

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 25, 2025

Hon. Doug Burgum  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

On February 3, 2025, you issued [Secretarial Order 3418](#) (S.O.) to implement provisions in President Trump's Executive Order "Unleashing American Energy" ([E.O. 14154](#)). That E.O. directed all relevant agencies to prioritize energy development on public lands and waters above all other uses. It ordered a wholesale roll-back of policies, plans, and protections for public lands. These protections were put into place after years of public process, science-based analysis, and deliberation to protect sacred sites, land, waters, people, our heritage, and American taxpayers.

The S.O. directs assistant secretaries within the Department to review agency policies, including administrative withdrawals and national monuments, and within 15 days provide an 'action plan' to effectuate President Trump's energy and public lands policy priorities and describe the "steps that, as appropriate, will be taken to suspend, revise, or rescind" a laundry list of rules and orders, including withdrawals protecting communities, lands and waters from oil and gas extraction or hardrock mining, and all national monuments.

One week after that deadline, that action plan remains undisclosed to the public and Congress. This delay suggests an attempt to evade Congressional oversight, public scrutiny, and accountability, fueling concerns that the Administration is moving to undermine public land protections and sell our natural resources to the highest bidders in secret. This directly contradicts the Secretarial Order's own policy direction that includes "guaranteeing that all executive departments and agencies provide opportunity for public comment and rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific analysis."

As the ranking minority members on the committees of jurisdiction for these topics, we have a responsibility to conduct oversight on the Department's activities. Congress has both the authority and the duty to ensure that executive agencies faithfully execute the laws and operate in a manner consistent with congressional intent and the public interest. Congressional oversight includes reviewing, monitoring, and supervising federal agencies, programs, activities, and policy implementation. To that end, please provide us with copies of all reports, memoranda, or other documents produced in response to S.O. 3418 or E.O. 14154.

In addition, because there are no Senate-confirmed assistant secretaries in the Department at this time, we must insist on full disclosure of the names and titles of the officials conducting this review, as well as the names and titles of those responsible for final decisions regarding which conservation protections to eliminate.

The American people deserve a full accounting of these sweeping policy changes and we have an obligation to ensure that this issue is brought to light. We look forward to hearing from you on this critical matter.

Sincerely,



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Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy &  
Natural Resources



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Natural Resources