



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

**APR 10 2019**

The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Reform  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cummings and Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter dated March 28, 2019, inquiring about the Department of the Interior's (Department) record-keeping practices. To further our ongoing conversation over the last week, the Acting Secretary has authorized me to reply to you on his behalf.

Since the House Committee on Natural Resources (HNR) initiated a related inquiry on the Acting Secretary's calendar practices, the Department has worked diligently to respond to that Committee's various document and information requests. Shortly after receiving HNR's initial letter on February 7, 2019, the Department began the process of collecting responsive documents. To date, the Department has provided roughly 27,000 pages of information, written multiple letters describing the records the Department maintains and its record-keeping practices, and established the Department's adherence to all of its record-keeping obligations.

The documents and information provided to HNR evidence the established pattern of making and preserving all records that both detail the Acting Secretary's daily activities and show that meetings with external non-governmental parties are carefully screened with the Department's Ethics Office prior to being placed on the Acting Secretary's schedule. In total, the documents demonstrate a consistent and clear effort to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and ethics obligations.

In order to facilitate your review of this matter, the Department is enclosing with this letter documents that we believe will assist you and your staff members in understanding how the Department implements its record-keeping obligations.

In your letter of March 28, 2019, you requested transcribed interviews with four Department employees. Consistent with the practice of prior administrations, the Department is committed to cooperating with congressional oversight requests in a manner that respects the constitutionally-mandated accommodation process. Having produced a large volume of documents for this matter, and having provided letters describing the records maintained and the Department's record-keeping practices consistent with applicable laws, we believe it is important

to understand any remaining questions you might have as we continue to work to respond to your information needs while protecting important Executive Branch institutional interests.

The Department has a strong interest in ensuring that the appropriate personnel address relevant Congressional questions about Department procedures and actions. Understanding your unresolved questions will help us to determine who may best address them. In this regard, and as a further accommodation, we offer to provide you and your staff members a briefing to supplement our document production to assist you with addressing any outstanding questions.

If after your review of this material and completion of any briefing, you or your staff continue to have questions and concerns, we will certainly work with you to identify the best method to provide that information.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,



Cole Rojewski  
Director  
Office of Congressional  
and Legislative Affairs

cc: Representative Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives