December 10, 2012

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
Canyonlands 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 Wild Sky
Friends of the Wild Swan
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 Ornitológica Puerorriquena, Inc.
Solar Done Right
South Florida Wildlands Association
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