President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C.

Re: Secretary of the Interior

Dear Mr. President:

The next four years provide you with an historic opportunity to protect, restore and celebrate America's glorious natural heritage, beauty and resources. Our public lands, parks and wildlife have been a source of tremendous national pride since before the founding of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 and the establishment of the world's first wilderness area in 1924. In charting the course of the Interior Department, you have the opportunity to continue the great American tradition of expanding parks and wildlife protection with each successive presidential administration. The selection of the next Interior Secretary, when timely, is also an important moment to place a renewed emphasis and urgency on some of the most critical issues of our age, including climate change, the protection of endangered species and preservation of water and wild lands.

The over 200 groups signed below, with our combined membership of many millions of individuals, request that you nominate Congressman Raúl Grijalva as the 51st Secretary of the Interior for your second term. As ranking member and former chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, Congressman Grijalva has been a tireless and effective leader on conservation and land management issues faced by the Department of the Interior. Congressman Grijalva has unparalleled expertise with Native Americans and Indian tribes, a strong understanding of border issues, a well-established and pragmatic conservation ethic, and valuable experience with a wide variety of funding challenges. We strongly believe Congressman Grijalva exemplifies the modern and forward thinking vision of the Department of the Interior.

The next Interior Secretary will have a crucial role to play in addressing the growing threat of global warming to national parks, wildlife refuges, public lands, wildlife and all the people who enjoy and depend upon them. While scientists have clearly established the enormity of the task before us to adapt to a changing climate, Interior has thus far taken only small steps and issued no significant policy decisions. Now is the time to establish a firm, science-based action plan to manage lands, waters and wildlife under these new intensifying stresses. Such action requires a knowledgeable, visionary leader

who grasps both the urgency of this crisis and the practical paths toward real-world solutions. We think Congressman Grijalva is such a leader.

One of the central jobs of the Secretary is also to promote and fulfill the federal government's trust responsibilities toward Native Americans while simultaneously respecting the sovereign rights of recognized tribes. Tribal lands are an important part of the American fabric, provide many conservation and other benefits, and are frequently adjacent to crucial border areas. Congressman Grijalva is the right person to oversee tribal relations in a way that is respectful and beneficial both to our Native American communities and the country as a whole.

Please seize this historic opportunity, Mr. President. Nowhere can your legacy shine as brightly for future generations as making the Department of the Interior the people's department: not only a home for the stewardship of our beautiful natural resources, but also an agency that protects our parks, lands, waters and wildlife for all Americans to enjoy in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation

Alameda Creek Alliance

Alamos Wildlands Alliance

Alliance for the Wild Rockies

Alpine Lakes Protection Society

**American Forests** 

Animals are Sentient Beings, Inc.

Animal Legal Defense Fund

Animal Protection of New Mexico

Animal Welfare Institute

Antelope Valley Conservancy

Apollo Kauai

Arizona Mining Reform Coalition

Arizona Native Plant Society – Tucson Chapter

Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Ascend Development Group

Association for the Tree of Life Audubon Society of Corvallis Basin and Range Watch **Battle Creek Alliance** Berkeley Partners for Parks Berkshire Environmental Action Team Big Wildlife **Biodiversity Conservation Alliance** Black Warrior Riverkeeper Born Free US **Boulder-White Clouds Council Buckeye Forest Council Buffalo Field Campaign** Cahaba Riverkeepers **Canyondlands Watershed Council** Cascadia Wildlands **Cascades Raptor Center** Catawba Riverkeeper Center for Biological Diversity Center for Environmental Law and Policy Center for International Environmental Law Center for Large Landscape Conservation Center for Food Safety Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper

**Christians Caring for Creation** 

Citizens for Sludge-Free Land Citizens United for Resources and the Environment (CURE) Ciudadanos Del Karso Climate Ground Zero Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection Colorado Riverkeeper Committee for Idaho's High Desert **Conservation Congress** Coos Waterkeeper **CORALations** Cottonwood Environmental Law Center **Cougar Rewilding Foundation** Cumberland Christians for Peace and Justice Deaf Youth USA **Deerlodge Conservation Coalition** Deerlodge Forest Defense Fund **Desert Protective Council Desert Tortoise Council** District of Columbia Environmental Network Dogwood Alliance Don't Waste Arizona Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research Eastman Environmental **Eco-Eating Ecological Internet** 

**Endangered Habitats League Environmental Action Committee of West Marin** Environmental and Cultural Conservation Organization **Environmental Protection Information Center** Fairmont, Minnesota Peace Group Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Food and Water Watch Footloose Montana **Foundation Earth** Four Harbors Audubon Society FrackAlert, Inc. Friends of Animals Friends of Bell Smith Springs Friends of Bumping Lake Friends of Cloquet Valley State Forest Friends of the Clearwater Friends of the Earth Friends of the Eel River Friends of Matanzas Friends of Owls Friends of the Palouse Ranger District Friends of the Santa Clara River

Friends of Whitehaven Park

Friends of the Wild Swan

Friends of Wild Sky

Fund for Wild Nature Georgia Women's Action for New Directions Gifford Pinchot Task Force **Global Warming Education Network Great Old Broads for Wilderness** Green Delaware **Green Environmental Council Gulf Coast Conservancy** Heartwood Hells Canyon e Preservation Council **Howling for Wolves** Huachuca Audubon iMatter Youth Council **INFORM** International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute Juniata Valley Audubon Justice for Wolves Kentucky Heartwood **Kerncrest Audubon Society Keystone Prairie Dogs** Kickapoo Peace Circle Kids vs. Global Warming Klamath Forest Alliance Klamath-Siskyou Wildlands Center Labor Network for Sustainability

Latina Lista Latinos Go Green **Living Rivers** Long Branch Environmental Education Center Loon Lake Loon Association Los Padres ForestWatch Maricopa Audubon Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Massachusetts Forest Watch Minnesota River Valley Audubon Montana Environmental Information Center Mount Graham Coalition **National Wolfwatcher Coalition** Nature in the City **NE Oregon Ecosystems** Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility, United Church of Christ New Mexico Wilderness Alliance North Cascades Conservation Council North County Watch Northern Idaho Wolf Alliance Northwest Environmental Advocates Oconee Rivers Audubon Society Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition One More Generation Park Ridge Cool Cities

Partnership for Earth Spirituality
P.L.A.N.
Prairie Dog Pals
Prairie Dog Press
Predator Defense
Preserve Our Wildlife
Progressive Democrats of America
Project Alpha Wolf
Project Coyote
Protect All Living Species
Project for Energy Accountability
Protect our Manoomin
Public Citizen
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Rainforest Action Network
Rainforest Relief
Raptors are the Solution
Renewable Communities Alliance
Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands
RESTORE: The North Woods
River Runners for Wilderness
Rock Creek Alliance
Rocky Mountain Wild
Save La Cueva Canyon
Save our Sky Blue Waters

Save our Cabinets Save the Frogs Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Sea Turtle Conservancy Selkirk Conservation Alliance Sheep Mountain Alliance Shenendoah Riverkeeper **Sherier Forest Conservancy** Sky Island Alliance Sociedad Ornitologica Peurtorriquena, Inc. Solar Done Right South Florida Wildlands Assocation Southwest Environmental Center Southwest Montana Wildlands Association Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation Stewards of the Earth **Swan View Coalition** Sustainable Arizona Sustainable Energy and Economy Network Sustainable Futures **Sustainability Leaders Network** Taylor (Yellowstone) Outfitters Tennessee Environmental Council The California Native Plant Society

The Clinch Coalition The Endocrine Disruption Exchange The Lands Council The Morning Star Institute The Palisades Museum of Prehistory The Rewilding Institute The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation Tortoise Reserve, Inc. TrapFree Oregon Tucson Audubon **Turtle Island Restoration Network** Upper Gila Watershed Alliance Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition **Uranium Watch Urban Century Institute** Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment Value the Verde Ecotourism Vast Horizons Vegabajenos Impulsando Ambiental Sustentable Ventana Wilderness Alliance Vibrant Public Lands Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center Washington Wild West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Western Lands Project

Western Nebraska Resources Council

Western North Carolina Alliance Western Watersheds Project Western Wildlife Conservancy White Mountain Conservation League Wild Equity Institute Wild Idaho Rising Tide Wilderness Watch Wilderness Workshop Wildlands CPR Wildlife Alive Subproject of Earth Island Institute Wildlife Alliance of Maine Wildlife Center of the North Coast Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Wildwest Institute WildEarth Guardians Wild Nature Institute Wild South Wild Utah Project Wisconsin Resources Protection Council Women, Food and Agricultural Network Yellowstone Buffalo Foundation Zero Waste Kauai