages, touting the ability to bring monthly loan payments down, although critics note that overall payments would rise over the life of the loan compared to a standard 15- or 30-year mortgage. ‘It doesn’t mean people are going to live in a house for 50 years, it just means they’re able to buy and I can tell you, most Americans, how you build long-term wealth is you own a home,’ he said.” [Billings Gazette, 11/6/22]

- **Billings Gazette: “Critics Note That Overall Payments Would Rise Over The Life Of The Loan Compared To A Standard 15- Or 30-Year Mortgage.”** The Billings Gazette The Billings Gazette reported, “The housing crisis is unmistakable in the Clark Fork Valley as it is for the rest of the state, and Zinke endorses cutting regulations where possible and backing purchases of condos or other multi-family units with federal mortgage programs. He also supports offering 50-year mortgages, touting the ability to bring monthly loan payments down, although critics note that overall payments would rise over the life of the loan compared to a standard 15- or 30-year mortgage. ‘It doesn’t mean people are going to live in a house for 50 years, it just means they’re able to buy and I can tell you, most Americans, how you build long-term wealth is you own a home,’ he said.” [Billings Gazette, 11/6/22]

**2023: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Slammed His Proposal For 50-Year Mortgages In An Op-Ed, Arguing, “A 50-Year Mortgage Locks Buyers Into Longer, Higher Debt, Essentially Guarantees The Buyer Will Never Actually Own Their Home, And Limits The Equity They Will Obtain.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “Western Montana is facing huge population growth and increasing housing costs. For folks whose homes are valued at over \$400,000, the temporary rebate doesn’t cover the permanent increase on your property taxes beginning this November. The 2023 median value of a home in Flathead, Gallatin, Madison and Missoula counties is well north of that. The tiny band-aid of a temporary rebate

does nothing to help. Ryan Zinke's 'answer' is 50-year mortgages. A 50-year mortgage locks buyers into longer, higher debt, essentially guarantees the buyer will never actually own their home, and limits the equity they will obtain. Zinke's pandering to corporate profits is nothing new, but be clear: Zinke's 'solution' does not help homeowners but ensures large corporate lenders make more money." [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 8/22/23]

- **Tranel: "Zinke's Pandering To Corporate Profits Is Nothing New, But Be Clear: Zinke's 'Solution' Does Not Help Homeowners But Ensures Large Corporate Lenders Make More Money."** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, "Western Montana is facing huge population growth and increasing housing costs. For folks whose homes are valued at over \$400,000, the temporary rebate doesn't cover the permanent increase on your property taxes beginning this November. The 2023 median value of a home in Flathead, Gallatin, Madison and Missoula counties is well north of that. The tiny band-aid of a temporary rebate does nothing to help. Ryan Zinke's 'answer' is 50-year mortgages. A 50-year mortgage locks buyers into longer, higher debt, essentially guarantees the buyer will never actually own their home, and limits the equity they will obtain. Zinke's pandering to corporate profits is nothing new, but be clear: Zinke's 'solution' does not help homeowners but ensures large corporate lenders make more money." [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 8/22/23]
- **Tranel: "Montana Is At The Bottom Of The Pile Of States Using American Rescue Plan Act Money For Housing. In 2021 Governor Gianforte Vetoed A Bill To Establish An Affordable Housing Tax Credit. In March Of This Year, The Montana GOP Closed Applications For Emergency Rental Assistance From ARPA Due To Slow Processing."** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, "Montana is at the bottom of the pile of states using American Rescue Plan Act money for housing. In 2021 Governor Gianforte vetoed a bill to establish an affordable housing tax credit. In March of this year, the Montana GOP closed applications for emergency rental assistance from ARPA due to slow processing." [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 8/22/23]
- **Tranel Slammed The Montana GOP For Increasing Property Taxes Despite A \$2.9 Billion Budget Surplus While Offering A One-Time Rebate To Only Half Of Homeowners In The State To Offset The Tax Increase.** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, "The 2023 Montana GOP had a super-majority and a \$2.9 billion surplus, thanks to federal democratic policies. Armed with power and money, the Montana GOP imposed a permanent tax increase on residential homes while cutting taxes for large corporations, shifting tax burdens to residential homes all across Montana. The Montana GOP defended its property tax hikes by offering a one-time rebate for some but not all homeowners for taxes paid in 2022 and 2023. The rebate has significant problems. Unlike prior rebates under Governors Racicot and Schweitzer the rebate imposes an opt-in function. In addition, because of restrictions, only half of Montana's homeowners are even eligible for the rebate. And the rebate does nothing to help renters. Renters make up a large share of the housing units in Montana, and will surely see the tax increase passed on to them." [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 8/22/23]

## Affordability

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**2021: Zinke Argued That Rising Housing Prices Were Reducing Affordability In Montana And That The State Needed More Workforce Development.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, "He is also alarmed at what he sees in Montana - rising housing prices that are eclipsing the average Montanan's ability to find affordability. He said the answer to the problem is more development in the workforce. 'Montana is still a place where if we have strong broadband, we have a great remote environment that rewards hard work - a place where you can fish on the weekend,' Zinke said. In the eastern part of the state, he said land prices rising are putting a different kind of pinch on residents, making a family farm or ranch unobtainable. 'Who can do an entry-level farm?' Zinke said." [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

- **Zinke: "Montana Is Still A Place Where If We Have Strong Broadband, We Have A Great Remote Environment That Rewards Hard Work - A Place Where You Can Fish On The Weekend."** The Great



Falls Tribune reported, “He is also alarmed at what he sees in Montana - rising housing prices that are eclipsing the average Montanan’s ability to find affordability. He said the answer to the problem is more development in the workforce. ‘Montana is still a place where if we have strong broadband, we have a great remote environment that rewards hard work - a place where you can fish on the weekend,’ Zinke said. In the eastern part of the state, he said land prices rising are putting a different kind of pinch on residents, making a family farm or ranch unobtainable. ‘Who can do an entry-level farm?’ Zinke said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

- **Zinke Said Rising Housing Prices In Eastern Montana Were Making Entry-Level Family Farms And Ranches Unobtainable.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “He is also alarmed at what he sees in Montana - rising housing prices that are eclipsing the average Montanan’s ability to find affordability. He said the answer to the problem is more development in the workforce. ‘Montana is still a place where if we have strong broadband, we have a great remote environment that rewards hard work - a place where you can fish on the weekend,’ Zinke said. In the eastern part of the state, he said land prices rising are putting a different kind of pinch on residents, making a family farm or ranch unobtainable. ‘Who can do an entry-level farm?’ Zinke said.” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

**2024: Sheila Hogan, The Executive Director Of The Montana Democratic Party, Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming Zinke As “Nowhere To Be Found” On The Housing Crisis In Montana.** According to an op-ed by Sheila Hogan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, in the Ravalli Republic, “Montana has long been an affordable place for hard-working families to call home. Unfortunately, the dream of homeownership or even finding affordable rental housing has become harder and harder for many Montana families. The housing crisis is hurting our communities, and the root of this problem is the unchecked influence of out-of-state hedge funds, land speculators, and corporate landlords who have driven up prices and squeezed out local residents across our state. And at this moment of crisis, when we need leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives to protect our families and lower the cost of living for Montanans, Ryan Zinke is nowhere to be found. Zinke has failed to take meaningful action to address the housing crisis, instead prioritizing partisan politics and attacking our individual rights and freedoms. It might be easy for a millionaire like Zinke, who spends part of his time at his home in Santa Barbara, California, to ignore how costs have gone up across our state, but the reality is dire for Montana families who suddenly have to choose between paying their mortgage or rent, or putting food on the table.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/25/24]

- **Op-Ed: “Zinke Has Failed To Take Meaningful Action To Address The Housing Crisis, Instead Prioritizing Partisan Politics And Attacking Our Individual Rights And Freedoms.”** According to an op-ed by Sheila Hogan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, in the Ravalli Republic, “Montana has long been an affordable place for hard-working families to call home. Unfortunately, the dream of homeownership or even finding affordable rental housing has become harder and harder for many Montana families. The housing crisis is hurting our communities, and the root of this problem is the unchecked influence of out-of-state hedge funds, land speculators, and corporate landlords who have driven up prices and squeezed out local residents across our state. And at this moment of crisis, when we need leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives to protect our families and lower the cost of living for Montanans, Ryan Zinke is nowhere to be found. Zinke has failed to take meaningful action to address the housing crisis, instead prioritizing partisan politics and attacking our individual rights and freedoms. It might be easy for a millionaire like Zinke, who spends part of his time at his home in Santa Barbara, California, to ignore how costs have gone up across our state, but the reality is dire for Montana families who suddenly have to choose between paying their mortgage or rent, or putting food on the table.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/25/24]
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- **Op-Ed: “We Need Leaders In Congress Who Will Hold Bad Actors, Hedge Funds, And Out-Of-State Corporations Accountable For Driving Up The Cost Of Living, Ensuring Montanans Have A Level Playing Field In The Housing Market.”** According to an op-ed by Sheila Hogan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, in the Ravalli Republic, “Leadership in the House of Representatives is urgently needed to provide federal resources to support efforts on the ground in our communities. We need leaders in Congress who will hold bad actors, hedge funds, and out-of-state corporations accountable for driving up the cost of living, ensuring Montanans have a level playing field in the housing market. Ensuring Montanans have access to affordable housing should be bipartisan. Our leaders in Congress must work together to enact policies that reflect the urgency of this crisis and ensure that every individual has access to safe and stable housing. We cannot afford to repeat the failures of the past it’s time we vote Zinke out and replace him with accountable and proactive leadership in Washington.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/25/24]
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**2024 – Daily Inter Lake: “Zinke Has Also Been Outspoken About The Housing Crisis, Yet Has Not Released A Comprehensive Plan Like Tranel’s.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Democratic congressional candidate Monica Tranel last month joined a chorus of calls to ban hedge funds from buying up homes as a way to alleviate the housing crisis at the federal level. [...] Tranel’s plan also seeks to provide stability for seniors by requiring Medicaid and Medicare to provide adequate reimbursements for long-term care and incentivizing the construction of more housing for seniors through tax credits and community grants, for example. Zinke has also been outspoken about the housing crisis, yet has not released a comprehensive plan like Tranel’s. The congressman blamed the issue on ‘Bidenomics’ in an April interview with NBC Montana. ‘It comes from mismanagement of the economy, when prices goes up, inflation goes up, housing costs go up, and when interest rates go up, it’s unaffordable for a lot of Montanans,’ Zinke told NBC Montana. While Zinke could not be reached for comment, his staff pointed toward previous efforts to address the housing crisis, including cosponsoring a bill to support housing for police officers, first responders and teachers.” [Daily Inter Lake, 6/7/24]

- **Daily Inter Lake: “While Zinke Could Not Be Reached For Comment, His Staff Pointed Toward Previous Efforts To Address The Housing Crisis, Including Cosponsoring A Bill To Support Housing For Police Officers, First Responders And Teachers.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Democratic congressional candidate Monica Tranel last month joined a chorus of calls to ban hedge funds from buying up homes as a way to alleviate the housing crisis at the federal level. [...] Tranel’s plan also seeks to provide

stability for seniors by requiring Medicaid and Medicare to provide adequate reimbursements for long-term care and incentivizing the construction of more housing for seniors through tax credits and community grants, for example. Zinke has also been outspoken about the housing crisis, yet has not released a comprehensive plan like Tranel's. The congressman blamed the issue on 'Bidenomics' in an April interview with NBC Montana. 'It comes from mismanagement of the economy, when prices goes up, inflation goes up, housing costs go up, and when interest rates go up, it's unaffordable for a lot of Montanans,' Zinke told NBC Montana. While Zinke could not be reached for comment, his staff pointed toward previous efforts to address the housing crisis, including cosponsoring a bill to support housing for police officers, first responders and teachers." [Daily Inter Lake, 6/7/24]

**2024: Zinke Blamed "Bidenomics" For The Housing Crisis In Montana, Saying, "It Comes From Mismanagement Of The Economy, When Prices Goes Up, Inflation Goes Up, Housing Costs Go Up, And When Interest Rates Go Up, It's Unaffordable For A Lot Of Montanans."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "Democratic congressional candidate Monica Tranel last month joined a chorus of calls to ban hedge funds from buying up homes as a way to alleviate the housing crisis at the federal level. [...] Tranel's plan also seeks to provide stability for seniors by requiring Medicaid and Medicare to provide adequate reimbursements for long-term care and incentivizing the construction of more housing for seniors through tax credits and community grants, for example. Zinke has also been outspoken about the housing crisis, yet has not released a comprehensive plan like Tranel's. The congressman blamed the issue on 'Bidenomics' in an April interview with NBC Montana. 'It comes from mismanagement of the economy, when prices goes up, inflation goes up, housing costs go up, and when interest rates go up, it's unaffordable for a lot of Montanans,' Zinke told NBC Montana. While Zinke could not be reached for comment, his staff pointed toward previous efforts to address the housing crisis, including cosponsoring a bill to support housing for police officers, first responders and teachers." [Daily Inter Lake, 6/7/24]

## AirBnB

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**2022: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Attacking His Democratic Opponent On Housing, Writing, "At The Debate She Talked About Her Plan To Address Affordable Housing And Railed Against VRBO Even Though She's Invested Thousands In AirBnB Which Many Say Is Worsening The Housing Crisis."** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, "If you talk to her she does a good job of seeming like she cares about Montanans and hiding the fact she is a left-wing radical. At the debate she talked about her plan to address affordable housing and railed against VRBO even though she's invested thousands in AirBnB which many say is worsening the housing crisis. She told you she's for affordable medication even though she's an investor in big pharma companies that hiked the price of insulin and profited off COVID vaccine mandates." [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/10/22]

## Federal Financing

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**2022 – Zinke: "I Hear A Lot About Affordable Housing, Just The Concern That Property Values Have Gone Up, That Means Taxes Will Go Up, Rental Costs Have Gone Up, It's The Lack Of Ability And Affordability Of Housing Across The Board."** The Independent Record reported, "I hear a lot about affordable housing, just the concern that property values have gone up, that means taxes will go up, rental costs have gone up, it's the lack of ability and affordability of housing across the board,' Zinke said. As a congressman, Zinke says lawmakers can look at access to capital through federal programs such as Freddie Mac, as well as ways to add flexibility in regulations for states to address supply and costs in more tailored ways." [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

- **Zinke Argued That Congress Should Add Flexibility In Regulations For States To Address The Housing Supply And Expand Access To Capital Through Freddie Mac.** The Independent Record reported, "I hear a lot about affordable housing, just the concern that property values have gone up, that means taxes will go up, rental costs have gone up, it's the lack of ability and affordability of housing across the board,' Zinke said. As a congressman, Zinke says lawmakers can look at access to capital through federal programs such as Freddie



Mac, as well as ways to add flexibility in regulations for states to address supply and costs in more tailored ways.” [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Opening Federal Financing Programs To More Types Of Housing And Offering 50-Year Mortgages To Address Affordability.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke has also proposed ideas to address housing affordability, such as opening up federal financing programs to more types of housing, or offering 50-year mortgages. ‘I hear a lot about affordable housing, just the concern that property values have gone up, that means taxes will go up, rental costs have gone up, it’s the lack of ability and affordability of housing across the board,’ he said in an interview.” [Billings Gazette, 10/16/22]

**2022: Zinke Said To Fix The Housing Crisis, He Would Cut Regulations And Backing Purchases Of Condos And Multi-Family Units With Federal Mortgage Programs.** The Billings Gazette The Billings Gazette reported, “The housing crisis is unmistakable in the Clark Fork Valley as it is for the rest of the state, and Zinke endorses cutting regulations where possible and backing purchases of condos or other multi-family units with federal mortgage programs. He also supports offering 50-year mortgages, touting the ability to bring monthly loan payments down, although critics note that overall payments would rise over the life of the loan compared to a standard 15- or 30-year mortgage. ‘It doesn’t mean people are going to live in a house for 50 years, it just means they’re able to buy and I can tell you, most Americans, how you build long-term wealth is you own a home,’ he said.” [Billings Gazette, 11/6/22]

## **HUD Appropriations**

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**DCCC: “Yesterday, Zinke Voted For The Transportation And Housing And Urban Development Appropriations Bill In Committee, Threatening The Sole Federal Program Dedicated To New Affordable Housing Construction.”** According to a press release from the DCCC, “As Montana families continue to grapple with high costs and an affordable housing crisis, Ryan Zinke wants to make it more difficult for families to get to work and afford housing. Yesterday, Zinke voted for the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill in committee, threatening the sole federal program dedicated to new affordable housing construction. His bill could also potentially force tens of thousands of evictions and totally eliminate support for the roughly 700,000 families in public housing at risk of exposure to lead-based paint.” [DCCC, Press Release, [7/11/24](#)]

- **DCCC: “His Bill Could Also Potentially Force Tens Of Thousands Of Evictions And Totally Eliminate Support For The Roughly 700,000 Families In Public Housing At Risk Of Exposure To Lead-Based Paint.”** According to a press release from the DCCC, “As Montana families continue to grapple with high costs and an affordable housing crisis, Ryan Zinke wants to make it more difficult for families to get to work and afford housing. Yesterday, Zinke voted for the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill in committee, threatening the sole federal program dedicated to new affordable housing construction. His bill could also potentially force tens of thousands of evictions and totally eliminate support for the roughly 700,000 families in public housing at risk of exposure to lead-based paint.” [DCCC, Press Release, [7/11/24](#)]

**2024: The Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Appropriations Bill Guttled The Only Federal Program Dedicated To New Affordable Rental And Homeownership Housing By 60 Percent, Cutting The HOME Program From \$1.25 Billion To \$500 Million.** According to the House Appropriations Committee Democrats, “The fiscal year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bill provides \$90.4 billion, including \$378 million for maritime defense programs at the Department of Transportation. [...] Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) — The bill provides a total of \$73.2 billion for HUD for fiscal year 2024 – \$2.3 billion below fiscal year 2024. The legislation: • Guts the sole Federal program dedicated to new affordable rental and homeownership housing construction by 60 percent, cutting the HOME program from \$1.25 billion to a mere \$500 million, despite a 12 percent increase in homelessness nationally.” [House Appropriations Committee Democrats, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

- **2024: The Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Appropriations Bill Eliminated A Program To Help Mayors And Governors Fund Expansions Of Affordable Housing And Eliminated The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, Which Helped Communities Redevelop Distressed Housing.** According to the House Appropriations Committee Democrats, “The fiscal year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bill provides \$90.4 billion, including \$378 million for maritime defense programs at the Department of Transportation. [...] Eliminates the Yes, In My Backyard program which helps mayors and governors fund locally driven solutions for land-use and expanding affordable housing and transit-oriented development, and the neighborhood and housing revitalization program, Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, which helps communities redevelop distressed housing and attract economic development.” [House Appropriations Committee Democrats, accessed [7/14/24](#)]
- **The Bill Also Cut \$600 Million In Public Funding Housing, A Seven Percent Cut, Which Democrats Claimed Would Force Tens Of Thousands Of Evictions.** According to the House Appropriations Committee Democrats, “The fiscal year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bill provides \$90.4 billion, including \$378 million for maritime defense programs at the Department of Transportation. [...] The bill also includes: • \$8.2 billion for Public Housing, a cut of nearly \$600 million, or 7 percent, below fiscal year 2024 and \$326 million below the President’s fiscal year 2025 request, forcing tens of thousands of evictions, while also eliminating targeted funding that reduces the harms imposed by lead-based paint hazards in public housing where the HUD Inspector General estimates nearly 700,000 public housing families reside in housing built before 1978 and are at risk of exposure.” [House Appropriations Committee Democrats, accessed [7/14/24](#)]
- **The Bill Also Eliminated Targeted Funding For Lead Paint Hazard Harm Reduction In Public Housing, Putting Nearly 700,000 Families At Risk.** According to the House Appropriations Committee Democrats, “The fiscal year 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bill provides \$90.4 billion, including \$378 million for maritime defense programs at the Department of Transportation. [...] The bill also includes: • \$8.2 billion for Public Housing, a cut of nearly \$600 million, or 7 percent, below fiscal year 2024 and \$326 million below the President’s fiscal year 2025 request, forcing tens of thousands of evictions, while also eliminating targeted funding that reduces the harms imposed by lead-based paint hazards in public housing where the HUD Inspector General estimates nearly 700,000 public housing families reside in housing built before 1978 and are at risk of exposure.” [House Appropriations Committee Democrats, accessed [7/14/24](#)]

## Private Housing

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**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Private Solutions To Housing Affordability, Claiming, “I’m A Big Advocate For Private Housing, But Not Government Housing, And We Can Incentivize On The Private Side. We All Got To Work Together. But Also, The County Is Growing And It’s Going To Continue To Grow.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “‘The valley is facing the same problems as the Flathead high gas prices, we drive big trucks,’ Zinke said. ‘Inflation is out of control, mostly because of spending. Affordable housing is a big issue because people would love to come here and people would love to work here, but they can’t afford it. I’m a big advocate for private housing, but not government housing, and we can incentivize on the private side. We all got to work together. But also, the county is growing and it’s going to continue to grow. The big question we have to have to ask is, how is it going to grow?’” [Ravalli Republic, 9/1/22]

## Regulatory Holiday

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**2022: Zinke Said, “The Answer To Montana’s Housing Crisis Is Not More Government Housing. The Answer Is To Get Government Out Of The Way And Reduce Costs And Timelines For Builders.”** The Montana Free Press reported, “Q4: Housing costs are an increasing concern for many Montanans. What federal action would you support to promote housing affordability in Montana? Ryan Zinke (R) The answer to Montana’s



housing crisis is not more government housing. The answer is to get government out of the way and reduce costs and timelines for builders. The federal government can take action to promote the affordable and stable supply of building materials to include implementing a series of regulatory holidays, increasing domestic production of raw materials and minerals, and ending covid-era policies and spending that are driving up inflation. We also need meaningful permitting relief; lengthy and costly permitting processes also unnecessarily tie up construction projects.” [Montana Free Press, [9/1/22](#)]

- **Zinke: “The Federal Government Can Take Action To Promote The Affordable And Stable Supply Of Building Materials To Include Implementing A Series Of Regulatory Holidays, Increasing Domestic Production Of Raw Materials And Minerals, And Ending Covid-Era Policies And Spending That Are Driving Up Inflation.”** The Montana Free Press reported, “Q4: Housing costs are an increasing concern for many Montanans. What federal action would you support to promote housing affordability in Montana? Ryan Zinke (R) The answer to Montana’s housing crisis is not more government housing. The answer is to get government out of the way and reduce costs and timelines for builders. The federal government can take action to promote the affordable and stable supply of building materials to include implementing a series of regulatory holidays, increasing domestic production of raw materials and minerals, and ending covid-era policies and spending that are driving up inflation. We also need meaningful permitting relief; lengthy and costly permitting processes also unnecessarily tie up construction projects.” [Montana Free Press, [9/1/22](#)]
- **Regulatory Holidays Were Periods During Which Private Firms Were Temporarily Exempted From Regulation To Foster Investments Under Uncertain Conditions.** According to a paper published by researchers at the University of Groningen SOM Research School, “However, in recent years stakeholders have argued that with high powered incentive regulation, firms postpone socially efficient investments in durable assets, especially in risky environments, and that a different form of regulation is necessary. For instance, in response to large investment needs, the UK electricity and gas regulator Ofgem modernized its price cap mechanism by explicitly taking into account these investment needs.<sup>2</sup> European energy directives allow specific network investments to be exempted from regulation in order to foster investments if uncertainty is large in a regime which is often called a ‘regulatory holiday’.<sup>3</sup> For the telecom sector, ETNO, the industry association representing European telecom operators, recommends relaxing access regulation, as it sees it as the main reason for European infrastructure investments lagging those in the U.S.” [University of Groningen SOM Research School, [2016](#)]
- **Regulatory Holidays Were Often Used To Finance Public Infrastructure, But Produced Monopolistic Conditions Because The Large Companies That Benefited From Regulatory Holidays Frequently Tried To Retain A Dominant Status.** According to LinkedIn, George Mouzourakis posted, “It was very interesting to learn through this article that in the course of the coalition talks between Christian Democrats and Social Democrats in Germany, a proposal from SPD was discussed, on the provision of regulatory holidays to big telcos, up to seven years it seems, if they invest in fast internet networks. And that conservative MEPs wrote to Chancellor Merkel against it. The core idea in itself is far from absurd. Historically, the vast majority of public infrastructure in many States, be it telecoms, electricity, water, you name it, has been implemented through concession agreements with special rights to one (monopoly) or more licensees. [...] The ‘special rights’ approach to development has of course one glitch: special rights prohibit effective competition, hence they are not ‘future proof’. They create a situation that has to be dealt with after the initial objective has been achieved. And, quite naturally, the ‘special rights’ holders aren’t too eager to let go their perks. [...] Can one achieve major investments in infrastructure avoiding concession of special rights to one or a handful of companies?” [LinkedIn, George Mouzourakis, [2/5/18](#)]
- **2018: After Germany Considered Exempting Large Telecom Companies From Regulation For Seven Years If They Build Faster Internet Networks, Critics Argued That Doing So Would Help Larger Companies At The Expense Of Smaller Ones.** The Euractiv reported, “Eight German conservative MEPs have written to Chancellor Angela Merkel to complain about a controversial telecoms investment plan, which crept into coalition talks this week between Christian Democrats and Social Democrats. MEPs wrote that they



are concerned about ‘the threat of a remonopolised telecommunications market in Germany’, according to the letter seen by EURACTIV.com, which is dated 31 January. Their letter took aim at a proposal from the Social Democrats (SPD) to include in a potential coalition between the parties a guarantee that big telecoms firms could face no regulation for up to seven years if they invest in building fast internet networks. The SPD plan aims to speed up Germany’s telecoms infrastructure, but critics argue that smaller competing firms will suffer if large operators are not forced to follow the same rules. EURACTIV reported on Wednesday (31 January) that the SPD had included the proposal in a negotiating document. The MEPs do not mention Deutsche Telekom by name, but criticise the relaxed rules because they would help the ‘market-dominating company’. The German government owns 32% of the telecoms giant.” [Euractiv, [2/1/18](#)]

## Immigration & Border

### Border Security

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**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Shutting Down The Southern Border And Building A Border Wall.** Hungry Horse News reported, “Zinke was formerly a Montana Congressman from 2015-2017 before becoming Secretary of Interior under the Trump Administration. ‘The campaign is going great,’ he said. ‘America is fixable.’ In a brief interview while shaking hands with folks, he said the U.S. needs to get back to energy independence and could shut down the southern border in three months to stop illegal immigration if need be. He said he would support building the southern border wall on the Mexican border and would support empowering the Border Patrol to do its job.” [Hungry Horse News, 3/16/22]

**2022 – Zinke: “On The Border, They’ve Got To Complete The Wall.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘On the border, they’ve got to complete the wall,’ Zinke said in an interview. ‘We’ve have to empower our Border Patrol, no more catch and release— process (immigrants) in Mexico. We need to empower ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and make sure they go after sanctuary cities, sex trafficking, child trafficking, drug trafficking. And it affects Montana. ... There’s drug trafficking, sex trafficking, child trafficking in almost every Montana city, and all that is coming from the southern border.’ The seizure of cartel-trafficked narcotics such as fentanyl and methamphetamine has increased in recent years, as cartels turned to industrial-scale labs to produce the synthetic drugs. The majority of drugs smuggled into the U.S. come through ports of entry, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Zinke said he believes issues at the border could be solved in a matter of weeks. ‘Let’s fix our border and then we better figure out, we don’t have any clue who’s in this country,’ Zinke said. ‘We need to vet people that are coming into this country and I’ve always been an advocate for that.’” [Billings Gazette, 5/9/22]

- **Zinke: “We’ve Have To Empower Our Border Patrol, No More Catch And Release— Process (Immigrants) In Mexico. We Need To Empower ICE (Immigration And Customs Enforcement) And Make Sure They Go After Sanctuary Cities, Sex Trafficking, Child Trafficking, Drug Trafficking.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘On the border, they’ve got to complete the wall,’ Zinke said in an interview. ‘We’ve have to empower our Border Patrol, no more catch and release— process (immigrants) in Mexico. We need to empower ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and make sure they go after sanctuary cities, sex trafficking, child trafficking, drug trafficking. And it affects Montana. ... There’s drug trafficking, sex trafficking, child trafficking in almost every Montana city, and all that is coming from the southern border.’ The seizure of cartel-trafficked narcotics such as fentanyl and methamphetamine has increased in recent years, as cartels turned to industrial-scale labs to produce the synthetic drugs. The majority of drugs smuggled into the U.S. come through ports of entry, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Zinke said he believes issues at the border could be solved in a matter of weeks. ‘Let’s fix our border and then we better figure out, we don’t have any clue who’s in this country,’ Zinke said. ‘We need to vet people that are coming into this country and I’ve always been an advocate for that.’” [Billings Gazette, 5/9/22]
- **Zinke: “There’s Drug Trafficking, Sex Trafficking, Child Trafficking In Almost Every Montana City, And All That Is Coming From The Southern Border.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘On the border, they’ve got to complete the wall,’ Zinke said in an interview. ‘We’ve have to empower our Border Patrol, no

more catch and release— process (immigrants) in Mexico. We need to empower ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and make sure they go after sanctuary cities, sex trafficking, child trafficking, drug trafficking. And it affects Montana. ... There's drug trafficking, sex trafficking, child trafficking in almost every Montana city, and all that is coming from the southern border.' The seizure of cartel-trafficked narcotics such as fentanyl and methamphetamine has increased in recent years, as cartels turned to industrial-scale labs to produce the synthetic drugs. The majority of drugs smuggled into the U.S. come through ports of entry, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Zinke said he believes issues at the border could be solved in a matter of weeks. 'Let's fix our border and then we better figure out, we don't have any clue who's in this country,' Zinke said. 'We need to vet people that are coming into this country and I've always been an advocate for that.'" [Billings Gazette, 5/9/22]

- **Zinke: “Let’s Fix Our Border And Then We Better Figure Out, We Don’t Have Any Clue Who’s In This Country... We Need To Vet People That Are Coming Into This Country And I’ve Always Been An Advocate For That.”** The Billings Gazette reported, ““On the border, they’ve got to complete the wall,’ Zinke said in an interview. ‘We’ve have to empower our Border Patrol, no more catch and release— process (immigrants) in Mexico. We need to empower ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and make sure they go after sanctuary cities, sex trafficking, child trafficking, drug trafficking. And it affects Montana. ... There’s drug trafficking, sex trafficking, child trafficking in almost every Montana city, and all that is coming from the southern border.’ The seizure of cartel-trafficked narcotics such as fentanyl and methamphetamine has increased in recent years, as cartels turned to industrial-scale labs to produce the synthetic drugs. The majority of drugs smuggled into the U.S. come through ports of entry, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Zinke said he believes issues at the border could be solved in a matter of weeks. ‘Let’s fix our border and then we better figure out, we don’t have any clue who’s in this country,’ Zinke said. ‘We need to vet people that are coming into this country and I’ve always been an advocate for that.’” [Billings Gazette, 5/9/22]

**2022: Zinke Said He Supported Finishing The Border Wall And Empowering ICE And CBP.** The Billings Gazette reported, “While Tranel and Zinke both agreed that treating addiction and addressing mental health issues was part of addressing the problem of drugs in Montana, there was a lot of daylight between the two in their answers to a question about drug trafficking. Zinke said the problem was with the southern border and that he wanted to see the wall construction started by former Republican President Donald Trump completed where it made sense, along with empowering Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol.” [Billings Gazette, 8/8/22]

**Zinke Press Release: “Today... Zinke Voted For... The Spending Reduction And Border Security Act Which Would Have Extended Government Funding Through October 31, 2023, Reduced Non-Defense, Non-Veterans Affairs Spending By 8%, And Implemented A Number Of Border Security Measures To End The Biden Administration Created Border Crisis.”** According to a press release from the Office of Ryan Zinke, “Today, Western Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 5525, the Spending Reduction and Border Security Act which would have extended government funding through October 31, 2023, reduced non-Defense, non-Veterans Affairs spending by 8%, and implemented a number of border security measures to end the Biden Administration created border crisis. This emergency funding bill would have allowed Congress additional time to pass the remaining eight spending bills from the House Floor and onto the Senate. The bill failed 198-232. Twenty-one Republicans voted with Democrats to defeat the bill. If passed, this bill would have enhanced border security by resuming construction of the border wall, reinstated Migrant Protection Protocols, ended the relocation of migrants to the Interior of the country, provided funding for additional Border Patrol agents, and fixed the widely abused U.S. asylum system.” [Office of Ryan Zinke, Press Release, 9/29/23]

- **Zinke Press Release: “This Bill Would Have Enhanced Border Security By Resuming Construction Of The Border Wall, Reinstated Migrant Protection Protocols, Ended The Relocation Of Migrants To The Interior Of The Country, Provided Funding For Additional Border Patrol Agents, And Fixed The Widely Abused U.S. Asylum System.”** According to a press release from the Office of Ryan Zinke, “Today, Western Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke voted for H.R. 5525, the Spending Reduction and Border Security

Act which would have extended government funding through October 31, 2023, reduced non-Defense, non-Veterans Affairs spending by 8%, and implemented a number of border security measures to end the Biden Administration created border crisis. This emergency funding bill would have allowed Congress additional time to pass the remaining eight spending bills from the House Floor and onto the Senate. The bill failed 198-232. Twenty-one Republicans voted with Democrats to defeat the bill. If passed, this bill would have enhanced border security by resuming construction of the border wall, reinstated Migrant Protection Protocols, ended the relocation of migrants to the Interior of the country, provided funding for additional Border Patrol agents, and fixed the widely abused U.S. asylum system.” [Office of Ryan Zinke, Press Release, 9/29/23]

- **Zinke: “When A Quarter Million Illegal Immigrants Are Coming Across Our Border Each Month And Cartels Are Trafficking Drugs And Children, Every State Becomes A Border State. Kids Are Dying In Butte Of Fentanyl Poisoning Trafficked From Mexico.”** According to a press release from the Office of Ryan Zinke, “‘The Spending Reduction and Border Security Act would have done exactly those two things and avoid a government shutdown.’ said Zinke. ‘When a quarter million illegal immigrants are coming across our border each month and cartels are trafficking drugs and children, every state becomes a border state. Kids are dying in Butte of fentanyl poisoning trafficked from Mexico. Our law enforcement officers are being poisoned when they report for emergencies. If you’re a lawmaker who claims to support spending cuts and border security, there is no reason to vote against this bill.’” [Office of Ryan Zinke, Press Release, 9/29/23]
- **Zinke: “Our Law Enforcement Officers Are Being Poisoned When They Report For Emergencies. If You’re A Lawmaker Who Claims To Support Spending Cuts And Border Security, There Is No Reason To Vote Against This Bill.”** According to a press release from the Office of Ryan Zinke, “‘The Spending Reduction and Border Security Act would have done exactly those two things and avoid a government shutdown.’ said Zinke. ‘When a quarter million illegal immigrants are coming across our border each month and cartels are trafficking drugs and children, every state becomes a border state. Kids are dying in Butte of fentanyl poisoning trafficked from Mexico. Our law enforcement officers are being poisoned when they report for emergencies. If you’re a lawmaker who claims to support spending cuts and border security, there is no reason to vote against this bill.’” [Office of Ryan Zinke, Press Release, 9/29/23]

**2024: Zinke Said, “[Montana Has] Always Been A Border State. We Haven’t Been A Southern Border State Until Today... Look At The Work Forces On The Ground... Those People Didn’t Come From Spokane.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “It was the job of the Senate to pick up H.R. 2, after it passed the House, and make amendments, not create entirely new legislation, according to Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke. ‘[Montana has] always been a border state. We haven’t been a southern border state until today,’ Zinke said this week. ‘Look at the work forces on the ground ... those people didn’t come from Spokane.’ Zinke advocated for expanding the border wall, empowering border patrol agencies and ending ‘catch and release’ policy as good proposals to implement on the border. Like Daines, though, Zinke said that Biden has the power to secure the border. ‘On the domestic side, it is the top priority. No nation can exist without borders. And to be clear the president of the United States ... has the full authority to shut down the border,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/25/24]

- **2024: Zinke Said He Supported Expanding The Border Wall, Ending “Catch And Release,” Empowering Border Patrol Agencies, And Claimed That President Biden Had “Full Authority To Shut Down The Border.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “It was the job of the Senate to pick up H.R. 2, after it passed the House, and make amendments, not create entirely new legislation, according to Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke. ‘[Montana has] always been a border state. We haven’t been a southern border state until today,’ Zinke said this week. ‘Look at the work forces on the ground ... those people didn’t come from Spokane.’ Zinke advocated for expanding the border wall, empowering border patrol agencies and ending ‘catch and release’ policy as good proposals to implement on the border. Like Daines, though, Zinke said that Biden has the power to secure the border. ‘On the domestic side, it is the top priority. No nation can exist without borders. And to be clear the president of the United States ... has the full authority to shut down the border,’ Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/25/24]



**2024: Zinke’s Campaign Spokesperson Touted His Vote For H.R. 2, The House Republican’s Border Security Bill Which Contained Provisions To Fund The Wall, Reimpose Trump’s Remain In Mexico Policy, Limit The Asylum System, And Hire More Border Agents.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “A Zinke campaign spokesperson, though, pointed to the congressman’s vote for H.R. 2, the GOP-controlled House of Representatives’ border security bill, when it passed the House in May 2023. The legislation included money to hire more border agents, funding for the border wall and place limits on asylum seekers as well as reimpose a Trump-era policy requiring migrants to remain in or be returned to Mexico. Zinke also voted for the Homeland Security appropriations bill in September and the Border Security and Spending Reduction Act, another piece of legislation designed to keep the government funded in the short-term but included border security proposals found in H.R. 2.” [Daily Inter Lake, 3/13/24]

**2024: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Arguing For The House Republican’s Border Bill, Arguing, “It Ends Catch And Release, Supports ICE To Do Their Jobs, Resumes Construction Of The Wall, Holds Mexico Accountable And Reinstates The Successful Remain In Mexico Policy.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Our world would look vastly different if the White House and the Senate picked up three bills: [...] \* H.R. 2 — The Secure the Border Act: I meet with county commissioners, sheriffs, and Tribal leadership daily. I hear over and over how the border crisis is spilling into our communities, stressing our public resources and filling our jails. One of my early votes in 2023 was for the Secure the Border Act. It ends catch and release, supports ICE to do their jobs, resumes construction of the wall, holds Mexico accountable and reinstates the successful Remain in Mexico policy. Despite the president having the constitutional authority to shut down the border on his own, H.R. 2 offers a clean cut alternative to getting our country back in order.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 5/4/24]

## **Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

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**2021: Zinke Said, “Very Few People Want Wide Open Borders, So We Can Use Dialogue... The Time Has Come For Comprehensive Immigration Reform.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “He said instead he’d like to focus on issues that bring Montanans together. ‘Very few people want wide open borders, so we can use dialogue,’ Zinke said. ‘The time has come for comprehensive immigration reform.’ Zinke said he’s proud of his time in Washington, D.C., in which he said he helped the Trump administration achieve ‘energy dominance,’ and said America must continue to look at itself for energy.” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/17/21]

## **Kalispell Migrant Family**

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**2024: After A Migrant Family Of Five Was Flown To Kalispell, Montana From New York After Being Flown To New York From Texas, Zinke Claimed They Had Been Flown To Montana By A “Dark Money” Nonprofit Working With The Biden Administration.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “A migrant family of five flew into Kalispell from New York on Wednesday and ended up on the doorstep of the Flathead County Sheriff’s Office, said Sheriff Brian Heino. The family — a husband, wife and kids — crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas and were flown to New York and then from New York to Kalispell, Heino said. [...] BY THURSDAY afternoon, the family’s arrival had become a cause celebre among Montana’s lawmakers and would-be lawmakers in an election cycle where immigration has become a key issue for politicians on both sides of the political divide. U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, who is running for reelection against Democrat Monica Tranel, issued a statement describing Valley Neighbors as a ‘dark money’ nonprofit and accusing it of working with the Biden administration to import migrants to Montana. ‘The only way an illegal immigrant from South America ends up in Montana is if a “nonprofit” connected with the Biden administration moves them there,’ said Zinke, who identified the family as hailing from Venezuela. Pressed on why Zinke referred to Valley Neighbors as a dark money nonprofit, spokesperson Colton Snedecor said the group was run by ‘known activists who work closely with NGOs that are government funded and used to carry out agendas once policies are implemented, like flying undocumented immigrants to Montana ...’” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/2/24]



- **Zinke: “The Only Way An Illegal Immigrant From South America Ends Up In Montana Is If A ‘Nonprofit’ Connected With The Biden Administration Moves Them There.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “A migrant family of five flew into Kalispell from New York on Wednesday and ended up on the doorstep of the Flathead County Sheriff’s Office, said Sheriff Brian Heino. The family — a husband, wife and kids — crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas and were flown to New York and then from New York to Kalispell, Heino said. [...] BY THURSDAY afternoon, the family’s arrival had become a cause celebre among Montana’s lawmakers and would-be lawmakers in an election cycle where immigration has become a key issue for politicians on both sides of the political divide. U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, who is running for reelection against Democrat Monica Tranel, issued a statement describing Valley Neighbors as a ‘dark money’ nonprofit and accusing it of working with the Biden administration to import migrants to Montana. ‘The only way an illegal immigrant from South America ends up in Montana is if a “nonprofit” connected with the Biden administration moves them there,’ said Zinke, who identified the family as hailing from Venezuela. Pressed on why Zinke referred to Valley Neighbors as a dark money nonprofit, spokesperson Colton Snedecor said the group was run by ‘known activists who work closely with NGOs that are government funded and used to carry out agendas once policies are implemented, like flying undocumented immigrants to Montana ...’” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/2/24]
- **Zinke’s Spokesperson Said Valley Neighbors, A Volunteer Nonprofit That Welcomed And Supported Immigrants To The Region, Was A “Dark Money” Organization Because It Was Run By “Known Activists Who Work Closely With NGOs That Are Government Funded And Used To Carry Out Agendas... Like Flying Undocumented Immigrants To Montana.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Heino said that officials were working to connect the family with services when representatives of Valley Neighbors, a volunteer nonprofit group that works to welcome and support immigrants to the region, arrived to provide assistance. [...] Pressed on why Zinke referred to Valley Neighbors as a dark money nonprofit, spokesperson Colton Snedecor said the group was run by ‘known activists who work closely with NGOs that are government funded and used to carry out agendas once policies are implemented, like flying undocumented immigrants to Montana ...’ In a past interview with the Daily Inter Lake, Valley Neighbors leaders said they had worked to aid refugees from Ukraine as well as from Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador as they navigate the asylum process in the U.S. Zinke has since sent a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas demanding an investigation into the family’s arrival in Kalispell.” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/2/24]
- **Following The Family’s Arrival In Montana, Zinke Sent A Letter To Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas Demanding An Investigation Into The Family’s Arrival.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Heino said that officials were working to connect the family with services when representatives of Valley Neighbors, a volunteer nonprofit group that works to welcome and support immigrants to the region, arrived to provide assistance. [...] Pressed on why Zinke referred to Valley Neighbors as a dark money nonprofit, spokesperson Colton Snedecor said the group was run by ‘known activists who work closely with NGOs that are government funded and used to carry out agendas once policies are implemented, like flying undocumented immigrants to Montana ...’ In a past interview with the Daily Inter Lake, Valley Neighbors leaders said they had worked to aid refugees from Ukraine as well as from Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador as they navigate the asylum process in the U.S. Zinke has since sent a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas demanding an investigation into the family’s arrival in Kalispell.” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/2/24]

**2024: The Chair Of The Board Of Valley Neighbors, Rebecca Miller, Refuted Zinke’s Claim That The Nonprofit Flew The Migrants Into Montana, Saying, “We Had Nothing To Do With Flying Them Here, But When Someone Shows Up In Need, We Try To Do Our Best... When It’s Cold And A Family Shows Up And Needs Help, We Feel That The Moral And Decent Thing To Do Is Help If We Can.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “The nonprofit, Valley Neighbors, said Zinke’s release was not accurate about the nature of its work with the family. ‘I met this family for the first time when they requested help after arriving,’ said Rebecca Miller, chair of the board of Valley Neighbors. ‘We had nothing to do with flying them here, but when someone shows up in need, we try to do our best if we can find resources to help meet that human need. When it’s cold and a family





shows up and needs help, we feel that the moral and decent thing to do is help if we can.” [Ravalli Republic, 5/6/24]

- **Miller: “We Don’t Participate In Any Kind Of Joe Biden Calling Us Up And Saying, ‘Hey, Could You Guys Fly In The Middle Of The Night A Sneaky Flight Of Immigrants To Deluge The Valley?’... It’s Not Like That. We Don’t Do That Kind Of Thing.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “The nonprofit, Valley Neighbors, said Zinke’s release was not accurate about the nature of its work with the family. ‘I met this family for the first time when they requested help after arriving,’ said Rebecca Miller, chair of the board of Valley Neighbors. ‘We had nothing to do with flying them here, but when someone shows up in need, we try to do our best if we can find resources to help meet that human need. When it’s cold and a family shows up and needs help, we feel that the moral and decent thing to do is help if we can.’ [...] ‘We don’t participate in any kind of Joe Biden calling us up and saying, “Hey, could you guys fly in the middle of the night a sneaky flight of immigrants to deluge the valley?”’” said Miller, who added that she had not spoken with Zinke or other officials who issued press releases about the migrants. ‘It’s not like that. We don’t do that kind of thing.’” [Ravalli Republic, 5/6/24]
- **Miller: “This Was A Very Ordinary Situation Of Encountering Human Beings In Need. There Was Nothing Extraordinary, Nefarious Or Particularly Noteworthy About It... I Was As Shocked As Anyone To Suddenly Have My Email Box Filling Up.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “REBECCA MILLER, vice chair of Valley Neighbors, said none of the elected officials who have criticized or denounced the group have contacted them, either before or after Zinke’s press release hit inboxes. ‘This was a very ordinary situation of encountering human beings in need. There was nothing extraordinary, nefarious or particularly noteworthy about it,’ she said. ‘I was as shocked as anyone to suddenly have my email box filling up.’ Miller was the first Valley Neighbors representative to provide the family aid upon their arrival at the Samaritan House in Kalispell. Family members called her directly, she said. While unsure of how the family got her phone number, Miller said she is known in the community as someone who can help immigrants. Service providers have her contact information as do other immigrants, she said. ‘It was cold and raining. These people had nowhere to go and I stepped up to provide some humanitarian assistance,’ Miller recalled. ‘We did our thing. It was very surprising to see the later news story.’” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/19/24]
- **Miller: “It Was Cold And Raining. These People Had Nowhere To Go And I Stepped Up To Provide Some Humanitarian Assistance... We Did Our Thing. It Was Very Surprising To See The Later News Story.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “REBECCA MILLER, vice chair of Valley Neighbors, said none of the elected officials who have criticized or denounced the group have contacted them, either before or after Zinke’s press release hit inboxes. ‘This was a very ordinary situation of encountering human beings in need. There was nothing extraordinary, nefarious or particularly noteworthy about it,’ she said. ‘I was as shocked as anyone to suddenly have my email box filling up.’ Miller was the first Valley Neighbors representative to provide the family aid upon their arrival at the Samaritan House in Kalispell. Family members called her directly, she said. While unsure of how the family got her phone number, Miller said she is known in the community as someone who can help immigrants. Service providers have her contact information as do other immigrants, she said. ‘It was cold and raining. These people had nowhere to go and I stepped up to provide some humanitarian assistance,’ Miller recalled. ‘We did our thing. It was very surprising to see the later news story.’” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/19/24]

**2024: Dee DeYoung, A Volunteer With Valley Neighbors, Said Zinke’s Claim That They Were A Dark Money Group Was A “Flat Out Lie... Intended To Manipulate Us And Our Community.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Zinke tweeted Tuesday his request to the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an investigation and deport them. A handful of speakers at the meeting in Kalispell denounced the claim the nonprofit was associated with ‘dark money.’ Dee DeYoung, a volunteer with the nonprofit, said the claim was a ‘flat out lie’ that was ‘intended to manipulate us and our community.’ ‘Let me tell you, we could use some of that money,’ she said to laughs in the room. ‘We would put it to really good use.’ The organization was also involved in helping resettle Ukrainian refugees in 2022, as was reported by the Flathead Beacon.” [Great Falls Tribune, 5/9/24]

**Mary Poole, Executive Director Of Soft Landing Missoula, Which Worked With Refugees And Immigrants: “It’s Incredibly Disheartening To See Vulnerable Families, And The Small, Community-Supported Groups That Work With Them, Be Thrown Under The Bus For Political Gain.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Mary Poole, executive director of Soft Landing Missoula, a community-based nonprofit that works with refugees and immigrant families, said Friday that the work done by aid organizations can be skewed for political purposes. Soft Landing Missoula and Valley Neighbors work closely together to serve people. ‘It’s incredibly disheartening to see vulnerable families, and the small, community-supported groups that work with them, be thrown under the bus for political gain. Our work is not about politics, but about providing a helping hand to our new neighbors,’ Poole said. ‘The inflammatory language, untruths and contradictions used in statements like these only prove to show how little they actually know about how immigration works in our country. I am saddened that our beautiful state of Montana and the wonderful people of Montana are being used as a political tool and put in the crosshairs. To be clear, these statements are not even actually about the relatively small number of immigrant families living in Montana or the communities that support them, but about purposefully using our state as a pawn in contentious state and national elections.’” [Ravalli Republic, 5/6/24]

- **Poole: The Inflammatory Language, Untruths And Contradictions Used In Statements Like These Only Prove To Show How Little They Actually Know About How Immigration Works In Our Country.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Mary Poole, executive director of Soft Landing Missoula, a community-based nonprofit that works with refugees and immigrant families, said Friday that the work done by aid organizations can be skewed for political purposes. Soft Landing Missoula and Valley Neighbors work closely together to serve people. ‘It’s incredibly disheartening to see vulnerable families, and the small, community-supported groups that work with them, be thrown under the bus for political gain. Our work is not about politics, but about providing a helping hand to our new neighbors,’ Poole said. ‘The inflammatory language, untruths and contradictions used in statements like these only prove to show how little they actually know about how immigration works in our country. I am saddened that our beautiful state of Montana and the wonderful people of Montana are being used as a political tool and put in the crosshairs. To be clear, these statements are not even actually about the relatively small number of immigrant families living in Montana or the communities that support them, but about purposefully using our state as a pawn in contentious state and national elections.’” [Ravalli Republic, 5/6/24]

**Daily Inter Lake: “Despite Raising The Specter That A Nonprofit Worked With The Biden Administration To Relocate Immigrants In The Country Illegally To Kalispell Earlier This Month, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke Has Yet To Produce Evidence For The Claim.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Despite raising the specter that a nonprofit worked with the Biden administration to relocate immigrants in the country illegally to Kalispell earlier this month, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke has yet to produce evidence for the claim. Zinke’s office first revealed that a family of immigrants had arrived in Northwest Montana in a May 2 press release that included statements from Flathead County Sheriff Brian Heino and County Commissioner Randy Brodehl. The Republican congressman described the immigrants as Venezuelan and in the United States unlawfully, and said they traveled from Texas to New York where they took a flight to the Flathead Valley, landing in the evening hours of May 1.” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/19/24]

- **Daily Inter Lake: “A Second Zinke Spokesperson Argued That The Congressman Never Accused The Nonprofit Of Doing Anything More Than Helping The Immigrants. Zinke Has No Intention Of Retracting His Statement, Said The Second Spokesperson For His Office, Who Refused To Identify Themselves, In An Email.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Pressed on where Zinke got his information from about the immigrant family, their immigration status and nationality, former Zinke spokesperson Colton Snedecor initially cited Heino and Brodehl. As for whether Valley Neighbors arranged for the family’s travel or coordinated with the Biden administration, a second Zinke spokesperson argued that the congressman never accused the nonprofit of doing anything more than helping the immigrants. Zinke has no intention of retracting his statement, said the second spokesperson for his office, who refused to identify themselves, in an email.” [Daily Inter Lake, 5/19/24]

## Northern Border

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**2024: Zinke Argued For Tighter Security On The Northern Border, Citing Higher Migrant Encounters, And Claiming, “President Biden... Refuses To End The Crisis Because It’s Being Done By Design. I Have Made It Crystal Clear To Secretary Mayorkas Twice Now That The Northern Border Cannot Be Ignored.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Concerned about a surge in immigration along the northern border, Montana lawmakers are pushing the Biden administration to tighten security. Federal agents working along the 5,525-mile border with Canada reported 189,402 encounters with migrants in fiscal year 2023, according to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. That’s up from 27,180 interactions on the northern border in fiscal year 2021. In Montana, border patrol agents encountered 8,152 migrants in fiscal year 2023, up from 866 in 2021. ‘The fact is President Biden has all the legal authority required to fix the crisis at both of our borders, yet he refuses to end the crisis because it’s being done by design. I have made it crystal clear to [Department of Homeland Security] Secretary Mayorkas twice now that the northern border cannot be ignored,’ U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, a leader of the effort to spur action by the Biden administration and the co-chair of the Northern Border Security Caucus, said in a statement last week.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/10/24]

- **Zinke: “The Biden Administration Systematically Broke Down Border Security In The South, Flooded Criminals And Drugs That Infiltrated Our Country, And Now Those Cartels Are Looking To The Wide-Open North As An Easy Way In.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke echoed that assessment, adding that malignant actors were also looking to the northern border. ‘The Biden administration systematically broke down border security in the south, flooded criminals and drugs that infiltrated our country, and now those cartels are looking to the wide-open north as an easy way in,’ Zinke said. Numbers of encounters on the northern border may have increased, but officials working the border say they are not being overwhelmed.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/10/24]
- **A Spokesperson For Customs And Border Patrol Said, “Montana Has Not Experienced A Significant Increase In Apprehensions” And That Reported Numbers On The Northern Border Were Negligible When Put Into Broader Context.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “A spokesperson for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol told the Daily Inter Lake that ‘Montana has not experienced a significant increase in apprehensions. There was a slight spike in October 2023, but those numbers have leveled off and are consistent with prior months.’ The reported numbers on the northern border, according to Customs and Border Patrol, are negligible when put into broader context, particularly when compared to the southern border.” [Daily Inter Lake, 4/10/24]

**Zinke: “When You Think About How Big Montana Is, (The Distance) From Washington, D.C., To Chicago, Plus 45 Miles. The Number Of (CBP) Offices Along That Border Are Very Few And Far Between... I Think We Can Do A Lot On The Northern Border, Too.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “In the heat of what may be this election year’s most contentious debate, Zinke said he believes there is room for discussion about the southern border, and the often-neglected boundary to the north. ‘When you think about how big Montana is, (the distance) from Washington, D.C., to Chicago, plus 45 miles. The number of (CBP) offices along that border are very few and far between,’ Zinke said. ‘I think we can do more on the southern border, a lot more to provide assistance, and I think we can do a lot on the northern border, too.’” [Ravalli Republic, 5/31/24]

## Refugees

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**September 2016: Asked During A Debate If An Accelerated Screening Process For Syrian Refugees Increased Security Threats, Zinke Referenced His Co-Sponsored Amendment To Prevent Funding For Executive Actions To Grant Amnesty To Undocumented Immigrants.** The Montana Standard reported, “U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties’ presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] In a similar question to what the candidates fielded Monday night, a moderator asked if



the candidates felt an accelerated screening process for Syrian refugees left America open to security threats. ‘We need to put American safety first and foremost, but we need to remember we have a moral center as Americans,’ Juneau said, using the question to criticize an amendment Zinke sponsored in 2015 to defund the Department of Homeland Security. Zinke referenced an amendment he co-sponsored that would have prevented money from being used to carry out any executive actions that would have granted amnesty to immigrants in the country illegally. He also said women and children can be a threat and carry out terrorist attacks and that the country needs a better vetting process. Another question asked the candidates to expand on comments from the Monday debate about how best to reform the Land Water Conservation Fund.” [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

## Senate Bipartisan Deal

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**2024: Zinke Said The Senate Immigration Deal Should Have Fewer Incentives For Immigrants And Instead Construct More Fencing At The Southern Border.** The Billings Gazette reported, “In recent weeks, Congress failed to muster an impeachment vote of Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas or engineer legislation focused at the southern border that the GOP can support as a caucus. Over the last year, two major malfunctions in elevating a Republican to the Speaker of the House have further illustrated the chaos Zinke spoke about Friday. Zinke said at the state GOP event the House will take another swing at the Mayorkas impeachment vote, and that the border bill proposed in the Senate should deal in fewer incentives for immigrants and instead construct more fencing at the southern border.” [Billings Gazette, 2/12/24]

## Texas

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**2024: Zinke Supported Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s Decision To Block Federal Border Patrol Agents Access To Part Of The Southern Border And Police The Border With State Resources, Arguing That Montana Or Any Other State Could Follow Texas’s Lead.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Abbott has effectively blocked U.S. Border Patrol from an area of the border in Eagle Pass since mid-January. Citing Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Abbott declared that the illegal crossings constituted an invasion and has argued that the state has the right to defend itself. [...] Abbott also has the support of Montana Republican U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke. Like Gianforte, Zinke argued that Texas can take matters into its own hands. ‘I stand with Texas,’ Zinke said on Tuesday. ‘... If the federal government is negligent in their duties, I think the great state of Texas has an obligation to protect their citizens.’ The situation at the southern border is a ‘lawless, humanitarian crisis,’ according to Zinke. Its effects are consistently seen in Montana, he said, through illegal drug trafficking, crime and more. Montana, or any state for that matter, could follow Texas’ lead, Zinke said.” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/8/24]

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## LGBT

## Federal Funding

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**July 2023: Zinke Voted To Deny Federal Funding To Three LGBTQ Organizations That Were Requested As Earmarks By Democratic Representatives Brendan Boyle And Chrissy Houlahan.** The Philadelphia Daily News reported, “A group of U.S. House Republicans voted Tuesday to deny federal funding to three LGBTQ organizations, including two in the Philadelphia region; a move that Democrats are blasting as openly discriminatory. The House Appropriations Committee voted along party lines 32-26 to deny Community Project funding applications from Reps. Brendan Boyle (D., Philadelphia ) and Chrissy Houlahan (D., Berks). Boyle’s application - known colloquially as an earmark project - would have given \$1.8 million to Philadelphia’s William Way Community Center for facility expansion and to providing meals, job training, and other services to low income seniors, many of whom identify as LGBTQ. Houlahan’s application was for \$970,000 for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading to expand transitional housing to individuals, including members of the LGBTQ population. Both of the organizations had received similar funding in the past. ‘Out of literally thousands of projects, the only three they went after were the three with LGBT or LGBTQ in the organization’s name,’ Boyle said in an interview. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke of Montana spoke out against the Reading organization and mispronounced the city’s name, noting that the group provides counseling services for people undergoing hormone treatment and gender affirming surgery. Houlahan’s application shows that the money would go toward transitional housing. Zinke also read from a schedule of events provided by the William Way LGBT community center, which included a banned book giveaway, a rally against the group Moms for Liberty, and an appearance by ‘Mr. Philly drag king himself.’ ‘An appropriation also should be appropriate,’ Zinke said in committee. ‘It has nothing to do with discrimination over a class of citizens, or people, or race. It has to do with an ideology.’” [Philadelphia Daily News, 7/20/23]

- **Boyle: “Out Of Literally Thousands Of Projects, The Only Three They Went After Were The Three With LGBT Or LGBTQ In The Organization’s Name.”** The Philadelphia Daily News reported, “A group of U.S. House Republicans voted Tuesday to deny federal funding to three LGBTQ organizations, including two in the Philadelphia region; a move that Democrats are blasting as openly discriminatory. The House Appropriations Committee voted along party lines 32-26 to deny Community Project funding applications from Reps. Brendan Boyle (D., Philadelphia ) and Chrissy Houlahan (D., Berks). Boyle’s application - known colloquially as an earmark project - would have given \$1.8 million to Philadelphia’s William Way Community Center for facility expansion and to providing meals, job training, and other services to low income seniors, many of whom identify as LGBTQ. Houlahan’s application was for \$970,000 for the LGBT Center of Greater Reading to expand transitional housing to individuals, including members of the LGBTQ population. Both of the organizations had received similar funding in the past. ‘Out of literally thousands of projects, the only three they went after were the three with LGBT or LGBTQ in the organization’s name,’ Boyle said in an interview.” [Philadelphia Daily News, 7/20/23]
- **Zinke Opposed Federal Funding For The LGBT Center Of Greater Reading On The Basis That The Organization Provided Counseling For People Receiving Gender Affirming Medical Care, Despite The Fact That The Funding Application Only Requested Money For Transitional Housing Projects.** The Philadelphia Daily News reported, “A group of U.S. House Republicans voted Tuesday to deny federal funding to three LGBTQ organizations, including two in the Philadelphia region; a move that Democrats are blasting as openly discriminatory. The House Appropriations Committee voted along party lines 32-26 to deny Community Project funding applications from Reps. Brendan Boyle (D., Philadelphia ) and Chrissy Houlahan (D., Berks). [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke of Montana spoke out against the Reading organization and mispronounced the city’s name, noting that the group provides counseling services for people undergoing hormone treatment and gender affirming surgery. Houlahan’s application shows that the money would go toward transitional housing. Zinke also read from a schedule of events provided by the William Way LGBT community center, which included a banned book giveaway, a rally against the group Moms for Liberty, and an appearance by ‘Mr. Philly drag king himself.’ ‘An appropriation also should be appropriate,’ Zinke said in committee. ‘It has nothing to do with discrimination over a class of citizens, or people, or race. It has to do with an ideology.’” [Philadelphia Daily News, 7/20/23]
- **Zinke: “An Appropriation Should Be Appropriate... It Has Nothing To Do With Discrimination Over A Class Of Citizens, Or People, Or Race. It Has To Do With An Ideology.”** The Philadelphia Daily News



reported, “A group of U.S. House Republicans voted Tuesday to deny federal funding to three LGBTQ organizations, including two in the Philadelphia region; a move that Democrats are blasting as openly discriminatory. [...] Rep. Ryan Zinke of Montana spoke out against the Reading organization and mispronounced the city’s name, noting that the group provides counseling services for people undergoing hormone treatment and gender affirming surgery. Houlahan’s application shows that the money would go toward transitional housing. Zinke also read from a schedule of events provided by the William Way LGBT community center, which included a banned book giveaway, a rally against the group Moms for Liberty, and an appearance by ‘Mr. Philly drag king himself.’ ‘An appropriation also should be appropriate,’ Zinke said in committee. ‘It has nothing to do with discrimination over a class of citizens, or people, or race. It has to do with an ideology.’” [Philadelphia Daily News, 7/20/23]

## Gender Transition In Military

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**2023: Zinke Said He Opposed Gender-Affirming Care For Members Of The Military.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke lands on the same square as several Freedom Caucus member on things like defense spending. He opposes providing gender-affirming care for members of the military. He said he needs to see a plan for ending the Russian war against Ukraine before supporting more funding for Ukraine. He disagreed with the decision to provide cluster bombs to Ukraine earlier this year as other ordinance ran out.” [Billings Gazette, 9/12/23]

## Homophobia

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**October 2016: Asked About Fighting For LGBT Rights During A Debate, Zinke Said, “It’s Not My Right To Dictate How You Think Or What You Do. And So I Do Support You. If You Want To Be A Lesbian, If You Want To Be Muslim, It Doesn’t Matter.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “In a wide-ranging debate at Great Falls College MSU, incumbent GOP Rep. Ryan Zinke squared off against Democrat Denise Juneau. And the two party candidates had their first tussle with Libertarian Rick Breckenridge, who turned out to be a lively addition to the event. Breckenridge, a surveyor, has replaced fellow Libertarian Mike Fellows, who died in a car crash in September. The event was sponsored by the Great Falls Tribune and Montana Farmers Union. More than 300 people attended and Great Falls College MSU opened an overflow room to handle the crowd, many of whom carried Zinke or Juneau signs and applauded heartily throughout. The evening brought some groans from the audience when Zinke, in answering a question about fighting for rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community included the words ‘if you want’ to be lesbian in his answer. It was the third debate for Zinke, a former U.S. Navy SEAL and state senator, and Juneau, the state superintendent of public instruction. They have butted heads on selling public land, the Second Amendment right to bear arms and coal.” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/6/16]

## Trans Women

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**2022: Zinke Said The United States Was “Failing Culturally” Because “When Boys Play Girls Sports... The Culture Of Our Values Is In Peril.”** The Ravalli Republic reported, “Former Interior Secretary and U.S. House candidate Ryan Zinke described the U.S. as a ‘failed nation’ during a speech to Bitterroot Valley Republicans gathered at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton on Wednesday. ‘What’s more important, likely, is we’re failing culturally,’ Zinke said. ‘I can fix energy in a matter of months. But culture, when boys play girls sports, when we have puberty-blocking in junior high, when CRT is openly promoted, when our founding fathers are racist ... the culture of our values is in peril.’” [Ravalli Republic, 10/21/22]

**2022: Zinke Said “And The Cultural Aspect We Have To Defend, Boys Cannot Play Girls Sports... We Shouldn’t Have Puberty Blocking Therapy Advocacy In Junior High.”** The Belgrade News reported, “Zinke, who spoke last, said that he had been through many battles. Generals don’t win battles, but the frontline does, he said, equating voters to the frontline that decides who is elected to public office. He said the country is failing on the international front and domestically, and gave examples like inflation, energy, the southern border, fentanyl, sex



trafficking and schools. The country is failing culturally, too, he said. ‘And the cultural aspect we have to defend, boys cannot play girls sports,’ Zinke said. ‘We shouldn’t have puberty blocking therapy advocacy in junior high. Our founding fathers were not racist.’” [Belgrade News, 11/3/22]

**2024 Zinke Op-Ed: “There’s A Lot Of Wasteful Government Spending By The Biden Administration And Senate Democrats. Bike Paths, Interpretive Dance Centers, Universities With Billion-Dollar Endowments, Studies About Rats On Psychedelic Mushrooms, Drag Shows, Sex Change Operations, And Diversity Indoctrination Have No Right To Federal Funding.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “There’s a lot of wasteful government spending by the Biden administration and Senate Democrats. Bike paths, interpretive dance centers, universities with billion-dollar endowments, studies about rats on psychedelic mushrooms, drag shows, sex change operations, and diversity indoctrination have no right to federal funding. In fact, I voted to strip all that garbage from the appropriations bills last year. Where the federal government does have a role is roads and bridges and that funding should not be based on whether it’s a deep blue east coast city. Infrastructure needs to be properly funded. And in this case, it’s not prioritizing Baltimore over Bigfork.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/11/24]

- **Zinke: “In Fact, I Voted To Strip All That Garbage From The Appropriations Bills Last Year.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “There’s a lot of wasteful government spending by the Biden administration and Senate Democrats. Bike paths, interpretive dance centers, universities with billion-dollar endowments, studies about rats on psychedelic mushrooms, drag shows, sex change operations, and diversity indoctrination have no right to federal funding. In fact, I voted to strip all that garbage from the appropriations bills last year. Where the federal government does have a role is roads and bridges and that funding should not be based on whether it’s a deep blue east coast city. Infrastructure needs to be properly funded. And in this case, it’s not prioritizing Baltimore over Bigfork.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/11/24]

## Labor

### Minimum Wage

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**2022: Zinke Criticized His Democratic Opponent In An Op-Ed For Supporting Higher Minimum Wages, Claiming That The “Push To Raise The Minimum Wage Without Addressing Inflation Will Result In The Predicable Outcome Of Higher Cost Of Living And Wages Being Caught In An Endless Race That Will Never Catch Up.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “Monica Tranel has already pledged support for the Green New Deal and Build Back Better. She’s pushing Medicare for all and ending fossil fuels. Her ‘inflation plan’ doesn’t address the causes of inflation — energy and government spending — it calls for more taxes, more spending, and shutting down American oil and gas. Not to mention raising the federal minimum wage and expensive mandates on small businesses already operating on tight margins. Tranel’s push to raise the minimum wage without addressing inflation will result in the predicable outcome of higher cost of living and wages being caught in an endless race that will never catch up. The simple answer is to lower energy costs and cut spending so a 5% increase in wages means something.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 8/10/22]

### SNAP

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**2023: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Criticized Him For Voting To Reduce Benefits From The SNAP Program.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Tranel also believes Zinke’s record makes him vulnerable. She accused him of voting against health care for veterans and reducing benefits from the SNAP program, while taking donations from big corporations and embracing the radical right wing of the Republican Party. ‘We don’t need that extremism,’ she said. ‘That’s not who Montana is.’” [Daily Inter Lake, 7/14/23]

### Unemployment

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**2023: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Arguing That “The Massive Welfare State Created Under COVID” Was Causing A Labor Shortage, Arguing, “Not A Day Goes By In Montana That You Don’t See A Restaurant Or Shop With A Sign That Says ‘Closed Today Due To Staff Shortage’, Or Have To Wait Four Months For A Vehicle Repair.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “But now, well past COVID, our workforce has shrank to levels not seen since the 1970s, far lower than during the Great Recession of 2008-2009. A third of men are out of the work force — the lowest in recorded history — thanks in-part to the massive welfare state created under COVID. [...] Not a day goes by in Montana that you don’t see a restaurant or shop with a sign that says ‘closed today due to staff shortage’, or have to wait four months for a vehicle repair. That isn’t the sign of a strong economy. It’s the sign of a struggling workforce. Requiring able-bodied adults who do not have children to work 20 hours a week if they receive unemployment and welfare benefits is prudent and hits at our core American value of pulling oneself up by one’s bootstraps. Plus, it saves taxpayer dollars and grows the economy. According to the Wall Street Journal, ‘work requirement for childless adults ages 18 to 64 could save the federal fisc nearly \$170 billion over 10 years.’” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/26/23]

- **Zinke: “Requiring Able-Bodied Adults Who Do Not Have Children To Work 20 Hours A Week If They Receive Unemployment And Welfare Benefits Is Prudent And Hits At Our Core American Value Of Pulling Oneself Up By One’s Bootstraps.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “But now, well past COVID, our workforce has shrank to levels not seen since the 1970s, far lower than during the Great Recession of 2008-2009. A third of men are out of the work force — the lowest in recorded history — thanks in-part to the massive welfare state created under COVID. [...] Not a day goes by in Montana that you don’t see a restaurant or shop with a sign that says ‘closed today due to staff shortage’, or have to wait four months for a vehicle repair. That isn’t the sign of a strong economy. It’s the sign of a struggling workforce. Requiring able-bodied adults who do not have children to work 20 hours a week if they receive unemployment and welfare benefits is prudent and hits at our core American value of pulling oneself up by one’s bootstraps. Plus, it saves taxpayer dollars and grows the economy. According to the Wall Street Journal, ‘work requirement for childless adults ages 18 to 64 could save the federal fisc nearly \$170 billion over 10 years.’” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/26/23]
- **Zinke: “Under [Biden’s] Policies People Are Being Incentivized To Drop Out Of The Workforce And To Stay At Home And Not Contribute To Our Community And Economy. [...] That Has To End. COVID Is Over.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “You’ll see the President taking victory laps touting low unemployment. It’s low because under his policies people are being incentivized to drop out of the workforce and to stay at home and not contribute to our community and economy. [...] That has to end. COVID is over. Our nation is tens of trillions in debt, facing crippling inflation, a broken supply chain and labor shortage, insolvent senior benefits, and about to run headfirst into a financial crisis. House Republicans have put forth a plan to make America work again, reduce the deficit, and put our nation on a healthy fiscal path. It’s called the Limit, Save, Grow Act. [...] The work requirement, originally known as the America Works Act which I co-sponsored, falls under the ‘grow’ area of the bill by requiring those who can work to contribute to the economy and pay into the programs seniors rely on. Work requirements aren’t new — they were implemented in 1996 and helped pull people up and out of poverty and give them the experience needed to build a career. It encourages independence through employment and makes able-bodied Americans a part of our economy. Expanding the workforce also has the added benefit of improving the supply chain and strengthening Social Security and Medicare by feeding into these programs.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/26/23]
- **Zinke: “The Work Requirement, Originally Known As The America Works Act Which I Co-Sponsored, Falls Under The ‘Grow’ Area Of The Bill By Requiring Those Who Can Work To Contribute To The Economy And Pay Into The Programs Seniors Rely On.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “You’ll see the President taking victory laps touting low unemployment. It’s low because under his policies people are being incentivized to drop out of the workforce and to stay at home and not contribute to our community and economy. [...] That has to end. COVID is over. Our nation is tens of trillions in debt, facing crippling inflation, a broken supply chain and labor shortage, insolvent senior benefits, and

about to run headfirst into a financial crisis. House Republicans have put forth a plan to make America work again, reduce the deficit, and put our nation on a healthy fiscal path. It's called the Limit, Save, Grow Act. [...] The work requirement, originally known as the America Works Act which I co-sponsored, falls under the 'grow' area of the bill by requiring those who can work to contribute to the economy and pay into the programs seniors rely on. Work requirements aren't new — they were implemented in 1996 and helped pull people up and out of poverty and give them the experience needed to build a career. It encourages independence through employment and makes able-bodied Americans a part of our economy. Expanding the workforce also has the added benefit of improving the supply chain and strengthening Social Security and Medicare by feeding into these programs." [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/26/23]

## National Security & Terrorism

### FISA

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**March 2024: Zinke's Primary Opponent, Mary Todd, Criticized Him For Voting For Reauthorizing The Portion Of The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Which Gave The Government The Authority To Review Information Of Americans Without A Warrant.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "Incumbent U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke will face a familiar opponent in the Republican primary for Montana's western congressional district: retired pastor Mary Todd. Todd, a Kalispell Republican who challenged Zinke in the 2022 race for Montana House District 1, is again running for the seat, citing disappointment with Zinke's track record in congress. 'I supported Ryan Zinke after the last primary. We gave him a lot of money,' Todd said last week. 'I just hoped and prayed he would be an effective congressman and do the right thing but several of the things he has done I don't agree with.' [...] Todd cited Zinke's recent vote on a continuing resolution to avert a government shutdown as one such example. She criticized him for funding the government ahead of securing the border. Todd also took issue with Zinke's vote on the National Defense Authorization Act, which included a short-term extension of the portion of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that gives the government the authority to review without a warrant the information of Americans swept up in investigations." [Daily Inter Lake, 3/13/24]

**April 2024: Zinke Voted Against Reauthorizing Section 702 Of The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Though The Two-Year Reauthorization Passed The House.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "Opponents of Congress' reauthorization of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act last week include Montana Reps. Ryan Zinke and Matt Rosendale. The provision, enacted by Congress in 2008, allows the government to indirectly collect intelligence on U.S. citizens without a warrant while surveilling foreign actors overseas. Zinke and Rosendale were among 147 representatives to vote against reauthorization on April 12, though the measure ultimately passed with 273 supporters in the House. The House's legislation would extend reauthorization for two years." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/19/24]

- **Zinke: "Where I Stand ... Is I Have Never Had A Problem Collecting Data, But When That Data Rests On A U.S. Citizen ... At That Point In Time It's A Constitutional Matter On The Fourth Amendment And I Believe You Need A Warrant."** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "'Where I stand ... is I have never had a problem collecting data, but when that data rests on a U.S. citizen ... at that point in time it's a constitutional matter on the Fourth Amendment and I believe you need a warrant,' Zinke told the Inter Lake. A group of Republicans proposed an amendment that would require warrants to be issued prior to analyzing data belonging to an American citizen, but it failed on a split vote. Zinke and Rosendale's opposition against Section 702 is reflected in the views of Montana's senators. Though the House has moved ahead with reauthorization, the Senate has a Friday deadline to follow suit or the authorization will lapse." [Daily Inter Lake, 4/19/24]

### Guantanamo Bay

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**July 2016: Zinke Told The Crowd At The 2016 Republican National Convention That He Was "Personally Acquainted" With "Many Of Those Individuals" At Guantanamo Bay.** The Whitefish Pilot reported,



“Montana’s Rep. Ryan Zinke brought the first night of the Republican National Convention to a close late Monday night in Cleveland, using the stage to blast Democrats on national security and military leadership. Zinke—a former Navy SEAL commander and Whitefish resident—was part of the Convention’s tribute to military. The night emphasized Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump’s campaign pledge to ‘Make America Safe Again.’ Zinke touched on the Guantanamo Bay detention camp and talked about the need for better leadership in national security. The congressman spoke to a largely empty arena as the program ran late and most of the crowd left after Melania Trump’s speech. ‘Did you ever hear of a place called Gitmo?’ he asked the small crowd gathered in front of the stage. ‘Let’s just say I’m personally acquainted with many of those individuals experiencing those accommodations. And let me tell you, they need to stay there forever.’” [Whitefish Pilot, 7/19/16]

- **July 2016 – Zinke: “Did You Ever Hear Of A Place Called Gitmo? Let’s Just Say I’m Personally Acquainted With Many Of Those Individuals Experiencing Those Accommodations. And Let Me Tell You, They Need To Stay There Forever.”** The Whitefish Pilot reported, “Montana’s Rep. Ryan Zinke brought the first night of the Republican National Convention to a close late Monday night in Cleveland, using the stage to blast Democrats on national security and military leadership. Zinke—a former Navy SEAL commander and Whitefish resident—was part of the Convention’s tribute to military. The night emphasized Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump’s campaign pledge to ‘Make America Safe Again.’ Zinke touched on the Guantanamo Bay detention camp and talked about the need for better leadership in national security. The congressman spoke to a largely empty arena as the program ran late and most of the crowd left after Melania Trump’s speech. ‘Did you ever hear of a place called Gitmo?’ he asked the small crowd gathered in front of the stage. ‘Let’s just say I’m personally acquainted with many of those individuals experiencing those accommodations. And let me tell you, they need to stay there forever.’” [Whitefish Pilot, 7/19/16]

## Native American Issues

### Blackfeet

**2022: Zinke Said He Was Glad The Blackfeet Reservation Was In Montana’s Western Congressional District And That “I’ve Spent A Little Time With The Blackfeet Recently And I Can Tell You The Blackfeet Need Some Resources And Need Some Help.”** The Independent Record reported, “The new western district stands out in terms of diversity, he says, with timber, wilderness areas, brucellosis and cities ranging from Kalispell to Butte. Zinke was happy to see the Blackfeet Reservation included in the west. ‘If they were in the east, I think the plight of the Blackfeet would be blended in with some of the other tribes,’ he said. ‘I’ve spent a little time with the Blackfeet recently and I can tell you the Blackfeet need some resources and need some help.’” [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

**2017: Zinke Recommended A National Monument At The Badger-Two Medicine, An Area Of Cultural Significance To The Blackfeet That Had Been Threatened.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke in 2017 recommended a national monument at the Badger-Two Medicine, an area of cultural significance to the Blackfeet that has long been under threat. Yawakie-Peltier said he thinks that move may have helped Zinke gain support in the Blackfeet community. ‘There was a lack of education,’ Yawakie-Peltier said. ‘People saw he tried to make the Badger-Two Medicine a national monument, but what they didn’t understand is that while he did that, he was lifting protections on the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. That education needed to happen, and it didn’t.’” [Billings Gazette, 11/14/22]

**Zinke: “Blackfeet Are Warriors... And I Respect The Warrior Culture, And I Worked Hard On The Water Compact.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke said he thinks he gained support in Glacier County ‘because I have enormous respect for the Blackfeet Nation.’ ‘Blackfeet are warriors,’ he said. ‘And I respect the warrior culture, and I worked hard on the water compact.’ The Blackfeet Water Compact was signed into law in 2016 after more than 30 years of negotiations. It resolves all claims to water rights on the reservation, constructs and restores water infrastructure and ensures access to reliable and clean water for the communities within the reservation.” [Billings Gazette, 11/14/22]



- **The Blackfeet Water Compact Was Signed Into Law In 2016 After 30 Years Of Negotiations And Resolved Outstanding Water Rights Claims On The Reservation And Provided For Clean Water Infrastructure.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Zinke said he thinks he gained support in Glacier County ‘because I have enormous respect for the Blackfeet Nation.’ ‘Blackfeet are warriors,’ he said. ‘And I respect the warrior culture, and I worked hard on the water compact.’ The Blackfeet Water Compact was signed into law in 2016 after more than 30 years of negotiations. It resolves all claims to water rights on the reservation, constructs and restores water infrastructure and ensures access to reliable and clean water for the communities within the reservation.” [Billings Gazette, 11/14/22]

## Dam Removal

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**2023: Zinke Blasted A Proposal By The Biden Administration To Remove Four Dams Along The Lower Snake River To Restore Salmon Fisheries As Part Of A Settlement To Address Tribal Treaty Rights.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Montana’s U.S. representatives railed against a proposed federal settlement with Pacific Northwest tribes that could lead to the removal of four dams along the Lower Snake River. U.S. Reps Ryan Zinke and Matt Rosendale joined fellow Republicans on the House Water, Wildlife and Fisheries to blast the settlement intended to address tribal treaty rights to a viable salmon fishery. The hearing titled ‘Left in the Dark: Examining the Biden Administration’s Efforts to Eliminate the Pacific Northwest’s Clean Energy Production,’ occurred just days before a court deadline requiring parties in the lawsuit, brought by tribes, to produce a settlement proposal. Pacific Northwest lawmakers opposed to the plan caused a stir earlier this month by publishing a portion of a Lower Snake River settlement proposed by President Joe Biden’s administration. The proposal called for removal of the dams to restore salmon fisheries, though not without congressional approval and not before new irrigation and sources of electricity generation were created.” [Billings Gazette, 12/13/23]

- **Zinke Argued That People Affected By The Dam Removal Were Left Out Of The Decision-Making Process, Saying, “The Congress Of The United States Is Not A Participant, That We Have Energy, We Have Transportation, We Have Recreation. None Of These Bodies Were In Participation. Does It Bother You?”** The Billings Gazette reported, “The dams produce hydropower available to the region’s electric cooperatives, including Western Montana co-ops stretching from Libby to West Yellowstone, which are entitled to energy from Bonneville Power Administration. More than 100,000 Montanans will be affected by an eventual settlement between the federal government and tribes. Zinke, Montana’s Western District representative, said too many people affected by the dam removal were left out of the settlement. A Trout Unlimited witness at the hearing explained the group’s non-involvement resulted from it not being a party in the lawsuit. [...] ‘Isn’t that troubling? The Congress of the United States is not a participant, that we have energy, we have transportation, we have recreation. None of these bodies were in participation. Does it bother you?’ Zinke said. ‘Because you’re an expert? I would figure you know. As a (Navy) SEAL, I can tell you I was never the best jumper, diver, explosive expert, but I always knew who was. In the art of leadership is you find the best people. I would have said on this issue, I can’t think of anyone more competent and knowing the ground, the history, the goals, and the consequences than you. So do you find it strange that Trout Unlimited was not at the table?’” [Billings Gazette, 12/13/23]
- **The Tribes Involved In The Settlement Had A Treaty Right To Harvest Salmon From The Columbia River Basin, But The Salmon Population Had Significantly Declined Over Time, Resulting In The Lawsuit And Settlement.** The Billings Gazette reported, “Each tribe involved in the Pacific Northwest settlement has a treaty right to harvest salmon from the Columbia River basin as a means of preserving their way of life. The parties have until Friday, Dec. 15 to submit an agreement to a federal judge. The settlement documents released earlier this month state that salmon are dwindling to extinction and that Lower Snake River Dams are contributing to the decline. ‘Historically, 16 different stocks of salmon and steelhead spawned above Bonneville Dam, as well as broadly distributed populations of bull trout, lamprey, sturgeon, and other aquatic species. Of the 16 historic salmon and steelhead stocks, four are now extinct, and seven are listed under the

federal Endangered Species Act,' according to a Biden administration document leaked Wednesday." [Billings Gazette, 12/13/23]

## **National Bison Range**

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**2020: Zinke Said He Opposed Transferring Ownership Of The National Bison Range To The Tribes But Did Support A Bill Proposed By Montana Senators Steve Daines And Jon Tester To Ratify A Water Compact With The Salish And Kootenai Tribes.** The Billings Gazette reported, "After fielding a question about the National Bison Range at a state Republican Party event in Helena on Friday, former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke later in the day said he supports the federal bill from Montana U.S. Sens. Steve Daines and Jon Tester to ratify a water compact with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Zinke, a Republican, was asked at the MT GOP Winter Kickoff event if he supported the transfer of the ownership of the the bison range, a national wildlife refuge within the Flathead Indian Reservation, to the tribes. He said he did not support transfer and spoke about his history on the issue. Later when asked by a reporter if he supported the bill from Daines, a Republican, and Tester, a Democrat, he said he hadn't seen it yet and couldn't speak to its specifics. Later Friday evening, Zinke, who was Montana's lone representative in the U.S. House for two years, praised the act and called the act 'the right move.'" [Billings Gazette, 1/31/20]

- **Daines And Tester's Bill Called For The Bison Range To Be Held By The Federal Government In Trust For The Tribes And To Transfer Management Of Its Operations To The Tribes.** The Billings Gazette reported, "The Montana Water Rights Protection Act calls for the range to be held by the federal government in trust for the tribes and to transfer management and control of its operations to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The issue is a tense one for Republicans, with those who support it saying it avoids costly and risky litigation of water rights while those who oppose it arguing it's unfair for irrigators and those who live in the Flathead. 'This is my position: I think that Daines' bill is a good starting point and what it really did was it prevented a judge from making a decision that is better to be negotiated between Interior, the tribes and land owners. But to have a judge make the decision because time was running out, Montana has a long history of judges making what I would say are radical decisions,' Zinke said Friday night." [Billings Gazette, 1/31/20]
- **During The Trump Administration, Zinke Reversed An Obama Era Proposal To Transfer Ownership And Management Of The Land To The Tribes, Arguing That He Supported Tribal Management But Not Ownership.** The Billings Gazette reported, "The Obama Administration in 2016 had proposed transferring management of the range to the tribes. After Zinke became head of Interior on an appointment by Republican President Donald Trump in 2017, he reversed that course. When he made that decision, Zinke said at the time: 'As secretary, my job is to look 100 years forward at all of Interior's resources. I recognize the Bison Range is a critical part of our past, present and future, which is why I have changed course.' But while Zinke emphasized Friday he didn't want the land to change ownership, which doesn't happen under the Act, he said he supported the tribes managing the bison and believes they will do that job well. 'I have never had a problem with the Salish-Kootenai managing the buffalo. I think they're great at managing,' Zinke said. 'The transfer of title is a different discussion.'" [Billings Gazette, 1/31/20]

**2022: After Zinke's Surprisingly Close Primary Election, Political Science Professor Jessi Bennion Attributed The Close Result To Zinke's Support For The Confederated Salish And Kootenai Water Compact, Noting That "A Lot Of People Are Very Angry About How That Went Down."** The Independent Record reported, "'It's shocking the difference, just how well that (Tranel) did,' said Dr. Jessi Bennion, a political science professor in Montana. 'Money does matter a lot, but it's not everything.' That includes attacks made by Olszewski about Zinke's time spent out of the state and Zinke's wife claiming a California property as her primary residence. While that's something Democrats threw at Zinke during his previous runs for U.S. House, they didn't have nearly the same reverberations as when levied by Olszewski this cycle. That's because primary voters are of a different ilk, Bennion said. Generally they're much more informed than the general election crowd, and when they cast a ballot it's not about picking a partisan team so much as choosing the best player to take the lead. Voters, especially up in the Flathead, might have also appreciated Olszewski's aggressive opposition the Confederated



Salish and Kootenai Water Compact, Bennion said. It's still a hot-button issue in that part of the state and something Zinke supported. 'A lot of people are very angry about how that went down,' Bennion said." [Independent Record, 6/12/22]

## **Native Public Lands**

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**August 2017: DNC Chairman Tom Perez Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For Calling For An "Off-Ramp" To Take Native Lands Out Of Trust.** According to an op-ed by DNC Chairman Tom Perez in the Los Angeles Times, "In May, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke called for an 'off-ramp' for taking Native lands out of trust. 'If tribes would have a choice of leaving Indian trust lands and becoming a corporation, tribes would take it,' he said. Zinke's comments bore a striking resemblance to the rationale used to justify Termination, an Eisenhower-era policy in which Indians were paid to dismantle their sovereign governments and relinquish their lands. Proponents of the policy argued that if Native Americans adopted the habits of 'civilized life,' they would need less land, which, conveniently, also would mean the expansion of the United States. Congress imposed the policy without consulting Indian Country." [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 8/7/17]

- **Perez: Zinke Said That "If Tribes Would Have A Choice Of Leaving Indian Trust Lands And Becoming A Corporation, Tribes Would Take It."** According to an op-ed by DNC Chairman Tom Perez in the Los Angeles Times, "In May, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke called for an 'off-ramp' for taking Native lands out of trust. 'If tribes would have a choice of leaving Indian trust lands and becoming a corporation, tribes would take it,' he said. Zinke's comments bore a striking resemblance to the rationale used to justify Termination, an Eisenhower-era policy in which Indians were paid to dismantle their sovereign governments and relinquish their lands. Proponents of the policy argued that if Native Americans adopted the habits of 'civilized life,' they would need less land, which, conveniently, also would mean the expansion of the United States. Congress imposed the policy without consulting Indian Country." [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 8/7/17]
- **Perez: "In May, Secretary Of The Interior Ryan Zinke Called For An 'Off-Ramp' For Taking Native Lands Out Of Trusts."** According to an op-ed by DNC Chairman Tom Perez in the Los Angeles Times, "In May, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke called for an 'off-ramp' for taking Native lands out of trust. 'If tribes would have a choice of leaving Indian trust lands and becoming a corporation, tribes would take it,' he said. Zinke's comments bore a striking resemblance to the rationale used to justify Termination, an Eisenhower-era policy in which Indians were paid to dismantle their sovereign governments and relinquish their lands. Proponents of the policy argued that if Native Americans adopted the habits of 'civilized life,' they would need less land, which, conveniently, also would mean the expansion of the United States. Congress imposed the policy without consulting Indian Country." [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 8/7/17]
- **Perez: "Zinke's Comments Bore A Striking Resemblance To The Rationale Used To Justify Termination, An Eisenhower-Era Policy In Which Indians Were Paid To Dismantle Their Sovereign Governments And Relinquish Their Lands."** According to an op-ed by DNC Chairman Tom Perez in the Los Angeles Times, "In May, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke called for an 'off-ramp' for taking Native lands out of trust. 'If tribes would have a choice of leaving Indian trust lands and becoming a corporation, tribes would take it,' he said. Zinke's comments bore a striking resemblance to the rationale used to justify Termination, an Eisenhower-era policy in which Indians were paid to dismantle their sovereign governments and relinquish their lands. Proponents of the policy argued that if Native Americans adopted the habits of 'civilized life,' they would need less land, which, conveniently, also would mean the expansion of the United States. Congress imposed the policy without consulting Indian Country." [Los Angeles Times, Op-Ed, 8/7/17]

## **Power Plants**

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**Zinke Directed The Bureau Of Reclamation To Work To Extend The Operations Of Navajo Generating Station, A Power Plant, And The Kayenta Mine After 2019.** The New York Times reported, "Inside both agencies, another effort got underway with a more targeted goal: saving Navajo Generating Station and the Kayenta



mine. The Interior Department's 24 percent stake in the power plant was under the control of a federal agency called the Bureau of Reclamation, which had helped settle the West by delivering a steady supply of water. The bureau was told by Mr. Zinke to work with the power plant, as well as with Peabody, the owner of the mine, and leaders of the Navajo and Hopi tribes to find a way to save Navajo Generating Station, known as N.G.S. 'One of interior's top priorities has been to roll up our sleeves with diverse stakeholders in search of an economic path forward to extend N.G.S. and Kayenta mine operations after 2019,' Mr. Zinke said in a statement in 2017.' [New York Times, 10/5/20]

## Sovereignty

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**2022: Zinke Said, "I Do Respect The Sovereignty Of Our Nations, And I Think We Should Coordinate With Them On Law Enforcement."** The Independent Record reported, "On the issue of tribal sovereignty and the role of non-tribal law enforcement, the candidates each stated support for maintaining sovereignty. 'I do respect the sovereignty of our nations, and I think we should coordinate with them on law enforcement,' Zinke said, noting that as Interior secretary, the agency included the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tranel challenged Zinke's support of tribes with in the Trump administration, but also focused on recent work to address traumas such as boarding schools." [Independent Record, 9/29/22]

## Racism

## Diversity

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**March 2018: Zinke Told Employees At A Staff Meeting That "Diversity Isn't Important... I Don't Care About Diversity... I Don't Really Think That's Important Anymore."** The Washington Post reported, "Even before Interior's classes that promoted inclusiveness were halted, the department's commitment to diversity was in question. Bernhardt's predecessor, Ryan Zinke, reportedly told workers at a March 2018 staff meeting that 'diversity isn't important,' 'I don't care about diversity' and 'I don't really think that's important anymore,' CNN and other media outlets reported. Twenty-eight members of Congress signed a letter denouncing the comments. Zinke's spokeswoman at the time denied that he made them. Zinke was forced to resign for other reasons at the end of that year." [Washington Post, [10/30/20](#)]

## "Wokeness"

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**2022: Zinke Said "Crazy Is Crazy No Matter Where It Comes From" And That "Most Of America Doesn't Believe In The Woke Movement."** The Independent Record reported, "Still, Zinke's campaign continues to take an uncompromising line at times, putting the election in terms of war, and in campaign materials and emails portraying Democrats as authoritarian and radical. He defends the language, saying he has friends who are Democrats but that 'crazy is crazy no matter where it comes from,' and adding that he hopes the 'woke' movement will eventually only be found in history books. 'I think most of America doesn't believe in the woke movement,' he said. 'I think most of America is kind of waking up, and I think there are values that's made America great and I think we should defend those values. And I think there's values in Montana that are unique and we should defend our lifestyles here.'" [Independent Record, 5/8/22]

## Seniors

## Social Security

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**2023: Zinke Reportedly "Took His Swings At... Congress For The Amount Of Mandatory Spending In... The Budget Lines That Include Medicare And Social Security, Among Other Ongoing Statutory Programs."** The Sidney Hearld reported, "'When I was a SEAL, it didn't matter to me whether a person was a Democrat or a



Republican,' he said. 'It really doesn't matter to me today. But it does matter whether you love the country. It does matter whether you want to make things better for your neighbor. It does matter whether you want to protect what's important Montana's lifestyle. That matters. It should matter to us all.' He took his swings at the Biden administration for its Waters of the United States rulemaking and at Congress for the amount of mandatory spending in the federal budget the budget lines that include Medicare and Social Security, among other ongoing statutory programs. And he echoed lines from his Interior Department days about boosting domestic energy production as a national security measure." [Sidney Hearld, 2/21/23]

**2023: Zinke Reportedly Said That Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid Should Be Reviewed For Wasteful Spending Because Mandatory Spending For Those Programs Made Up Most Of The Federal Budget.** The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported, "Programs like Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare are designed to work well when people are putting in more money than what is being taken out, Zinke said. When the opposite happens, that leads to budget issues. He said that spending at the federal level is 28% discretionary spending for agencies like the Department of Defense or Department of the Interior. The larger chunk is mandatory spending for entitlement programs, Zinke said. Programs under those entitlements should be reviewed because there are likely areas that have been neglected or programs that have not been doing what they should have done, he said. 'There's other areas we need to attend to, obviously mental health is one, because we're paying for it,' Zinke said." [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, 3/17/23]

**2024: Montana Democrats Reportedly Tried To Pin The Republican Study Committee Memo Calling For Cuts To Social Security On Zinke.** The Billings Gazette reported, "Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. 'Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they're the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,' Zinke said on 'Fox Business' Thursday. 'I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there's a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you're right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they're sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we're, we're going to have to.'" [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

- **2024: Zinke Said, "Seventy Percent Of The Budget Is In Overdrive With Mandates, They're The Big Three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I Want To Save That."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. 'Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they're the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,' Zinke said on 'Fox Business' Thursday. 'I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there's a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you're right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they're sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we're, we're going to have to.'" [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]
- **Zinke: "I Want To Solve Security, You Know, People Have Earned It. So, I Want To Save It. We Got To Get People Working. Number One, There's A Lot Of Ways To Save It And I Think Everything Should Be Looked At, But You're Right."** The Billings Gazette reported, "Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. 'Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they're the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,' Zinke said on 'Fox Business' Thursday. 'I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there's a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you're right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they're



sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we're, we're going to have to.” [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

- **Zinke: “I Mean, We See That The Three Ships Out There, Social Security, Medicare And Medicaid All Sinking. We Know The Rates They’re Sinking, But No One Has The Courage To Go Out And Address It And We’re, We’re Going To Have To.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “Meanwhile, Democrats attempted to pin on Zinke a Republican Study Committee memo calling for cuts to entitlements, including Social Security. The RSC a conservative caucus of Republican representatives, not a deliberative, Congressional committee that passes bills. ‘Seventy percent of the budget is in overdrive with mandates, they’re the big three: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. And I want to save that,’ Zinke said on ‘Fox Business’ Thursday. ‘I want to solve security, you know, people have earned it. So, I want to save it. We got to get people working. Number one, there’s a lot of ways to save it and I think everything should be looked at, but you’re right. I mean, we see that the three ships out there, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid all sinking. We know the rates they’re sinking, but no one has the courage to go out and address it and we’re, we’re going to have to.’” [Billings Gazette, 3/22/24]

**2024: Zinke’s Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Wrote An Op-Ed Slamming Him For Being A “Party Loyalist And Member Of The Republican Study Committee... [Who] Allied Himself With Extremists In His Party Who Would Raise The Retirement Age For Social Security And Medicare.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn’t surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it’s up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn’t spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation’s business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

- **Tranel: “When It Comes To Federal Programs Essential To The Welfare Of Montana Seniors, Zinke Aligns With Those Who Would Defund And Remove Them.”** According to an op-ed by Monica Tranel in the Ravalli Republic, “It wouldn’t surprise anybody to find out that the Gianforte administration is deliberately trying to undo Medicaid expansion: After all, it’s up for reapproval in the 2025 Legislature, and extremist Republicans have already said they will attempt to scuttle it. In that effort, they can always hope to get a hand from Ryan Zinke. Where is Zinke in all this? He hasn’t spoken up on behalf of thousands of Montanans losing health coverage, but has aligned with Gianforte in other extremist positions. Zinke has been part of the most unproductive Congress in history, spending time on chaos and petty in-fighting rather than voting to get the nation’s business done. As a party loyalist and member of the Republican Study Committee, Zinke has allied himself with extremists in his party who would raise the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare, stop allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and repeal both the \$35 Medicare cap on the price of insulin and \$2,000 cap on Part D out-of-pocket costs. In other words, when it comes to federal programs essential to the welfare of Montana seniors, Zinke aligns with those who would defund and remove them.” [Ravalli Republic, Op-Ed, 5/30/24]

## Taxes

### Business Tax Cuts

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**2024: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Arguing For A Bill That He Descried As A “Bipartisan \$600 Billion Tax Cuts Package Is Equipped To Help Small Businesses Hit By Decades-High Interest Rates, Encourage Lower Income Families To Get Back In The Workforce... Estimated To Create 867,000 New Jobs And \$58 Billion In Additional Take-Home Pay For American Worker.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “\* H.R. 7024 —The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act: This bipartisan \$600 billion tax cuts package is equipped to help small businesses hit by decades-high interest rates, encourage lower income families to get back in the workforce, and provide relief to folks just trying to buy gas, groceries, and rent. This alone is estimated to create 867,000 new jobs and \$58 billion in additional take-home pay for American workers. This tax-cut package is a win-win for small businesses who need the worker, and the worker who needs the cash to keep themselves afloat.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 5/4/24]

## Child Tax Credit

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**2024: Zinke Voted For A Bill That Included Provisions Expanding The Child Tax Credit By Increasing The Maximum Credit For Low-Income Households And Adjusting The Credit For Inflation And Families With Multiple Children.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “U.S. Reps. Ryan Zinke and Matt Rosendale cast differing votes on a bipartisan bill that included provisions expanding the child tax credit, which passed the House of Representatives on Wednesday 357 to 70. Both Montana Republicans, Zinke joined 169 members of his party in voting for the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act while Rosendale, a member of the far-right House Freedom Caucus and potential Senate candidate, was one of 47 Republicans to vote against it. The legislation would add to the current, popular child tax credit by increasing the maximum refundable credit for households who owe little income taxes and allowing low-income families with multiple children to receive increased benefits. It also adjusts the tax credit for inflation.” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/2/24]

- **Zinke: “My Tax Policy Is Simple — Lower Taxes, Less Government, More Growth. This Legislation Fits The Bill... I Absolutely Support The Updates To The Child Tax Credit.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke, by contrast, boasted about voting in favor of the legislation on Thursday. In a press release detailing his support, he stated that the legislation decreases Covid-era spending, encourages research and development, and adjusts the child tax credit for working families. ‘My tax policy is simple — lower taxes, less government, more growth. This legislation fits the bill,’ Zinke said in a statement. Zinke said that the child tax credit is a ‘structure that rewards work.’ ‘I absolutely support the updates to the child tax credit,’ Zinke said in an emailed statement in response to questions from the Inter Lake. ‘Families on fixed incomes are being hurt by Biden’s economy the most ... This bill incentivizes workforce participation and helps Montanans keep more of their paychecks.’” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/2/24]
- **Zinke: “Families On Fixed Incomes Are Being Hurt By Biden’s Economy The Most ... This Bill Incentivizes Workforce Participation And Helps Montanans Keep More Of Their Paychecks.”** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “Zinke, by contrast, boasted about voting in favor of the legislation on Thursday. In a press release detailing his support, he stated that the legislation decreases Covid-era spending, encourages research and development, and adjusts the child tax credit for working families. ‘My tax policy is simple — lower taxes, less government, more growth. This legislation fits the bill,’ Zinke said in a statement. Zinke said that the child tax credit is a ‘structure that rewards work.’ ‘I absolutely support the updates to the child tax credit,’ Zinke said in an emailed statement in response to questions from the Inter Lake. ‘Families on fixed incomes are being hurt by Biden’s economy the most ... This bill incentivizes workforce participation and helps Montanans keep more of their paychecks.’” [Daily Inter Lake, 2/2/24]

## Fair Tax

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**2023: Zinke Said He Opposed A Bill To Abolish The Internal Revenue Service And Replace Corporate Income Taxes, Estate Taxes, And Payroll Taxes With A National Sales Tax.** The Billings Gazette reported, “A proposed national sales tax is a nonstarter for three members of Montana’s congressional delegation unpersuaded by the bill’s promise to abolish the Internal Revenue Service. U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, fellow Republican Sen. Steve

Daines and Democrat Sen. Jon Tester said Wednesday that a federal sales tax has no place in Montana, one of only four states without a statewide sales tax. Tester, who pounced on the issue early, said in a letter to Senate leadership that he will kill the national sales tax if it survives the House. The Fair Tax Act of 2023 will receive a hearing in the House as part of the concessions made by Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Republican of California, to secure the necessary votes from hardliners in the House Freedom Caucus for his accession. The bill by Rep. Earl ‘Buddy’ Carter, a Georgia Republican, would create a 30% national sales tax, to replace all corporate income taxes, the payroll tax, estate tax and taxes on gifts.” [Billings Gazette, 1/26/23]

- **Zinke’s Chief Of Staff Heather Swift: “Rep. Zinke Is No Fan Of The IRS But Also Doesn’t Like The Idea Of A Sales Tax. He Is Not A Sponsor Of The Bill. [...] Whatever Bill Ends Up On The Floor Will Be Very Different Than What Was Introduced Today. We Will Track That Closely.”** The Billings Gazette reported, “‘Rep. Zinke is no fan of the IRS but also doesn’t like the idea of a sales tax. He is not a sponsor of the bill. It has to go through regular order which means subcommittee and committee markups followed by floor consideration with open amendments process,’ said Heather Swift, Zinke’s chief of staff on Wednesday. ‘Whatever bill ends up on the floor will be very different than what was introduced today. We will track that closely.’” [Billings Gazette, 1/26/23]

## IRS

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**2022: Zinke Said He Would Roll Back The Biden Administration’s Plan To Hire More IRS Workers.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, “He said he would work to roll back the Biden administration’s plan to bring on more IRS workers, and that he’d push to eliminate the Environmental Justice department of the EPA. ‘You think they hated me before in Washington, stand by,’ he said. ‘Because I’m not pissed, I’m going back with vengeance and I’m going to get ‘em, every one of them.’ Zinke had two more rallies planned over the weekend in Missoula and Bozeman.” [Daily Inter Lake, 8/29/22]

## Property Tax Payments

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**2023: Zinke Was Reportedly “Repeatedly Late To Pay Property Taxes,” With Him And His Two Companies, Double Tap And Continental Divide International, Paying \$300 In Penalties And Interest On Four Properties Since 2013.** The Sidney Herald reported, “Monica Tranel, a two-time former Olympian and prominent Democratic energy attorney, is making a second consecutive congressional bid against Republican incumbent Ryan Zinke, who represents Montana’s western U.S. House district. Both candidates or entities affiliated with them were repeatedly late to pay property taxes. [...] Zinke, whether under his and his wife’s name or under the name of two business entities he and his family control, has also repeatedly made late property tax payments, mostly on adjoining residential parcels in downtown Whitefish. He and two property holding companies, Double Tap LLC and Continental Divide International LLC, paid about \$300 in penalties and interest on four properties since 2013. Almost half of that total came in 2018. One of the Whitefish parcels registered to Zinke and his wife, Lolita, lists a mailing address in Santa Barbara, Calif., where Lolita Zinke declares a principal residence. That was a source of controversy for Zinke, whose opponents tried to paint him as more tied to California than Montana, in his ultimately successful 2022 election bid against Tranel.” [Sidney Herald, 9/15/23]

- **Sidney Herald: “One Of The Whitefish Parcels Registered To Zinke And His Wife, Lolita, Lists A Mailing Address In Santa Barbara, Calif., Where Lolita Zinke Declares A Principal Residence. That Was A Source Of Controversy For Zinke, Whose Opponents Tried To Paint Him As More Tied To California Than Montana.”** The Sidney Herald reported, “Monica Tranel, a two-time former Olympian and prominent Democratic energy attorney, is making a second consecutive congressional bid against Republican incumbent Ryan Zinke, who represents Montana’s western U.S. House district. Both candidates or entities affiliated with them were repeatedly late to pay property taxes. [...] Zinke, whether under his and his wife’s name or under the name of two business entities he and his family control, has also repeatedly made late property tax payments, mostly on adjoining residential parcels in downtown Whitefish. He and two property holding companies, Double Tap LLC and Continental Divide International LLC, paid about \$300 in penalties

and interest on four properties since 2013. Almost half of that total came in 2018. One of the Whitefish parcels registered to Zinke and his wife, Lolita, lists a mailing address in Santa Barbara, Calif., where Lolita Zinke declares a principal residence. That was a source of controversy for Zinke, whose opponents tried to paint him as more tied to California than Montana, in his ultimately successful 2022 election bid against Tranel.” [Sidney Herald, 9/15/23]

- **Zinke’s Spokesperson Said The Late Payments Were Minor Mistakes, Claiming, “Their Payments Were Late A Couple Times For Routine Life Reasons (Travel, Misplaced Mail, Work Schedule, Refi, Etc) But The Bills Were Always Paid In Full And Cleared Up When Realized... Pretty Run Of The Mill Stuff.”** The Sidney Herald reported, “One of the Whitefish parcels registered to Zinke and his wife, Lolita, lists a mailing address in Santa Barbara, Calif., where Lolita Zinke declares a principal residence. That was a source of controversy for Zinke, whose opponents tried to paint him as more tied to California than Montana, in his ultimately successful 2022 election bid against Tranel. A spokesperson for Zinke acknowledged past late payments but said there was never any intent not to pay property taxes. ‘Their payments were late a couple times for routine life reasons (travel, misplaced mail, work schedule, refi, etc) but the bills were always paid in full and cleared up when realized,’ the spokesperson said in an email. ‘Pretty run of the mill stuff.’” [Sidney Herald, 9/15/23]

## Transportation

### Francis Scott Key Bridge

**2024: Zinke Wrote An Op-Ed Arguing That The Federal Government Should Not Pay For The Cost Of Rebuilding The Collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge In Baltimore.** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “For hours after the tragic accident that took down a bridge over the Pabsco River in Baltimore, our nation sat together in sadness for the seven construction workers who lost their lives. My heart and prayers remain with the souls lost, their surviving crew and family members. But then the president remembered it’s an election year and pounced on the media moment to proclaim the American taxpayer will rush all the funding to rebuild the bridge as quickly as possible. Biden’s exact words: ‘The federal government will pay for the entire cost of reconstructing that bridge, and I expect the Congress to support my effort.’ From this member of Congress to Mr. Biden, no way. Roads and bridges are one of the few basic costs the federal government should assist with funding — that’s why there is a federal gas tax after all. However, putting taxpayers in Montana on the hook for the Baltimore project when that should primarily be paid by insurance claims followed by state and federal funds is not the answer.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/11/24]

- **Zinke: “Biden’s Exact Words: ‘The Federal Government Will Pay For The Entire Cost Of Reconstructing That Bridge, And I Expect The Congress To Support My Effort.’ From This Member Of Congress To Mr. Biden, No Way.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “For hours after the tragic accident that took down a bridge over the Pabsco River in Baltimore, our nation sat together in sadness for the seven construction workers who lost their lives. My heart and prayers remain with the souls lost, their surviving crew and family members. But then the president remembered it’s an election year and pounced on the media moment to proclaim the American taxpayer will rush all the funding to rebuild the bridge as quickly as possible. Biden’s exact words: ‘The federal government will pay for the entire cost of reconstructing that bridge, and I expect the Congress to support my effort.’ From this member of Congress to Mr. Biden, no way. Roads and bridges are one of the few basic costs the federal government should assist with funding — that’s why there is a federal gas tax after all. However, putting taxpayers in Montana on the hook for the Baltimore project when that should primarily be paid by insurance claims followed by state and federal funds is not the answer.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/11/24]
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- **Zinke: “Just Last Month, The Town Of Bigfork Saw Their Only Bridge Traversing Town Abruptly Condemned And Closed To Even Foot Traffic. This Cut Off Children From Their Schools And Businesses From Downtown, Eliminated A Critical Emergency Services Route, And Put In Jeopardy The Biggest Annual Revenue Streams The Summer Tourist Town Has.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “The City of Baltimore is no more important than the town of Bigfork. Just last month, the town of Bigfork saw their only bridge traversing town abruptly condemned and closed to even foot traffic. This cut off children from their schools and businesses from downtown, eliminated a critical emergency services route, and put in jeopardy the biggest annual revenue streams the summer tourist town has, the Whitewater Festival and Fourth of July parade. Sure, Bigfork has a year-round population of just under 5,000 residents. But to those 5,000 residents that bridge is the most important piece of infrastructure in the county. No Biden bailout announcement there.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/11/24]
- **Zinke: “Sure, Bigfork Has A Year-Round Population Of Just Under 5,000 Residents. But To Those 5,000 Residents That Bridge Is The Most Important Piece Of Infrastructure In The County. No Biden Bailout Announcement There.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “The City of Baltimore is no more important than the town of Bigfork. Just last month, the town of Bigfork saw their only bridge traversing town abruptly condemned and closed to even foot traffic. This cut off children from their schools and businesses from downtown, eliminated a critical emergency services route, and put in jeopardy the biggest annual revenue streams the summer tourist town has, the Whitewater Festival and Fourth of July parade. Sure, Bigfork has a year-round population of just under 5,000 residents. But to those 5,000 residents that bridge is the most important piece of infrastructure in the county. No Biden bailout announcement there.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/11/24]
- **Zinke: “Where The Federal Government Does Have A Role Is Roads And Bridges And That Funding Should Not Be Based On Whether It’s A Deep Blue East Coast City. Infrastructure Needs To Be Properly Funded. And In This Case, It’s Not Prioritizing Baltimore Over Bigfork.”** According to an op-ed by Ryan Zinke in the Billings Gazette, “There’s a lot of wasteful government spending by the Biden administration and Senate Democrats. Bike paths, interpretive dance centers, universities with billion-dollar endowments, studies about rats on psychedelic mushrooms, drag shows, sex change operations, and diversity indoctrination have no right to federal funding. In fact, I voted to strip all that garbage from the appropriations bills last year. Where the federal government does have a role is roads and bridges and that funding should not be based on whether it’s a deep blue east coast city. Infrastructure needs to be properly funded. And in this case, it’s not prioritizing Baltimore over Bigfork.” [Billings Gazette, Op-Ed, 4/11/24]

## Veterans

## Health Care

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**2023: Zinke's Democratic Opponent, Monica Tranel, Criticized Him For Voting Against Health Care Benefits For Veterans.** The Daily Inter Lake reported, "Tranel also believes Zinke's record makes him vulnerable. She accused him of voting against health care for veterans and reducing benefits from the SNAP program, while taking donations from big corporations and embracing the radical right wing of the Republican Party. 'We don't need that extremism,' she said. 'That's not who Montana is.'" [Daily Inter Lake, 7/14/23]

**2023: The Department Of Veterans Affairs Delayed A Proposed Rule To Change The Reimbursement Structure For Air Ambulance Services For Veterans Until 2025 After Pressure From Zinke, Who Argued That It Would Cut Off Service In Rural Communities.** According to a press release from the Office of Ryan Zinke, "On November 28, Congressman Ryan Zinke was informed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) delayed the enactment of their proposed air ambulance reimbursement ruling until 2025 in response to Zinke's continued scrutiny over the costly and potentially deadly consequences. The rule previously set to be enacted February 2024 would dramatically cut the amount the VA pays for air and specialty ambulance services for veterans by reverting to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reimbursement rates based off data from more than 20 years ago. The proposal, while not a front-page issue, has been met with opposition from local and national veteran service organizations and emergency services. Several rural communities adopted similar reimbursement rates and have lost all ambulatory service as a result. Zinke has fought the detrimental policy since February 2023 and has worked to combat the ruling by sending bipartisan letters to VA Secretary Dennis McDonough, attending budget hearings with the Secretary and co-leading a bill which would ensure the VA completes several due-diligence requirements before pursuing a change that could reduce reimbursement rates for emergency transportation." [Office of Ryan Zinke, Press Release, 12/4/23]

## **Veterans Administration**

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**September 2016: Asked During A Debate About The Veterans Administration, Zinke Said He Opposed The Veterans First Act.** The Montana Standard reported, "U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties' presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] On questions about the Veterans Administration, Zinke highlighted his expertise while taking a swing at the too-big bureaucracy that he said ballooned under President Barack Obama's leadership. 'To improve (the Choice Act), we've got to push more authority to the state in Helena,' he said. 'Let them make the decision rather than some bureaucrat in Washington, DC.' Juneau, as she did Monday, said 'the Veterans First Act is a good start,' highlighting that it made funding more flexible. Zinke has said he opposes the bill. Zinke also was asked about statements he made in Billings telling veterans they should work toward getting jobs and calling reliance on government services 'economic slavery.' 'We have to wean them off the dangerous cycle of economic dependency on the government,' Zinke said. 'Don't be a victim. Be a value-added part of society.'" [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

**September 2016: Asked About Comments He Made About Veterans Needing To Get Jobs And Calling Reliance On Government Services "Economic Slavery," Zinke Said "Don't Be A Victim. Be A Value-Added Part Of Society."** The Montana Standard reported, "U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke and Superintendent Denise Juneau made fewer mentions of their parties' presidential candidates in their second debate Thursday night and instead reserved their critiques for each other as they played to a rambunctious crowd. [...] On questions about the Veterans Administration, Zinke highlighted his expertise while taking a swing at the too-big bureaucracy that he said ballooned under President Barack Obama's leadership. 'To improve (the Choice Act), we've got to push more authority to the state in Helena,' he said. 'Let them make the decision rather than some bureaucrat in Washington, DC.' Juneau, as she did Monday, said 'the Veterans First Act is a good start,' highlighting that it made funding more flexible. Zinke has said he opposes the bill. Zinke also was asked about statements he made in Billings telling veterans they should work toward getting jobs and calling reliance on government services 'economic slavery.' 'We have to wean them off the dangerous cycle of economic dependency on the government,' Zinke said. 'Don't be a victim. Be a value-added part of society.'" [Montana Standard, 9/2/16]

**September 2016: Veterans Former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow And Former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans Criticized Zinke In An Op-Ed For “Shamelessly Touting His Military Service” While “Disparaging And Undermining Veterans.”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “Unfortunately, Congressman Ryan Zinke seems to have forgotten what military service is all about. And that’s exactly why we stood on the steps of our Capitol in Helena to share our frustration that the congressman plays politics with Montana veterans. Make no mistake, we’re not dismissing Congressman Zinke’s service in the Navy SEALs. But we’re expressing our disappointment in how he’s chosen to serve his fellow veterans as a member of Congress. Zinke has spent his time in office shamelessly touting his military service while at the same time disparaging and undermining veterans. Zinke once compared veterans who receive VA benefits to ‘economic slaves.’ How can he equate men and women who served our nation and earned the benefits that come with that service to slaves? At the same time, Zinke himself has received almost \$2,000 each month in veterans’ benefits.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 9/6/16]

- **Hollow And Carlson-Evans: “Zinke Has Spent His Time In Office Shamelessly Touting His Military Service While At The Same Time Disparaging And Undermining Veterans.”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “Unfortunately, Congressman Ryan Zinke seems to have forgotten what military service is all about. And that’s exactly why we stood on the steps of our Capitol in Helena to share our frustration that the congressman plays politics with Montana veterans. Make no mistake, we’re not dismissing Congressman Zinke’s service in the Navy SEALs. But we’re expressing our disappointment in how he’s chosen to serve his fellow veterans as a member of Congress. Zinke has spent his time in office shamelessly touting his military service while at the same time disparaging and undermining veterans. Zinke once compared veterans who receive VA benefits to ‘economic slaves.’ How can he equate men and women who served our nation and earned the benefits that come with that service to slaves? At the same time, Zinke himself has received almost \$2,000 each month in veterans’ benefits.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 9/6/16]
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- **Hollow And Carlson-Evans: “How Can The VA Improve If Congressman Zinke Stands In The Way Of Efforts To Make It Work Better?”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “At the same time, Zinke himself has received almost \$2,000 each month in veterans’ benefits. The congressman also told Iraq and Afghanistan veterans on a talk show, ‘Don’t be a victim,’ while voting against \$15 million for veterans’ health services and making it harder for VA workers to report evidence of wrongdoing. We’ve all seen trouble at the VA - from wait times to lack of critical care for too many veterans - and we expect our elected leaders to help fix it. But how can the VA improve if Congressman Zinke stands in the way of efforts to make it work better? We’re also appalled that Zinke skips votes on veterans’ issues to promote his own brand on cable news stations.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 9/6/16]

- **Hollow And Carlson-Evans: “If Congressman Ryan Zinke Won’t Apologize To The Veterans He’s Forsaken In Pursuit Of His Own Prosperity, He Needs To Get Out Of The Way.”** According to an op-ed by former U.S. Navy Captain John Hollow and former Army Nurse Corps Captain Diane Carlson-Evans, “The congressman also supports a presidential candidate in Donald Trump who insults families of fallen soldiers, POWs and Purple Heart recipients. We think Zinke needs to apologize to the veterans he has insulted for promoting himself over service, voting against issues that would support our fellow veterans and standing by a presidential candidate who would be a disaster for our nation and our overall security (and we’d rather take the word of 50 top national security advisers who have expressed concern about Trump over Zinke on this). If Congressman Ryan Zinke won’t apologize to the veterans he’s forsaken in pursuit of his own prosperity, he needs to get out of the way, so we can elect a leader who will not forget the contributions that Montana’s 100,000 veterans made to this great state and country.” [Great Falls Tribune, Op-Ed, 9/6/16]

## Women & Gender Issues

### Access Hollywood Tape

**October 2016: Zinke Issued A Statement After The Access Hollywood Tape Leaked And Said That He And His Wife “Pray [Trump] Has Grown From His Mistake.”** The Montana Standard reported, “Montana’s congressman Republican Ryan Zinke said Saturday the way his party’s presidential candidate Donald Trump talks about women in a 2005 video leaked Friday is wrong, but did not say he was pulling back his endorsement of Trump. ‘The language is shocking and wrong, and should never be used, ever,’ Zinke said in a statement. ‘My wife, Lola, and I have talked about it and we pray he has grown from his mistake.’ Zinke’s spokeswoman did not directly answer if the congressman still supports Trump, replying, ‘he and Lola will never vote for Hillary.’” [Montana Standard, 10/8/16]

- **October 2016 – Zinke: “The Language Is Shocking And Wrong, And Should Never Be Used, Ever. My Wife, Lola, And I Have Talked About It And We Pray He Has Grown From His Mistake.”** The Montana Standard reported, “Montana’s congressman Republican Ryan Zinke said Saturday the way his party’s presidential candidate Donald Trump talks about women in a 2005 video leaked Friday is wrong, but did not say he was pulling back his endorsement of Trump. ‘The language is shocking and wrong, and should never be used, ever,’ Zinke said in a statement. ‘My wife, Lola, and I have talked about it and we pray he has grown from his mistake.’ Zinke’s spokeswoman did not directly answer if the congressman still supports Trump, replying, ‘he and Lola will never vote for Hillary.’” [Montana Standard, 10/8/16]

**October 2016: Montana Democratic Party Executive Director Nancy Keenan Criticized Zinke For Refusing To Denounce Trump After The Access Hollywood Tape Leaked.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Nancy Keenan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, said Saturday that Zinke has stayed silent regarding some of the other controversial statements Trump has made in the past. ‘At this point Congressman Zinke’s silence speaks volumes about his own character. Montanans value integrity, honesty, respect for all people and leaders who stand up and call out individuals when they are wrong,’ she said. In July, Zinke, a former U.S. Navy SEAL, spoke at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. ‘America it is time to rally,’ he said. ‘It is time to rally the the troops. It is time to ally around our candidate. It is time to rally around Donald Trump who will make America safe again.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 10/9/16]

- **October 2016 – Montana Democratic Party Executive Director Nancy Keenan: “At This Point Congressman Zinke’s Silence Speaks Volumes About His Own Character. Montanans Value Integrity, Honesty, Respect For All People And Leaders Who Stand Up And Call Out Individuals When They Are Wrong.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, “Nancy Keenan, executive director of the Montana Democratic Party, said Saturday that Zinke has stayed silent regarding some of the other controversial statements Trump has made in the past. ‘At this point Congressman Zinke’s silence speaks volumes about his own character. Montanans value integrity, honesty, respect for all people and leaders who stand up and call out individuals



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**October 2016: Montanans Rally For Women Spokesperson Kate Olp Restad Criticized Zinke At A Protest Outside Of His Office For Not Denouncing Trump After The Access Hollywood Tape Leaked.** The Great Falls Tribune reported, "More than 20 protesters formed a circle outside GOP Rep. Ryan Zinke's Great Falls office on Tuesday afternoon to demand he pull his support for Donald Trump following the release of a video showing the presidential candidate making lewd comments about women. [...] 'Since Friday, dozens of Republicans have withdrawn their support for Donald Trump, but not Congressman Zinke,' Kate Olp Restad, Montanans Rally for Women spokesperson, said. 'Congressman Zinke is choosing Donald Trump over Montana. Congressman Zinke is enabling Donald Trump to disparage women without repercussion. And we, as Montanans, object.'" [Great Falls Tribune, 10/12/16]

- **October 2016 – Montanans Rally For Women Spokesperson Kate Olp Restad: “Since Friday, Dozens Of Republicans Have Withdrawn Their Support For Donald Trump, But Not Congressman Zinke.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, "More than 20 protesters formed a circle outside GOP Rep. Ryan Zinke's Great Falls office on Tuesday afternoon to demand he pull his support for Donald Trump following the release of a video showing the presidential candidate making lewd comments about women. [...] 'Since Friday, dozens of Republicans have withdrawn their support for Donald Trump, but not Congressman Zinke,' Kate Olp Restad, Montanans Rally for Women spokesperson, said. 'Congressman Zinke is choosing Donald Trump over Montana. Congressman Zinke is enabling Donald Trump to disparage women without repercussion. And we, as Montanans, object.'" [Great Falls Tribune, 10/12/16]
- **October 2016 – Montanans Rally For Women Spokesperson Kate Olp Restad: “Congressman Zinke Is Choosing Donald Trump Over Montana. Congressman Zinke Is Enabling Donald Trump To Disparage Women Without Repercussion. And We, As Montanans, Object.”** The Great Falls Tribune reported, "More than 20 protesters formed a circle outside GOP Rep. Ryan Zinke's Great Falls office on Tuesday afternoon to demand he pull his support for Donald Trump following the release of a video showing the presidential candidate making lewd comments about women. [...] 'Since Friday, dozens of Republicans have withdrawn their support for Donald Trump, but not Congressman Zinke,' Kate Olp Restad, Montanans Rally for Women spokesperson, said. 'Congressman Zinke is choosing Donald Trump over Montana. Congressman Zinke is enabling Donald Trump to disparage women without repercussion. And we, as Montanans, object.'" [Great Falls Tribune, 10/12/16]

## **Sexual Harassment & Discrimination**

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### ***Jorge Acevedo***

**August 2017: The National Park Service Gave A New Job And Performance Bonus To A Florida National Park Superintendent After He Was Investigated And Found To Have Harassed His Junior Employees And Issued A Set Of Department Talking Points.** The Washington Post reported, "On his first day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged 'zero tolerance' for sexual misconduct. The acting National Park Service chief testified to Congress in June that he's bringing a culture of 'transparency, respect and accountability' to a workplace he acknowledged is often hostile. But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park." [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]



- **Washington Post: “On His First Day In Office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Pledged ‘Zero Tolerance’ For Sexual Misconduct.”** The Washington Post reported, “On his first day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged ‘zero tolerance’ for sexual misconduct. The acting National Park Service chief testified to Congress in June that he’s bringing a culture of ‘transparency, respect and accountability’ to a workplace he acknowledged is often hostile. But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]
- **August 2017: Investigators Found That De Soto National Memorial Park Superintendent Jorge Acevedo Had Made Inappropriate Comments To And Blocked The Desk Of A Woman He Supervised.** The Washington Post reported, “But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park. Then, the Park Service issued a one-page set of talking points for media inquiries. The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]
- **August 2017: Investigators Found That Acevedo Had Also Harassed Another Woman Who No Longer Worked At De Soto National Memorial Park.** The Washington Post reported, “But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park. Then, the Park Service issued a one-page set of talking points for media inquiries. The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]

**August 2017: The National Park Service Talking Points Instructed Staff To Praise Acevedo For Making A “Substantial Contribution” During His Tenure At De Soto National Memorial.** The Washington Post reported, “But the Park Service recently gave a new job and a performance bonus to a national park superintendent in Florida whom investigators found made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised — with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or lying on her desk while she was trying to work. Investigators said he also harassed another woman who no longer works at the park. Then, the Park Service issued a one-page set of talking points for media inquiries. The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton.” [Washington Post, [8/4/17](#)]

**March 2017: Acevedo Was Moved To Partnerships Manager At The Tuskegee Airmen And Tuskegee Institute National Historic Sites And The Selma To Montgomery National Historic Trail.** The Washington Post reported, “The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton. Acevedo has served since March as partnerships manager at the Tuskegee Airmen and Tuskegee Institute national historic sites and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, a consortium of Park Service properties. He is no longer supervising employees but kept his \$82,000-a-year salary, according to an agency official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel issue. Just before his transfer, the official said, he received a \$1,000 cash bonus.” [Washington Post, [8/3/17](#)]



- **March 2017: A National Park Service Official Said That Acevedo No Longer Supervised Employees After His Transfer But Kept His \$82,000 Annual Salary And Received A \$1,000 Cash Bonus.** The Washington Post reported, “The talking points, obtained by The Washington Post, instructed staff to praise the superintendent, Jorge Acevedo, for making ‘a substantial contribution’ during his four-year tenure at De Soto National Memorial, a coastal park near Bradenton. Acevedo has served since March as partnerships manager at the Tuskegee Airmen and Tuskegee Institute national historic sites and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, a consortium of Park Service properties. He is no longer supervising employees but kept his \$82,000-a-year salary, according to an agency official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel issue. Just before his transfer, the official said, he received a \$1,000 cash bonus.” [Washington Post, [8/3/17](#)]

## ***Lawsuit***

**December 2018: Zinke Was Named In His Official Capacity As Interior Secretary In A Sexual Discrimination And Retaliation Lawsuit Filed In Federal Court Against The National Park Service.** The Washington Post reported, “A chief ranger for the National Park Service in Philadelphia, thought to be the highest-ranking female law enforcement official in the department, sued the Park Service in federal court Friday, alleging sexual discrimination in its treatment of her and retaliation against her when she complained that less-qualified men were being promoted over her. The suit is the latest accusation of mistreatment of women in the Park Service, which congressional critics have said fostered a culture of sexual harassment. [...] Schonzeit’s suit names Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Deputy Secretary David L. Bernhardt as defendants, as heads of the department overseeing the National Park Service. Zinke has resigned, effective at the end of this month. Bernhardt will take his place, President Trump has said.” [Washington Post, [12/21/18](#)]

- **December 2018: Former Independence National Historical Park Chief Ranger Michelle Schonzeit Alleged That She Was Overlooked For A Promotion To Camp David Because Her Supervisor Did Not Believe Women Should Lead In Law Enforcement.** The Washington Post reported, “Michelle Schonzeit, 36, is the chief ranger for Independence National Historical Park, home to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, where she oversees 35 armed rangers, 25 dispatchers and dozens of privately contracted armed security guards. But she lives in Maryland, with her husband and 3-year-old daughter, and took the job in Philadelphia only after she was passed over in 2015 for head ranger at the Camp David presidential retreat, allegedly for a far less-experienced ranger, according to her suit filed in federal court in Washington. She was pregnant with her daughter at the time, her attorney David P. Weber said, and the child is cared for during the week by Schonzeit’s father and her husband, a lieutenant in the U.S. Park Police. Schonzeit said that when she asked the superintendent at Camp David why she wasn’t selected, he told her, ‘I have hired women in the past, and I do not believe women should be in law enforcement leadership positions,’ her lawsuit states.” [Washington Post, [12/21/18](#)]
- **Schonzeit Alleged That When She Asked The Camp David Superintendent Why She Was Not Selected, He Told Her That He Did “Not Believe Women Should Be In Law Enforcement Leadership Positions.”** The Washington Post reported, “Michelle Schonzeit, 36, is the chief ranger for Independence National Historical Park, home to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, where she oversees 35 armed rangers, 25 dispatchers and dozens of privately contracted armed security guards. But she lives in Maryland, with her husband and 3-year-old daughter, and took the job in Philadelphia only after she was passed over in 2015 for head ranger at the Camp David presidential retreat, allegedly for a far less-experienced ranger, according to her suit filed in federal court in Washington. She was pregnant with her daughter at the time, her attorney David P. Weber said, and the child is cared for during the week by Schonzeit’s father and her husband, a lieutenant in the U.S. Park Police. Schonzeit said that when she asked the superintendent at Camp David why she wasn’t selected, he told her, ‘I have hired women in the past, and I do not believe women should be in law enforcement leadership positions,’ her lawsuit states.” [Washington Post, [12/21/18](#)]