

From: <Kashieka_Minor@ios.doi.gov>
To: Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DCN: EST-00005049 - Antiquities Act: Bears Ears
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For review.

1004 W. Tuscany View Rd., Unit E13

Midvale, Utah 84047

September 16, 2017

Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke

U.S Dept. of the Interior

1849 "C" Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

For a first time, I attended the Salt Lake City "rally" at which you were supposed speak about "Bears Ears". You didn't show up and there was no explanation until the next day's newspaper that had an article about same. Seems you attended a confab with some local officials that day, instead. The only news thereafter was that you interviewed some local residents and came away with what was reported there was a need for "commerce" that would be expected, would not develop, which was a concern of the local residents.

You missed a very orderly rally which also included music and prayers from the Native Americans attending. Your voice was missing. Perhaps you knew what would be said and decided to "duck it".

What I would have contributed to the rally, had there been a chance for attendees to speak, is to say that the decision to do away with any of the Utah & other monuments is one more "shot" at President Obama, inasmuch as it was at his behest that "Bears Ears" was attributed as a "monument", as were several others and it, like many other "Obama" designations The President has, with delight "done away with, with the stroke of his pen". I watched with sadness as this activity took place over a period of several weeks about various Obama "created" monuments. Many "conservation organizations, such as the Sierra Club are also aware of President Trump's "heavy hand".

As a long time resident in the "west", your apparent attitude toward Native Americans should have cautioned you from being appointed Secretary of the Interior. One has to wonder if you are aware of some of the dire circumstance under which most of our country's Native Americans live. You can deny this, but no one would believe you considering where you live. You should have turned down this appointment. Since you didn't, Prove us wrong.

But of course Native Americans, like the Negro Slaves of the past, whose indenture prevented them for so many years from full citizenship, are still prevented from having a full life in their communities due to many reasons beyond their control. Many tribes live in the areas designated as "Monument" areas, and

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as I understand it, depend on the native plants and other natural resources found there. To them, they are sacred lands.

Many Native Americans live close to starvation due to their inability to live close enough to the food supplies most Americans can just hop in their cars to obtain. But because of the forced location of their reservations, even though the US government is supposed to monitor these problems and in turn should be making sure there is food available regardless of the location. Transportation, or lack of same, is the number one reason for this. Land that isn't I have had first hand information about this from many sources.

I am a normal, regular income senior citizen who, until recently tried to help support several of the current native tribes, but after a while, almost one year of such, I found I just couldn't afford to help anymore, as their needs soon exceeded my ability to meet them, as a whole and have had to recuse myself from helping them financially. There is one exception, and that is a school that is well run by a Catholic Priest, to which I send a donation occasionally, and that is about all I can handle right now

I wonder, now, with our new Federal government, which "end of the stick" Native Americans will receive. If my suspicions are right, things aren't going to change or improve. I would hope that you, as a Westerner and advocate for human rights for the peoples of the West in your position in the government, will work to do the right thing for them and not be caught up in the policies of a president who has never seen the West. Be like Teddy Roosevelt and make us all proud of you and work to improve the lives of those who, through no fault of their own, are subject to the whims of the current White House. Please leave the "monuments" which are found on mostly Native American lands to stand as they are and be proud to become the one cabinet member known for "doing the right thing". I and many proud Americans will "have your back" for doing so. Thank you.

P.S. One other thing, I recently saw a TV program which focused on Native Americans being able to find employment as installers of solar heating panels to the roofs of their homes. I wasn't able to get all the facts, except what I was able to recall from seeing the film. The Public Broadcasting System, PBS in Boston furnished this interesting film. I saw it on my own TV. You could have someone call them to perhaps get a copy of the film and have it shown through the TV stations that service the reservations. Think of all the good that could come from that....employment, personal savings for any that were able to have it installed on their own buildings.....no more primitive heating systems necessary that allow death to flourish in the winter. Perhaps make it affordable for Native Americans to have it installed on whatever form of buildings they already have. Look up "Residential solar power for Native Americans" online and there this wonderful article you should read. O>K> Here's the answer. O>K> Go for it!

Ms. Phyllis R. Jones

(Phone) (801)255-2090

Thank you!
Phyllis R. Jones