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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

REVERSING OBAMA, TRUMP SIGNS ORDERS ADVANCING KEYSTONE XL, DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINES. After [President Trump](#) signed executive orders advancing the construction of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, the media coverage – including short stories on all three major network newscasts – highlighted the severe disappointment of the projects' foes. Reports also indicated, however, that Trump's move could lead to the creation of a significant number of jobs, and that with his action the President was fulfilling an unequivocal campaign vow. Media analyses also cast Trump's executive orders as yet additional steps to undo the legacy of the previous Administration. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (1/24, Vamburkar, 201K), for example, called the order "a major departure from the Obama administration" – one that marked "the start of an era with fewer constraints on the oil industry to the chagrin of

environmentalists who have bitterly fought the projects.” The [AP](#) (1/24, Daly, Thomas) refers to “a sharp blow to Barack Obama’s legacy on climate change,” part of Trump’s “continuing effort to undo the past eight years of a Democratic president,” [The Hill](#) (1/24, Cama, 1.25M) to “a sharp turn from the Obama administration’s policies,” and the [New York Times](#) (1/24, Baker, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) to a move “to further dismantle his predecessor’s policies.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/24, story 2, 1:20, Brennan, 11.17M) reported that the Keystone XL pipeline “was halted by the Obama Administration due to environmental concerns,” while the Dakota Access would be built “under a reservoir in North Dakota that also is used as a water source for one of the local native American tribes.”

[USA Today](#) (1/24, Korte, 5.28M) reports “Trump emphasized that the construction” of the Keystone pipeline “isn’t a done deal,” saying, “It’s something that subject to a renegotiation of terms by us.” [Vox](#) (1/24, Plumer, 1.15M) said that it is “not yet certain that the two pipelines will actually get finished,” but “the orders lay a lot of groundwork to make approval easier.” The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Mufson, Eilperin, 11.43M) also warns that “it remained unclear, however, how Trump’s order would restart the pipeline projects or expedite environmental reviews.” The President “said that both pipeline projects would be subject to renegotiation,” and that he would “want any new projects to make use of American steel,” and it was also “unclear what Trump’s caution about renegotiation would mean for TransCanada’s plans,” which “originally...had planned to get about 65 percent of the steel pipe from US manufacturers but other supplies from Canada.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) hails Trump’s move to advance construction of the pipelines, but warns that Trump’s pledge to “renegotiate the term” could ultimately lead the companies to forego the project altogether.

[CNBC](#) (1/24, DiChristopher, 2.17M), however, reported that “shares of Energy Transfer Partners and TransCanada both rose more than 3.5 percent on Tuesday,” and quoted from a TransCanada statement that read, “We appreciate the President of the United States inviting us to re-apply for KXL. We are currently preparing the application and intend to do so.” The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (1/24, Hammel, 544K) reports that “a spokesman for TransCanada said Tuesday that it...will” also “be working with the Nebraska Public Service Commission to win approval of a route through the state.” Said TransCanada’s Terry Conha, “KXL represents the safest, most environmentally sound way to connect the American economy to an abundant energy resource.” [Reuters](#) (1/24, Holland), meanwhile, notes that “Canadian Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr said in Calgary that Keystone XL has all the regulatory approvals, and that the project would be ‘very positive for Canada.’”

Also yesterday, [Business Insider](#) (1/24, Sheth, Tani, 3.42M) reported, Trump issued an order designed to reduce “the regulatory burden on the oil industry and encouraging domestic manufacturing.” Said the President, “The regulatory process in this country has become a tangled up mess and very unfair to people.” His move, said Trump, will create “great construction jobs” and “put a lot of workers back to work.” Moreover, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/24, story 2, 2:45, Muir, 14.63M) reported, Trump “ordered the use of American-made steel to the maximum extent possible” for “the construction of those pipelines.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/24, story 2, 1:40, Welker, 16.61M) showed him saying during the signing of the orders, “We will build our own pipeline. We will build our own pipes. That’s what it has to do with. Like we used to in the old days.”

To [USA Today](#) (1/24, Korte, 5.28M), “potentially more sweeping are two directives changing the process of approving and regulating future pipeline and infrastructure projects.” Said Trump, “This is about streamlining the incredibly cumbersome, long, horrible, permitting process. ... If it’s a no, we’ll give them a quick no, and if it’s a yes, it’s like ‘Let’s start building. ... The regulatory process in this country has become a tangled up mess, and very unfair to people.” [NPR](#) (1/24, Naylor, 1.92M) reported that another order, according to Trump “will expedite environmental reviews and approvals ‘for high-priority infrastructure projects.’” Said Trump, “We can’t be in an environmental process for 15 years if a bridge is going to be falling down or if a highway is crumbling.”

[Rolling Stone](#) (1/24, Blistein, 9.26M) reported that Trump said “the projects will be massive job-creators – an oft-repeated, but overstated, claim about the pipelines.” Moreover, the President “did not acknowledge the potential environmental or human impact of the construction.” To [Vox](#) (1/24, Plumer, 1.15M), likewise, “Trump, obviously, is not nearly as concerned about America’s global leadership on climate change.” The [Washington Times](#) (1/24, Miller, 272K), meanwhile, reported “the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to

Texas is estimated to create 28,000 jobs” – a number the President cited yesterday. In the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (1/24, Hamblin, 496K), Abby Hamblin indicated that “the State Department has projected the number of jobs supported by the Keystone Pipeline alone to be about 42,000 during the construction period,” even if “many opponents raise the argument that most of those jobs would disappear after construction.”

Writing for [Forbes](#) (1/24, Wald, 15.17M), Ellen R. Wald noted that “in 2010, TransCanada, the company behind Keystone XL, commissioned the Perryman Group to examine the long-term economic impact of the pipeline. Their study predicted that anywhere from 250,348 to 553,235 spin-off jobs would be created.” Their “study was largely predicated on the assertion that the pipeline would stabilize oil prices,” though “there is no evidence, historical or otherwise, that pipelines serve to stabilize the price of oil, a global commodity.”

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (1/24, Hammel, 544K) reports Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts “was among those praising the move,” and that “Nebraska and Iowa lawmakers” also “reacted positively.” Rep. Adrian Smith, a Nebraska Republican, is quoted as saying, “A large majority of Nebraskans want to see Keystone XL completed, knowing we need long-term solutions for affordable energy.” [NPR](#) (1/24, Naylor, 1.92M), meanwhile, noted that “North Dakota Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp said Trump’s actions ‘are a needed step’ toward the goal of an all-of-the-above North American energy strategy.”

On Monday, [BuzzFeed](#) (1/24, Lewis, 6.47M) reported, Trump had “met with union leaders who have been outspoken in their support for the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines — both projects opposed by many in the labor movement, and blocked by the Obama administration.” Those leaders, however, said Obama’s orders were the “first win for their members in the Trump era.” North America’s Building Trades Unions, “whose president Sean McGarvey was at Monday’s White House meeting,” said yesterday, “Today, President Donald J. Trump gave continued hope to thousands of skilled craft construction professionals in America’s heartland.” James Callahan, President of the International Union of Operating Engineers, “said resuming the Dakota and Keystone projects will bring relief to working families.”

[Roll Call](#) (1/24, Bennett, 63K) said “GOP lawmakers were eager to applaud the move,” and quoted Speaker Ryan as saying, “It’s about time. ... The unfortunate reality is that these important infrastructure projects were used by special interests to advance their radical anti-energy agenda and were, therefore, needlessly halted by the last administration — to the detriment of America’s national interest. These pipelines will strengthen our nation’s energy supply and help keep energy costs low for American families.” [The Hill](#) (1/24, Calfas, 1.25M) reported that Sen. Bernie Sanders “slammed” Trump after he signed the orders, which he said “ignored the voices of millions and put the short-term profits of the fossil fuel industry ahead of the future of our planet.”

On the other hand, said [Business Insider](#) (1/24, Sheth, Tani, 3.42M), “environmental activists are incensed,” and [CNN](#) (1/24, Jones, Diamond, Krieg, 29.79M) reported that “environmental groups and activists were also quick to slam the decision, with Tom Steyer, the president of NextGen Climate, accusing the Trump administration of putting ‘corporate interests ahead of American interests.’” With seeming sarcasm, meanwhile, the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (1/24, Levitz, 795K) reported that “after using his presidential pen to restrict access to abortion worldwide, disrupt the provision of health care here at home, and christen his Inauguration Day a ‘National Day of Patriotic Devotion,’” the President “turned his attention...to America’s pressing need for new oil pipelines.”

[PBS NewsHour](#) (1/24, Norris, 255K) reported that “those opposed to the” Keystone XL “project said it would boost extraction from Canada’s oil sands, a process that emits 14 percent more greenhouse gases than other forms of oil production.” They also “argued constructing a new oil pipeline would diminish America’s role as a global leader of climate change.” The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (1/24, Egan, 513K) said “the move is likely to set off another wave of protests on the Great Plains at a time when ever-growing volumes of North American oil have been quietly flowing into the far more populous Great Lakes region, including two lines that run across the bottom of the Great Lakes themselves.”

In his “Talking Points Memo” segment on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (1/24, 767K), Bill O’Reilly said

Trump continued to be an “activist” president in his second day on the job, “angering environmentalists, still threatening companies that move overseas, but doing all of that in the name of the American worker. Clearly, the Trump Administration is putting economic growth above all else.” The [Huffington Post](#) (1/24, Kaufman, 237K), on the other hand, described Trump as “opening new fronts in his looming war with environmentalists.”

[Mother Jones](#) (1/24, Leber, 1.18M) reported that “environmentalists are already making plans drag the process out.” Jane Kleeb, “who runs the Bold Alliance and opposes Keystone, noted that TransCanada doesn’t yet have the land it needs to complete the pipeline,” added, “We are headed to the courts to challenge the right to use eminent domain.” Heartening the Dakota Access project’s opponents, [Vice](#) (1/24, Ling, 2.28M) reported, is the fact that “the Army Corps of Engineers underneath...Obama denied the...Pipeline an easement in December, delaying construction until a full environmental impact assessment could be completed.” Trump’s executive action “is the first step toward advancing progress,” but “the Dakota line is still undergoing an environmental impact assessment, which is key to the project proceeding.” According to Vice, “for Trump to bypass that, he would need to pass a bill in Congress excluding the pipeline from the National Environmental Protection Act.”

[RT](#) (1/24, 213K) reported that “a lawyer for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe said the decision was made ‘hastily and irresponsibly,’” and that the tribe “intended to pursue legal action against Trump’s order, adding that the pipeline posed a risk not just for their water supply but also for millions of Americans living downstream.” Meanwhile, “one of the leading organizations in the Standing Rock protests, the Indigenous Environmental Network, called Trump’s actions ‘insane and extreme, and nothing short of attacks on our ancestral homelands.’” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Harder, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) quotes a spokesperson for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe saying the President disregarded Native American treaty rights and was “politically motivated.” Dave Archambault II, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, said in a statement, “President Trump is legally required to honor our treaty rights and provide a fair and reasonable pipeline process.”

As [Reuters](#) (1/24, Sylvester) reports, “the tribe had recently called for protesters to leave after” the Army Corps of Engineers’ decision, “saying the battle had moved beyond the camp and into the courts or back rooms for negotiations with the government.” Reuters adds that “some said they feared fresh violence after past clashes between protesters and law enforcement officers.” At any rate, said [TIME](#) (1/24, Worland, 6.98M), “the path for permanently stopping the Dakota Access project remains unclear,” as “the project is more than 95% complete, with the small region near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation remaining unconstructed, and local law enforcement has shown no hesitation in shutting down protests.”

Trump Orders Acceleration Of Environmental Reviews For Infrastructure Projects. The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Fears, 11.43M) reports President Trump signed an executive order Tuesday to expedite environmental reviews and approvals to fast track infrastructure projects. Agencies that undertake environmental and other analyses before greenlighting development should work with “maximum efficiency and effectiveness” to complete them. “As part of the order, the chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality will decide whether a project should be given national priority within 30 days of a request, triggering an expedited approval process.” Trump’s move follows a day after placing a freeze on all EPA grants and contracts, “possibly suspending efforts to improve local air quality in some parts of the nation.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (1/24, Giaritelli, 400K) reports that the Commerce Department will work with the EPA, DOE, the USDA, the Office of Management and Budget and the Small Business Administration. “After the public comment period, an action plan to streamline permitting must be developed in 60 days, according to the memorandum.”

SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY SCALED BACK AT FEDERAL AGENCIES. [E&E](#) (1/24) reports that “Twitter posts and other social media activity have been scaled back at U.S. EPA, the departments of the Interior and Energy, and other agencies as the new Trump administration gets traction.” Under a new rule, “no posts on the ‘policy priorities’ of the incoming Interior secretary” will be allowed until Rep. Ryan Zinke is “confirmed by the Senate for the position.”

Trump Administration Limits On Agencies’ Communications Spark Concern. [Reuters](#) (1/24, Volcovici, Huffstutter) reports that directives from the Trump Administration to the EPA, Interior

Department, and Agriculture Department “seeking to limit how they communicate to the public” have “reinforced concerns that Trump, a climate change doubter, could seek to sideline scientific research showing that carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels contributes to global warming, as well as the career staffers at the agencies that conduct much of this research.” The [New York Post](#) (1/24, Fredericks, 3.82M) says Trump “imposed a media blackout” at the EPA and “barred staff from awarding new contracts or grants” The moves “are expected to have a significant and immediate impact on EPA activities nationwide.” Correspondent Jim Axelrod reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (1/24, story 5, 2:35, Pelley, 11.17M) that the restrictions “stoked the fears” of University of Pennsylvania environmental professor Bethany Wiggin and her colleagues and students that “the Administration will limit access to data as it rolls back environmental protections.” Axelrod added that on Tuesday, “the Badlands National Park tweeted about climate change in defiance of the White House and then deleted them.”

At USDA, the [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Delreal, 11.43M) reports, employees of the Agricultural Research Service “were ordered Monday to cease publication of ‘outward facing’ documents and news releases, raising concerns that the Trump administration was seeking to influence distribution of their findings.”

[Politico](#) (1/24, Restuccia, Guillén, Cook, 2.46M) said the “steps to mute federal employees,” which include “limiting employees’ ability to issue news releases, tweet or otherwise communicate with the public,” are “sparking early fears of a broader crackdown across the government, as Trump vows to pursue an agenda sharply at odds with his predecessor.” There are concerns among watchdog groups “about what restrictions the Trump administration may yet impose on federal workers.” White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Tuesday that he “was still looking into the agency restrictions, but added, ‘I don’t think there’s any surprise that when there’s an administration turnover, we’re going to review the policies.’”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (1/24, Fabian, 1.25M), [USA Today](#) (1/24, Rossman, 5.28M), [Politico](#) (1/24, McCaskill, 2.46M), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (1/24, Levy, 1.02M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Eilperin, Dennis, 11.43M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (1/24, 2.54M), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (1/24, 114K), the [Raw Story](#) (1/24, 1.24M), and [GeekWire](#) (1/24, 59K).

Also providing coverage are [The Hill](#) (1/24, Shelbourne, 1.25M), [USA Today](#) (1/24, King, 5.28M), [Bloomberg News](#) (1/24, The Associated Press (Biesecker John Flesher), 2.41M), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (1/24, Biesecker, Flesher, 1.08M), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (1/24, 1.02M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/24, Biesecker, Flesher, 272K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (1/24, 2.54M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (1/24), the [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 4.59M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (1/24, 1.27M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (1/24, 942K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 574K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (1/24, 778K), [RT](#) (1/24, 213K), and the [Japan Times](#) (1/25, 12K).

Badlands National Park Tweeted Climate Facts Amid Social Media Crackdown. [The Hill](#) (1/24, Henry, 1.25M) reports Badlands National Park sent out three Twitter messages on Tuesday “promoting climate science amid a new Trump administration crackdown on agencies communicating on social media.” The tweets are “basic scientific facts and not noteworthy in and of themselves,” but they came against Trump administration directives blocking climate pronouncements from federal agencies. [CNN](#) (1/24, Diaz, 29.79M) reports the tweets were up for a few hours before they were deleted.

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (1/24, Henry, 1.25M), [Politico](#) (1/24, Quigley, 2.46M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Fears, 11.43M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/24, Wolfgang, 272K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (1/24, 4.52M), [CBS News](#) (1/24, 4.4M), [Fox News](#) (1/24, 11.07M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/23, 387K), [Forbes](#) (1/24, 15.17M), [Bloomberg News](#) (1/25, Roston, 2.41M), [Reuters](#) (1/24, Volcovici, Huffstutter), [TIME](#) (1/24, 6.98M), [USA Today](#) (1/24, Weise, 5.28M), the [Daily Caller](#) (1/24, Bastasch, 898K), [Bloomberg BNA](#) (1/24, 7K), [MarketWatch](#) (1/24, 767K), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (1/24, 1.08M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (1/24, 2.54M), the [New York Daily News](#) (1/24, Brennan, 4.45M), the [Daily Beast](#) (1/24, 1.11M), [Vanity Fair](#) (1/24, 6.22M), the [Huffington Post](#) (1/24, 237K), the [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 4.59M), [Vox](#) (1/24, 1.15M), [Talking Points Memo](#) (1/24, 517K), [Quartz](#) (1/24, 638K), the [New Republic](#) (1/24, 255K), [Federal Computer Week](#) (1/24, 263K), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (1/25, 2.39M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/24, Lartey, 4.07M), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (1/24, Sampathkumar, 1.28M), [GeekWire](#) (1/24, 59K), [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (1/24, 141K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (1/24, 453K).

SENATE COMMITTEE DELAYS VOTE ON ZINKE, PERRY. [E&E](#) (1/24) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee had scheduled votes Tuesday “on Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), nominee for Interior secretary, and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R), Trump’s pick to lead the Department of Energy.” However, late Monday night the panel announced “that it was postponing the meeting until further notice.” Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn said “that he hoped the Senate could confirm Zinke and Perry before Republicans head to Philadelphia later this week for a retreat with their House colleagues and President Trump.”

[Politico Pro](#) (1/24) reports that “the Congressional Republicans’ annual retreat later this week means the votes won’t come until next week at the earliest.” The [Montana Standard](#) (1/24, 36K) reports that “several sources indicated the vote would be rescheduled for next week, though nothing had been posted to the committee website early Tuesday evening.”

In a piece about the delays on confirmation votes for Cabinet nominees Ed O’Keefe noted the postponed votes on both Perry and Zinke for the [Washington Post](#) (1/24, O’Keefe, 11.43M). O’Keefe calls the delays “unprecedented.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Roll Call](#) (1/24, Bowman, 63K), [CBS News](#) (1/24, 4.4M), [NBC News](#) (1/24, 2.67M), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (1/24, 400K), [KBZK-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (1/24, 785), [KFBB-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (1/24, 2K), [KHQ-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (1/24, 50K), and [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (1/24).

Delay On Vote Linked To Perry, Miscommunication. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (1/24, 85K) reports that the postponement of Zinke’s vote “doesn’t appear to be related to his performance last week when he was questioned by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.” Nicole Daigle, communications director for the committee, said Tuesday that Sen. Lisa Murkowski “postponed the hearing due to a miscommunication between her” and Maria Cantwell, the ranking Democrat on the committee. Daigle said, “She wants to start 2017 on a good footing with her ranking member. Sen. Murkowski hopes to be able to put a vote before the full committee very quickly.” Cantwell “told reporters in Washington Tuesday that Democrats want more information about how Rick Perry will handle energy efficiency standards, according to Cantwell’s office.” Democrats also “objected to Republicans calling a vote without giving the standard three-day advance notice, Cantwell’s office said.”

National Wildlife Federation Backs Zinke’s Nomination. [Politico Pro](#) (1/24) reports that the National Wildlife Federation sent a letter Monday “urging Senate energy panel members to back Zinke’s nomination to run the Interior Department.” Collin O’Mara, the group’s president, wrote, “Representative Zinke understands the intrinsic wildlife and conservation values of the Nation’s public lands that are held in trust for generations of all Americans.” O’Mara added that NWF would work with Zinke on “how best to balance energy development decisions with key conservation priorities.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (1/24, Follett, 898K).

Facing Tough Election Cycle, Trump’s Cabinet Picks A Boost For Senate Democrats. [The Hill](#) (1/24, Hagen, 1.25M) reported that the Cabinet selections of President Trump “have given Democrats a few bright spots ahead of an otherwise grim 2018 Senate cycle.” Facing reelection next year, North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D) and West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin (D), “both of whom Trump had considered for administration roles, will remain in the upper chamber.” Perry was being considered the energy secretary post, which ultimately went to Perry. In addition, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R), who had been viewed as “a top” potential challenger to Montana Sen. Jon Tester (D) in 2018, “has been tapped to serve as Interior secretary.” Jim Manley, a former aide to ex-Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, told The Hill, “Given the number of Democrats up [for reelection in 2018], I don’t expect Democrats to catch a lot of breaks, but they sure did in this particular instance.”

Additional Coverage Of Zinke’s Confirmation Hearing. Additional coverage of Zinke’s confirmation hearing was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (1/24, 77K).

TRUMP ASKED TO RESCIND BEARS EARS DESIGNATION, SHRINK STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. [E&E](#) (1/24) reports that Utah state House Speaker Greg Hughes “used part of his Legislature’s opening day to rail against the newly established Bears Ears National Monument, urging President Trump to rescind the designation for the 1.35-million-acre-site.” Hughes “lashed out against the Obama administration’s decision to establish the monument in southeastern Utah late last year, characterizing it as ‘tragic’ and an ‘overstep.’” His “remarks echoed criticisms fired in recent weeks” by Gov. Gary Herbert and House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop, “who have likewise called for rolling back the Bears Ears designation.”

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/24, 426K) reports that Utah legislators also want “to erase large portions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument created a generation ago.” However, “environmental groups and Democrats blasted the GOP plan.” Steve Bloch, legal director for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, said, “The message that Utah is sending by even suggesting this is nothing short of outrageous. This would be a tragic mistake for the president to undo two decades of conservation work that has been heralded across the world as a visionary step by President Clinton to protect a world-class resource.”

UTAH LAWMAKERS HOPE TO CREATE STATE PARKS AT HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK, LITTLE SAHARA. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/24, 426K) reports that “Utah lawmakers are angling to create two new state parks on federal lands, one at Little Sahara in Juab County and the other at Hole-in-the-Rock.” the House Political Subdivisions Committee, “with its three Democratic members voting against,” advanced HB63. The measure “authorizes the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation to acquire federal land in Garfield County near where the pioneer expedition cut the trail down a steep crevice.” According to the article, “state officials might negotiate a lease or some other agreement with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management to operate a park.” A different bill, HB95, would “establish a state park at Little Sahara.”

SURVEY FINDS MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANT MORE ALTERNATIVE FUELS. [E&E](#) (1/24) reports that “approximately 65 percent of Americans prioritize the development of alternative energy sources compared with 27 percent who would put greater emphasis on expanding U.S. fossil fuel production, according to a new study by the Pew Research Center.” The article notes that the “study demonstrates increased popular support for alternative energy at a time when President Trump is pledging to boost production from fossil fuel energy sources like coal.” It also notes that “Democrats are still far more likely than Republicans to believe that developing alternative energy sources like wind and solar should take precedence over expanding production of coal, oil and natural gas.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EXPANSION OF BALL’S BLUFF BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. Additional coverage of the expansion of Ball’s Bluff Battlefield National Historic Landmark was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (1/23, Mauck, 11.43M).

OBAMA’S NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS DEFENDED.. In an op-ed for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/23, Blumm, Hoffmann, 4.52M), Michael Blumm, a professor at Lewis and Clark Law School, and Hillary Hoffmann, a professor at Vermont Law School, defends President Obama’s 2016 national monument designations. They argue that “are ignoring the history and scope” of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and “the positive effects of monument designations on nearby communities.” They also point out that “although the Antiquities Act does not require it, the Obama administration engaged in substantial public discussions before the recent designations.” As a result, “those discussions led to scaling down the size of Bears Ears monument and eliminating several areas that might be mined or used for vehicular recreation in the future.”

DESIGNATION OF NORTHEAST CANYONS AND SEAMOUNTS NATIONAL MONUMENT PRAISED. In a piece for the [Worcester \(MA\) Telegram & Gazette](#) (1/23, 181K), Mark Blazis lauds the designation of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument. Blazis asserts that “saving the biological treasures of our offshore canyons and seamounts from future resource extraction and other destructive exploitation will require much more public awareness, never-ending education, and politics-free protection and management.” He concludes that “we need future presidential administrations to continue to possess our current biological understanding, environmental values and unselfish vision to insure that our most

precious wild lands remain a permanent natural legacy for all Americans.”

ADAMS: TRUMP ENERGY POLICY TO STRIKE FEAR AMONG SOME INDUSTRIES. In a piece titled “Trump’s Energy Policy Is Scary” [Forbes](#) (1/24, 15.17M) contributor Rod Adams writes, “Trump’s plan for American energy strength is rightfully causing angst” for those “who believe that renewable energy is the inevitable path” and “even more fear among the people who are betting on fossil fuel to continue dominating the world’s economy and geopolitics.” Based on statements made during the Senate confirmation hearings of Perry and Scott Pruitt “it appears that we are headed for an era of cheap and abundant power.” Adams contends that the “eventual and almost inevitable result” of a true “all of the above” energy policy “should be a sustainable transition to cheap, abundant, emission-free uranium, plutonium and thorium.” The prospect “that this vision might come to pass” is a frightening possibility “for those who continue to bet their wealth, power and careers on the assumption that the hydrocarbon economy will never end or on the myth that unreliaables can do it all.”

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SAID TO HAVE NO CONCRETE STANCE ON PUBLIC LANDS. The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (1/25, 178K) editorializes that “in terms of public lands, the Trump administration’s positions are wide open spaces — and so are its Cabinet members’ views.” It suggests that “the absence of firm policy positions may create an opportunity for the congressional delegations from states such as Oregon to exert influence.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS EXPANDS OLD SALEM’S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT. The [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (1/24, 204K) reports that the National Park Service has “expanded Old Salem’s National Historic Landmark district, tripling its acreage and increasing the number of time periods considered significant.” The Interior Department took action because it “saw a story that emphasized a kind of significance that had not been recognized before,” Michael “Mo” Hartley, the director of archaeology for Old Salem Museums and Gardens, said.

NPS REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR RECONSTRUCTION NATIONAL MONUMENT. [WJCL-TV](#) Savannah, GA (1/24, 807) reports that the four sites making up the Reconstruction National Monument are “now working to create an agreement with the National Park Service.” Next week, representatives from the park service will “visit each site to discuss more specific plans for the future.”

PLANS FOR TALLER, STRONGER WHITE HOUSE FENCE APPROVED. [WTTG-TV](#) Washington (1/24, 67K) reports that “a proposal for a new taller and stronger fence for the White House has been approved.” The planned fence, “which will be 11-foot-7-inches tall, will be made with wider and stronger pickets and will be installed beginning in 2018.” The new design for the fence was proposed by the United States Secret Service and the National Park Service.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BREAKS VISITATION RECORD.. The [Denver Post](#) (1/24, 778K) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park “set a record with 4.5 million visitors in 2016. In fact, every month of the year — except December — set a monthly record.” Kyle Patterson, spokeswoman for the park, noted that “last year’s visitation number is an 8.68 percent increase over the previous annual record in 2015, a 32 percent increase since 2014, and a 40 percent increase since 2012.”

VISITS TO MONROE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD ON THE RISE. The [Adrian \(MI\) Daily Telegram](#) (1/24, 27K) reports that the River Raisin National Battlefield Park saw an increase in visitors in 2016. Park Supt. Scott Bentley said, “The battlefield received 202,375 visitors during the National Park Service Centennial calendar year. This is another significant increase over 2015.”

MOUNT RAINIER SWITCHING TO ONLINE PERMITTING SYSTEM. [GeekWire](#) (1/24, 59K) reports that “after years of having to fax or mail in reservation requests to camp in Mount Rainier National Park, wilderness enthusiasts will soon be able to submit requests online, The National Park Service announced

this week.” According to the article, “the new system will launch on March 15 and was created in a partnership with the University of Washington Information School.”

DRONE ALLOWED INSIDE GREAT SAND DUNES PARK FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. The [Denver Post](#) (1/24, 778K) reports that officials allowed a drone to be flown in Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve on Oct. 19. According to a report released Tuesday, “park officials want to better track the ecosystem to see how sand shifts over time and impacts the dunes’ height and depth.” During the flight, “the drone took high-resolution images of 1 square mile of the park centered around the Star Dune, which at 750 feet is the tallest dune in North America.”

SATELLITE IMAGE SHOWS BLUE MISTS OVER SMOKY MOUNTAINS. [CBS News](#) (1/24, 4.4M) reports that “a new satellite view of the Smoky Mountains shows the blue mist that gives the region its name.” The image, “shared by NASA’s Earth Observatory, is a best-pixel image” of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

MAN SENTENCED FOR AX ATTACK ON LASSEN NATIONAL PARK RANGER. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 574K) reports that “a federal judge on Tuesday sentenced a drunken man who attacked a Lassen National Park ranger with an ax last year to 27 months in prison.” Nicholas Martin Coberley “claimed that he had been staying with a friend and had been drinking when they got into an argument and he wandered away on foot – when ranger Chris Cruz came upon him in a truck, according to court papers filed by his lawyer.” Coberley, “45, pleaded guilty on Oct. 11 for the June 20 incident.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 574K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GAO REPORT QUESTIONS FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE PROGRAM. The [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (1/24, 111K) reports that “Oklahoma state and county governments and oil and gas companies have paid millions of dollars to fund conservation efforts to protect an endangered beetle species found in eastern Oklahoma, but there has been little accountability over how part of that money has been used, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report released Monday.” Sen. James Lankford “requested the report in an effort to bolster his argument that the American burying beetle should be removed from the endangered species list.” Lankford said, “This GAO investigation reinforces the need for more rigorous oversight of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the mitigation programs managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The listing of the American burying beetle unnecessarily places burdensome land-use restrictions to build roads, water resources and energy infrastructure in many of our communities.”

FORSYTHE WILDLIFE REFUGE HEADQUARTERS NEARLY COMPLETE. [Shore News Today \(NJ\)](#) (1/23) reports that “three years from the planning stages to completion,” a \$4.7 million project to construct a new headquarters at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge “with federal money is nearly finished.” According to refuge manager Virginia Rettig, “New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife employees will be moving into a new 4,300-square-foot building by mid-February.”

CSKT BACKS FWS’ PREFERRED PLAN TO RETURN BISON MANAGEMENT TO TRIBES. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (1/24, 15K) reports that “on Jan. 18, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published its notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan for the National Bison Range in Moiese, accompanied by an environmental impact statement (EIS).” In its notice, the FWS “states that the EIS will look at different management models for the Bison Range, including the FWS’ preferred option of congressional legislation that would restore the National Bison Range to federal trust ownership for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes with requirements of continued bison and wildlife conservation, as well as public access.” According to CSKT Communications Director Rob McDonald, the Tribes “welcome this step” and are “pleased that the FWS has selected restoration of the Bison Range, and subsequent Tribal management of the bison and other natural resources, as its preferred choice in this evaluation of management alternatives.”

TWO NORTHERN LONG-EARED BATS FOUND LIVING IN BEAUFORT COUNTY. The [AP](#) (1/24,

272K) reports that “scientists have confirmed a pair of bats found in some woods in Beaufort County is from a species usually found in the mountains.” According to the article, “a lab at Northern Arizona University has confirmed the bats found in Bluffton are northern long-eared bats.” Officials are not certain “how the bats ended up on the coast but may devote more study to the question.”

FWS OFFERING \$10,000 REWARD IN CASE OF MISSING SALAMANDERS. The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 407K) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to a conviction in the case of hundreds of rare salamanders that disappeared from a San Marcos fish hatchery.” The article notes that “the 253 Texas blind salamanders and 110 San Marcos salamanders, both protected under the Endangered Species Act and Texas state law, went missing from the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center in San Marcos over the Thanksgiving holiday.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (1/24, 844K).

REWARD IN INDIANA WHOOPING CRANE KILLING INCREASES TO \$15,000. The [AP](#) (1/24, 272K) reports that “the reward for information leading to a conviction in the fatal shooting of an endangered whooping crane in Indiana has grown to \$15,000.” The Center for Biological Diversity said Tuesday that “it’s added \$5,000 to the \$10,000 reward offered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the International Crane Foundation and other groups.”

Bureau of Land Management:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL AGENCIES OUTLINE THE NEXT STEPS FOR BEARS EARS.

Additional coverage that federal agencies are planning the next steps for the Bears Ears National Monument was provided by the [San Juan \(UT\) Record](#) (1/24, 479).

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY FINDS COASTAL MARSHES THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. [E&E](#) (1/24) reports that “salt marshes along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts are being lost to climate change,” according to a study released Tuesday by the U.S. Geological Survey. The article says that “scientists developing a new rapid assessment technique for marshes chose eight areas on both coasts to test their method and found all of those wetlands losing ground.” According to the study, “half these marshes will be gone in 350 years.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE, COAST GUARD SIGN AGREEMENTS TO INCREASE COLLABORATION. [Offshore Engineer](#) (1/24) reports that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and US Coast Guard “signed four revised memorandums of agreement (MOAs) this week in order to improve regulatory collaboration related to the energy industry on the US Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).” According to the article, “the agreements leverage each agency’s authorities and areas of expertise to increase collaboration, clarify responsibilities, and streamline information sharing.”

Additional coverage was provided by [PennEnergy](#) (1/24, 128).

AUTOMATION MAY OFFSET POTENTIAL ENERGY EMPLOYMENT GAINS. [Bloomberg News](#) (1/24, 2.41M) reports robots are increasingly taking over work previously done by people on oil drillships. For example, the Iron Roughneck, made by National Oilwell Varco Inc., automates the process of connecting segments of drill pipe as they are laid through the ocean and oil-bearing rock. The oil industry lost 440,000 jobs through the downturn, but more efficient drilling rigs and increased automation reduce the need for field hand labor. Because of this, even if energy companies expand production in the industry-friendly presidency of Donald Trump, there may not be a subsequent increase in employment.

BOEM'S DECISION TO DENY SEISMIC TESTING WELCOMED. In an editorial, the [St. Augustine \(FL\) Record](#) (1/25, 49K) welcomes BOEM's decision to deny "six pending applications to permit seismic testing in the mid-and South Atlantic areas of the Atlantic Ocean." According to the paper, "shutting down the seismic platting of the ocean floor at this time simply made sense — scientifically speaking."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM OPENS MORE LAND FOR AUCTION IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST. The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (1/24, Renault, 529K) reports officials in the Bureau of Land Management announced plans to auction off seven more land parcels in Ohio's Wayne National Forest. The officials said that nearly 1,200 acres of land will be sold online on March 23. Environmental advocates say they will continue to fight the sales and to oppose hydraulic fracturing on the land.

MURRAY ENERGY CEO SAYS TRUMP COULD BUOY COAL IN 3 MONTHS. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (1/24, 201K) reports Murray Energy founder and outspoken coal advocate Robert Murray expects Donald Trump to improve the regulatory environment for the coal industry within three months. Murray said Monday he is convinced that "the very best people" are running the federal government. Murray has lauded Trump's plan to exit the Pairs agreement and "called on Trump to gut some federal regulatory agencies and install a Supreme Court justice friendly to fossil-fuel interests." Murray said of the Supreme Court pick, "We should have that in three months, and that should be about the longest."

Empowering Native American Communities:

FATE OF ELK GROVE'S PROPOSED CASINO UNRESOLVED. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 574K) reports that "just before President Barack Obama left office last week, his administration declared the Wilton Rancheria Indian tribe could acquire 36 acres of land in Elk Grove in order to build a \$400 million casino." However, "the land question is not entirely resolved, and the tribe's plans could rest with Elk Grove voters – or the administration of President Donald Trump." The Elk Grove City Council, "which has supported the tribe's effort, will meet Wednesday night and try to sort out an increasingly complicated legal picture regarding the proposed casino off Highway 99."

Meanwhile, the [Elk Grove News \(CA\)](#) (1/24) reports that in a letter sent Monday to Elk Grove City Attorney Jonathon Hobbs, and Mona Ebrahimi of the law firm of Kronick Moskowitz Tiedemann & Girard, "the attorney for a California Indian gaming casino watchdog group asserted the final decision on Wilton Rancheria's proposed \$400 million casino resort is not yet written in stone."

BIA REVIEWING PLANS FOR GUYMON CASINO. [KFDA-TV](#) Amarillo, TX (1/24, 28K) reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is "reviewing the environmental impact assessment of a proposed Casino, two miles south of Guymon, Oklahoma." However, "people in Guymon are divided when it comes to the economic and social impact a casino would have." Those opposed "argue once the land is designated a reserve, the state and local governments lose control of what is developed."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HAVASUPAI NATION STUDENTS FILE LAWSUIT. Additional coverage of the federal lawsuit filed this month against the government by the Havasupai Tribe on behalf of nine students was provided by the [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (1/24).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR BACKS BOISE RIVER SYSTEM WATER STORAGE STUDY. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (1/24, 113K) reports that U.S. Bureau of Reclamation officials "hope to conduct a major feasibility study that would look at several options for increasing water storage capacity on the Boise River system." According to the article, "the study would cost \$5.5 million and look at different options for increasing the Treasure Valley water supply, including raising Arrowrock Dam 10 feet, Anderson Ranch Dam 6 feet or the Lucky Peak Dam pool 4 feet." Roland Springer, who manages the BOR's Snake River area office, said "the study could begin as soon as this year and the agency is already doing some hydrologic

analysis.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, AND NEVADA NEGOTIATING DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN. Additional coverage that Arizona, Nevada, and California are negotiating a deal called the Drought Contingency Plan was provided by [USA Today](#) (1/24, Loomis, 5.28M).

Top National News:

TRUMP EXPECTED TO TAKE EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION, BORDER WALL TODAY.

The White House signaled Tuesday that major presidential actions on immigration and border security would come Wednesday, though because the news was not officially announced and hints came late in the day, coverage is limited and sometimes vague. On Tuesday evening at 9:37 p.m., President Trump [tweeted](#), “Big day planned on NATIONAL SECURITY tomorrow. Among many other things, we will build the wall!” This came several hours after [Reuters](#) (1/24, Ainsley) reported that Trump is expected to block visas from residents of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, and to “order a multi-month ban on allowing refugees into the United States except for religious minorities escaping persecution, until more aggressive vetting is in place.” In a brief update on “a busy day at the White House,” the [CBS Evening News](#) (1/24, story 3, 0:30, Pelley, 11.17M) had earlier mentioned that on Wednesday, President Trump “is expected to sign orders restricting immigration, especially from countries that harbor a terrorist threat.”

The [New York Times](#) (1/24, Davis, Sanger, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the President “will order the construction of a Mexican border wall – the first in a series of actions this week to crack down on immigrants and bolster national security, including slashing the number of refugees who can resettle in the United States and blocking Syrians and others from ‘terror prone’ nations from entering, at least temporarily.” The Times says the orders “could lead to sweeping and controversial changes” in the way the US “conducts itself at home and around the globe...potentially leading to the reinstatement of policies that have been repudiated by much of the world.”

The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Markon, Costa, 11.43M) reports that Trump is expected to sign the orders at a town hall meeting of DHS employees. According to sources speaking on condition of anonymity, Stephen Bannon and Attorney General-designate Sessions “were deeply involved in the extended debate about the orders,” and while the planned moves are “widely seen inside the White House as a victory for the self-described populist wing of his inner circle – which includes Bannon, Sessions and top policy adviser Stephen Miller – there are ongoing discussions about just how far to go on some policies, in particular the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says Trump is not expected to take action Wednesday on terminating DACA, though the [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/24, Bierman, 4.52M) says “immigration hawks are pressuring” Trump to stick by his campaign pledge to do so soon. [Politico](#) (1/24, Kim, 2.46M) also reports that “just four days into the new administration, immigration hardliners are demanding that the new president follow through.”

The [New York Post](#) (1/24, Perez, 3.82M) says Trump “will be ordering the construction of his signature Mexican border wall on Wednesday.” [USA Today](#) (1/24, Korte, 5.28M) reports, “Trump aides have made clear that there’s been no change in Trump’s position on the border wall, and he’s getting right to work on it.” But “unlike some of his other first-week actions,” the President “needs congressional support to authorize a border wall.”

While some sources including the New York Times appear to have details on the plans, others were less certain. [McClatchy](#) (1/24, Ordoñez, Kumar, 74K) says it “was not known” how extensive Wednesday’s actions will be, and [Politico](#) (1/24, Isenstadt, 2.46M) reports that it is “not clear if any of the actions would relate to Trump’s pledge to crack down on Muslim immigration.” The [Washington Times](#) (1/24, Pace, Salama, Zoll, 272K) also says that “the specifics of Trump’s orders were unclear.”

MEDIA ANALYSES: SPICER CONFIRMS TRUMP’S BELIEF IN “FALSE CLAIM” ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS VOTING. Coverage of White House press secretary Sean Spicer’s briefing confirming

President Trump's belief that he lost the popular tally in November because millions of votes from illegal immigrants is markedly critical – both of Spicer's remarks and of Trump's claim. Reports and analyses – which included the lead segments on all three major network newscasts – are nearly universal in saying there is no credible evidence to back up the President's claim. Another theme in the coverage: Trump's claim about the voting of illegal immigrants and the President's continuing focus on the size of his inauguration crowd is distracting the Administration from focusing on its goals and plans.

In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/24, lead story, 3:50, Muir, 14.63M), David Muir spoke of “the day of controversy within the Trump White House over a claim made once again by the President that has never been proven”: Trump claiming “he lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton because of millions of illegal votes.” Referring to Spicer's remarks, ABC's Cecilia Vega cited what she described as a “stunning admission from the White House today:” Trump “still believes there was massive voter fraud in the election he won.” Spicer was shown saying, “The President does believe that, he's stated that before. I think he's stated his concerns of voter fraud, people voting illegally, during the campaign, and he continues to maintain that belief based on studies and evidence people have presented to him.”

In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (1/24, lead story, 2:20, Pelley, 11.17M), Scott Pelley intoned, “Well, this has never happened before – the results of an American presidential election are being disputed by the winner.” CBS' Margaret Brennan added that “Spicer said President Trump told congressional leaders [Monday] that he lost the popular vote by nearly three million votes because of widespread fraud.” However, Spicer “did not present any evidence of fraud in the 2016 election. The association that represents state election officials told CBS News it is ‘not aware of any evidence that supports the voter fraud claims made by President Trump.’”

In the opening segment of [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/24, lead story, 2:30, Holt, 16.61M), Lester Holt stated, “Even as he rapidly reshapes American policy with a flurry of executive actions, President Trump is drawing a scrutiny tonight for repeating a false claim that millions of fraudulent votes were cast in the last election.” Holt said “Trump's apparent focus on the election conspiracy theories is in sharp contrast to the bold actions he's taken, including his bold move today to resurrect the controversial Keystone XL Oil Pipeline.” NBC's Hallie Jackson added, “Instead of working to clarify or backtrack on... Trump's false claims, today” Spicer “tried to cement them. ... Citing studies that don't back up his claim, the press secretary backing up his boss.”

In its online “First 100 Days Briefing,” the [New York Times](#) (1/24, Haberman, Steinhauer, Savage, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) said Spicer “confirmed” that Trump “has long believed that millions of undocumented immigrants voted illegally in the 2016 election, furthering a false claim from the podium of the West Wing briefing room and refusing to rule out an investigation down the road.” Addressing “stunned reporters,” Spicer said, “[Trump] said 3 to 5 million people could have voted illegally, based on the studies that he's seen.”

In the “Fact Checker” blog on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Lee, 11.43M), Michelle Ye Hee Lee quoted Spicer as saying, “I think there have been studies; there was one that came out of Pew in 2008 that showed 14 percent of people who have voted were not citizens. There are other studies that were presented to [Trump].” Lee wrote, “Spicer cited repeatedly debunked research to support Trump's claim that millions of people voted illegally during the 2016 presidential election. These studies do not support Trump's Four-Pinocchio claims of ‘millions’ of people voting illegally.”

Under the headline “Spicer: Trump Believes Voter Fraud Claim Despite Lack Of Evidence,” [USA Today](#) (1/24, Jackson, 5.28M) reports, “As candidates, lawmakers, government officials and election observers disputed Trump's claim, congressional Republicans expressed dismay at” his “return to the topic.” Said Sen. Lindsey Graham, “To continue to suggest that the 2016 election was conducted in a fashion that millions of people voted illegally undermines faith in our democracy.”

[Politico](#) (1/24, Conway, 2.46M) reported that Spicer “defended” Trump over the claim, even though “numerous fact checks and other studies that have debunked the theory.” Politico further quoted Graham as saying of Trump, “We're talking about a man who won the election and seems to be obsessed with the idea that he could not have possibly lost the popular vote without cheating or fraud. I would urge the

president to knock this off.” However, speaking with reporters yesterday, Senate Majority Leader McConnell said “that voter fraud ‘does happen.’” McConnell declined to “directly weigh in on Trump’s claim, but said, ‘There are always arguments on both sides about how much, how frequent and all the rest.’”

The [New York Post](#) (1/24, Fredericks, 3.82M) reports that Spicer “doubled down on” Trump’s claim, even though it “has been thoroughly debunked.” The Post says Spicer “repeatedly declined to provide any evidence of what would have been the most egregious case of voter fraud in US history – and would not explain why Trump hasn’t ordered an investigation if that’s what he believes.” The [Washington Times](#) (1/24, Boyer, 272K) reports Spicer said Trump thinks “millions of illegal voters cast ballots in the presidential election, but he’s ‘comfortable’ with his victory in the Electoral College vote tally.” Spicer said Trump “had mentioned the issue ‘in passing’ with lawmakers.”

CBS News Political Director John Dickerson, host of “Face the Nation,” said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (1/24, story 3, 1:35, Pelley, 11.17M), “It was extraordinary to hear” Spicer, answering “questions about [Trump’s claim] today, simply say, ‘It’s something he believes,’ as if a White House can allow a President to believe things and talk about them with congressional leaders – things that just aren’t so. And the reason it’s important to have a President believe in things that are true is it creates a sense of belief in everything he says. But more important, the most important quality for a White House staff is the ability to tell a President something he doesn’t want to hear and contradict him when you believe something that’s not true. And if they’re not able to do it in this case, the question is whether they’ll be able to do it on more serious matters.”

[Reuters](#) (1/24, Mason) reports Trump’s claim was “the latest in a series of distractions in the opening days of the Trump administration that run the risk of overshadowing his legislative goals and efforts to advance policy proposals.” Along those lines, the [AP](#) (1/24, Pace, Lemire) says Trump is “dogged by insecurity over his loss of the popular vote in the election and a persistent frustration that the legitimacy of his presidency is being challenged by Democrats and the media,” according to “aides and associates.” Trump’s “fixation has been a drag on the momentum of his opening days in office, with his exaggerations about inauguration crowds and false assertions about illegal balloting intruding on advisers’ plans to launch his presidency with a flurry of actions on the economy.”

Under the headline “Trump’s Disregard For The Truth Threatens His Ability To Govern,” Karen Tumulty reports in a front-page story for the [Washington Post](#) (1/24, A1, Tumulty, 11.43M) that “Trump, having propelled his presidential campaign to victory while often disregarding the truth, now is testing the proposition that he can govern the country that way.” Since being inaugurated on Friday, Trump “has put the enormous power of the nation’s highest office behind spurious – and easily disproved – claims.” Peter Wehner, “a Trump critic who was a top strategist in the George W. Bush White House,” is quoted as saying of the President and his aides, “The degree to which they are creating their own reality, the degree to which they simply make up their own scripts, is striking,” adding, “It’s a huge deal, because in the end you really can’t govern, and you can’t persuade people, if you do not have a common basis of fact.”

Writing for the [New York Times](#) (1/24, Poniewozik, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), James Poniewozik, the Times’ chief TV critic, says Trump on Saturday stated “that his inauguration crowd – which photographs showed was dwarfed by Barack Obama’s estimated 1.8 million in 2009 – ‘looked like a million, a million and a half,’” and aides “backed up that claim with what his adviser Kellyanne Conway memorably termed ‘alternative facts.’” Poniewozik adds that “for those of us who cover television,” this was nothing new, because “Trump has a reputation among TV reporters for using his own bespoke numbers.” As the first of several examples, Poniewozik says Trump claimed in 2015 that “The Celebrity Apprentice” was “‘the Number 1 show on television.’ It was not.” Poniewozik adds that Trump’s “tendency to treat truth as negotiable was idiosyncratic in a TV star. In a president, it’s disturbing.”

Spicer Defends Conway’s “Alternative Facts” Comment. Spicer was asked on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (1/24, 535K) about Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway’s “alternative facts” comment. Spicer said, “There are times – like anything else, it’s not alternative facts. Sometimes you can watch two different stations and get two different weather reports. That doesn’t mean that the station was lying to you. ... The press was trying to make it seem like we were ignoring the facts.” Spicer added, “This idea

that we are immediately lying because – let's take the [inauguration] audience. We were right. If you add up the number of people who watched that online, on Twitter, Twitter live, Facebook live, on YouTube, it broke all sorts of records. ... Where are their facts? Because I got called a liar for something I can add up and say 'Here is how we come up with this number.' And yet, where is the number that proves that I am wrong? ... The default was, 'You are lying.'"

Public Relations Group Hits Trump White House On "Alternative Facts." [Politico](#) (1/24, Conway, 2.46M) reports that the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), "which represents 22,000 communications people and sets a code of ethics for the profession," on Tuesday rebuked "the new White House for pushing demonstrably false statements about...Trump's inauguration crowd size and labeling them 'alternative facts.'" In a written statement, PRSA Chair Jane Dvorak said "that 'encouraging and perpetuating the use of alternative facts by a high-profile spokesperson reflects poorly on all communications professionals.'" Dvorak added, "PRSA strongly objects to any effort to deliberately misrepresent information. Honest, ethical professionals never spin, mislead or alter facts."

Schumer On Trump: "You Cannot Run A Country Unless You Know The Facts." [USA Today](#) (1/24, Page, 5.28M) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer on Tuesday said that when Trump, during Monday's meeting with leaders of Congress, made the remark about the illegal immigrants voting, "no one in the room 'really gave it much credence, including our Republican colleagues.'" However, speaking with USA Today, Schumer said "that 'I worry' about what the episode may reveal about the new president." Schumer is quoted as saying, "In general you cannot run a country unless you know the facts," adding, "If you're going to believe your own facts, whether it's about what Putin is doing in the world or what jobs or companies are doing here, you aren't going to be able to govern, so I worry about it."

Trump Says Photo Of His Inauguration Crowd Will Be Displayed In Press Room. The [New York Post](#) (1/24, Fredericks, 3.82M) reports that Trump continues to argue "about the size of the crowd at" Friday's inauguration – "and plans to display a photo on the wall of the White House press room showing the event. 'A photo delivered yesterday that will be displayed in the upper/lower press hall. Thank you Abbas!' Trump [tweeted](#) Tuesday about an image sent to him by Abbas Shirmohammadi, a Washington, DC-based photographer who specializes in panoramic shots." The Post adds, "Trump has reportedly been enraged at media reports that said his crowd was far smaller than President Obama's first inaugural in 2009."

TRUMP SAYS HE WILL ANNOUNCE SUPREME COURT NOMINEE NEXT WEEK. Ahead of a meeting Tuesday with Senate leaders to discuss his choice to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court, President Trump said he plans to announce his nominee next week. [McClatchy](#) (1/24, Koh, 74K) reports that Trump "told reporters that he would select who would fill the bench later this week from a shortlist." [Politico](#) (1/24, Johnson, Goldmacher, 2.46M) cited "people familiar with the search process" who said that Trump has narrowed his list of possible nominees to "three finalists with Tenth Circuit judge Neil Gorsuch and Third Circuit judge Thomas Hardiman emerging as the frontrunners." Eleventh Circuit Judge Bill Pryor "remains in the running but [is] fading."

However, the [New York Times](#) (1/24, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says Pryor and Gorsuch are the "two leading contenders" and describes them as "a study in contrasts." While Pryor is "a former Alabama attorney general, a graduate of Tulane's law school and an outspoken opponent of abortion and gay rights," Gorsuch "is a graduate of Columbia, Harvard and Oxford University, a former clerk to two Supreme Court justices and a former Justice Department official." While both are conservatives, "Gorsuch's credentials, erudition and more muted stances could smooth his confirmation chances." Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) mentions a fourth contender, Raymond Kethledge of the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati.

The [AP](#) (1/24, Sherman, Salama) says that according to conservatives, all three "share [late Justice Antonin] Scalia's commitment to the text and meaning of the Constitution." Leonard Leo, who has been advising Trump on the nomination, said, "These are not stealth candidates. Their records are there for everyone to see and to understand. Their judicial philosophy is well within the mainstream of American legal thought." However, not all conservatives are on board. The [Washington Times](#) (1/24, Swoyer, 272K)

reports that conservative groups are “actively trying to derail” Pryor and Gorsuch, “saying they can’t be relied on to pursue conservative goals from the federal bench.” The group Public Advocate “has launched online ads in the Washington area trying to raise opposition to Judge Pryor,” and the Judicial Action Group said Pryor’s judicial record “demonstrates that he ‘failed to interpret the Constitution as the framers intended.’” Pro-life activists argue Gorsuch “would not meet Mr. Trump’s pledge to put pro-life judges on the federal bench.”

Justice correspondent Pete Williams said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/24, story 3, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M) that while “replacing Justice Scalia with another conservative would not alter the court’s ideological make-up,” Trump’s nominee “is in for a fight” as Democrats “are furious that President Obama’s nominee, Merrick Garland, never even got a hearing.” The [New York Times](#) (1/24, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) also says Democrats are “furious” over Republicans’ handling of the Garland nomination, and their “deep resentment is certain to color their handling of Mr. Trump’s choice just as it has contributed to their resistance to moving quickly on Mr. Trump’s cabinet selections.” The Times adds that Democrats “see the forthcoming nomination as a chance to take a strong stand against the new president, since they still have the power to filibuster a Supreme Court choice — at least for now.”

In a story posted before Trump’s meeting with Senate leaders, the [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Sullivan, 11.43M) reported that Senate Majority Leader McConnell said on the Senate floor, “The president has invited the Democratic leader, the chairman and ranking members of the Judiciary Committee and myself to the White House this afternoon to begin to meet with him regarding the Supreme Court vacancy as part of his ongoing consultations with members of the Senate.” [Reuters](#) (1/24, Hurley) says that after the meeting with, McConnell said, “I anticipate what we’re going to get from the president is a highly qualified, well-credentialed conservative jurist.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer “said he reiterated that the president ‘should pick a mainstream nominee who could earn bipartisan support’ and that Democrats would fight any nominee they deem outside the mainstream.” [Roll Call](#) (1/24, Ruger, 63K) reported that White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Trump will look for nominee “who upholds ‘liberty’ and the Constitution, and avoids making laws via their decisions.” Spicer said, “I think it’s pretty mainstream to support the Constitution.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *“We The People’ Demand Mr. Trump Release His Tax Returns.”* In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes that a petition to urge President Trump to release his tax information “received at least 100,000 signatures within 30 days” and “garnered more than 310,000 signatures by late Tuesday afternoon,” indicating American citizens and not just journalists, as the Administration claimed, are interested in Trump’s potential conflicts of interest. The Times admonishes Trump’s refusal to release his tax information during the campaign as “deeply suspicious” and now, as president, “indefensible.” The Times concludes, “The only logical conclusion is that the candidate who pledged to clean up Washington is hiding damaging information about his past.”

“Parliament Is Back In The Brexit Game.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) acknowledges that the British Supreme Court’s ruling that Parliamentary approval is needed to begin Britain’s departure from the European Union isn’t likely to see Brexit prevented but “at least restores some order to the process,” which the Times values because “the contentious and often demagogic referendum campaign” didn’t include “many of the potentially costly consequences.” The Times criticizes referendums and concludes, “what’s important is that elected representatives of the British people have been restored to a process from which they had been foolishly excluded.”

“Bringing A Sorry Chapter In Policing To An End.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (1/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) welcomes the proposed court settlement for New York City’s “abusive policing strategies” that had black and Latino New Yorkers “routinely stopped and frisked by police officers or issued unjustified criminal summonses for minor offenses.” The Times lauds steps to “repair a long broken summons system” and notes that the city’s “crime rate continues to plummet” after such tactics were discontinued.

WASHINGTON POST. “Tom Price Is Exhibit A For Congressional Ethics Reform.” The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, 11.43M) says in an editorial that HHS Secretary-designate Tom Price “is a walking, talking example of the ways in which congressional ethics requirements are too lax,” and even if he had no “corrupt intent,” his financial dealings are “unsettling. As with other government officials, Americans should have confidence that those making policy on their behalf are doing so based on principles and not the potential for personal gain. The simple fact of conflicts of interest corrodes that faith.”

“Closing Doors On Trade Isn’t Smart Negotiating.” The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, 11.43M) says in an editorial that the TPP “was already politically dead by the time President Trump buried it Monday,” and Trump “now turns his attention” to NAFTA. But “while NAFTA has surely created winners and losers within the United States, overall it has not been the horrific deal Mr. Trump suggests,” and is not worth “risking trade wars that might do far more damage to American companies, workers and consumers than the status quo allegedly does.”

“The Trump Team Can’t Even Keep Its Own Excuses Straight On His Broken Tax Promises.” The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Board, 11.43M) editorializes President Trump’s unwillingness to release his tax returns in accordance with “long-standing tradition” and his “string of changing explanations” as to why he will not release that information “fuels suspicions that he has something to hide and invites questions about what interests are being served by his presidency.” The Post says for Trump specifically, the release of tax information is “critical” because of his “complex,” “unprecedented” personal business activities. In light of recent “questions of whether there are potential conflicts of interest, particularly from foreign sources,” the Post urges Trump to release past tax returns and pledge to make public his 2016 returns “without delay.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “No More Keystone Capers.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) hails Trump’s move to advance construction of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, but warns that Trump’s pledge to “renegotiate the term” could ultimately lead the companies to forego the project altogether.

“The Comey Reprieve.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial predicts the Trump Administration will come to regret asking FBI Director Comey to stay on, and argues that Comey has shown a willingness to abuse his position to curry favor in Washington, which makes him unfit for the job.

“Don’t Ignore The Labor Board.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) criticizes the little-known National Labor Relations Board because general counsels nominated by former President Obama have abused their legal powers to make partisan-based decisions that have set dangerous precedents, many of which are contrary to judicial decisions. The Journal says the NLRB’s past decisions must be immediately challenged because they have harmed business investments and jobs, and calls on President Trump to prioritize the NLRB when naming regulatory agency nominees.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Takes Action To Revive Keystone, Dakota Pipelines](#)
[Conservatives Try To Shape Trump’s Budget](#)
[Google Privacy-policy Change Faces New Scrutiny In EU](#)
[Mall Owners Rush To Get Out Of The Mall Business](#)

New York Times:

[Trump To Order Mexican Border Wall And Curtail Immigration](#)
[Trump Revives Keystone Pipeline Rejected By Obama](#)
[Federal Debt Projected To Grow By Nearly \\$10 Trillion Over Next Decade](#)
[A Supreme Court Pick Is Promised. A Political Brawl Is Certain.](#)

[Emboldened By Trump, Israel Approves A Wave Of West Bank Settlement Expansion](#)
[Trump Injects High Risk Into Relations With China](#)
[Why Women Quit Working: It's Not For The Reasons Men Do](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump To Order Wall, Target Sanctuary Cities](#)
[Trump Seeks To Spark Action On Oil Pipelines](#)
[Progress For The Oscars. Will It Be Permanent?](#)
[Comey In Delicate Spot As FBI Tenure Continues](#)
[Israel Forges Ahead On New Housing](#)
[No Longer On Campaign Trail, But Still Untethered By Facts](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Ends Obama's Block On Keystone Pipeline](#)
[La La Land Leads Rivals A Merry Dance Before Oscars](#)
[Schulz To Run As SPD Candidate For German Chancellor](#)
[May To Fast-track Brexit Bill Following Court Defeat](#)

Washington Times:

[Conservative Groups Trying To Derail Two Potential Supreme Court Picks](#)
[Trump Revives Oil Pipeline Projects, Demands U.S. Steel Used](#)
[Feuds Spell Trouble For Trump's First National Budget](#)
[Rwanda Economy Recovering Two Decades After Genocide](#)
[Black Lives Matter Resentful Of Peaceful, Favorable Women's March Against Trump](#)
[ISIS Drone Dropping Precision Bombs Alarms U.S. Military](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Illegal Votes Claim; Trump-First Days; Confirmation Hearings; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Minnesota Gov Collapse; Utah Train Crash; Erin Andrews Cancer; Oklahoma Wild Fire; Washington State Traffic Collision; Flu Season; Genetically Modified Apple; Oscar Nominees Record.

CBS: Trump-Illegal Votes Claim; Trump-Executive Orders; Trump-Legitimacy Comments; Trump-First Days; Trump-EPA Silenced; Trump-UN Ambassador Appointment; Trump-Israel; US Jobs Automation; New Weather Satellite; Flint Water Lead Level; Minnesota Gov Collapse; Utah Train Crash; Oscar Nominees Record.

NBC: Trump-Illegal Votes Claim; Trump-Executive Orders; Trump-Supreme Court Nominee; Severe Weather; Flint Water Lead Level; Health-Norovirus; China Official-Trump; Controversial Police TV Program; Oscar Nominees Record; Utah Train Crash; Nonprofit Clothing Company.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Illegal Votes Claim – 8 minutes, 40 seconds
Severe Weather – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
Trump-First Days – 3 minutes, 15 seconds
Trump-Executive Orders – 3 minutes
Minnesota Gov Collapse – 1 minute, 55 seconds
Utah Train Crash – 1 minute
Flint Water Lead Level – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump Executive Orders; Trump-Immigration Policy; Trump-Chicago Violence; GHW Bush Health; Wall Street News.

CBS: Trump-Immigration Policy; Trump Executive Orders; Confirmation Hearings; ISIS Drones; Minnesota Gov Collapse; Vegan Health Concern; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump Executive Orders; Trump-Immigration Policy; Trump-Supreme Court Nomination; Trump-Israel.

NPR: Trump Executive Orders; Trump-Supreme Court Nomination; Trump-Immigration Policy; Abortion-Health Plans; Flint Water Lead Level; Columbia U-Slave Trade Date; DC Pizzeria Shooter Trial.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Takes official portrait; visits the Department of Homeland Security; gives first TV interview since taking office — 'President Trump: The First Interview' broadcast on ABC.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: 10:30 AM House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi holds weekly press conference Location: H-207, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: 8:00 AM GOP Rep. Kevin Brady speaks at FSR on tax reform — House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Kevin Brady delivers keynote address at Financial Services Roundtable tax reform discussion on 'Breaking Down the Barriers to Financial Security', introduced by FSR CEO Tim Pawlenty. Panel discussion follows Rep. Brady's remarks, with Prudential Retirement President Christine Marcks, Principal Financial Retirement and Income Solutions Senior Vice President Gregory Burrows, and Putnam Investments and Empower Retirement Director of Policy Lenny Glynn Location: Financial Services Roundtable, 600 13th St., NW, Washington, DC www.fsround.org <https://twitter.com/fsroundtable>

9:30 AM Dem Rep. Adam Schiff speaks at CAP Action Fund on 'Democracy in the Age of Cyberwar' — Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff speaks at 'Undermined and Under Siege: Democracy in the Age of Cyberwar' Center for American Progress Action Fund event, with other speakers including former Chief of Staff to the CIA Director Jeremy Bash, former Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Rand Beers, and Center for a New American Security Strategy and Statecraft Program Director Julianne Smith Location: CAP Action Fund, 1333 H St., NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

9:30 AM The Washington EU-U.S. Conference continues — The Washington EU-U.S. Conference continues, to examine the potential EU-U.S. policy agenda over the next four years of the President Donald Trump administration. Speakers today include EU Ambassador to the U.S. David O'Sullivan, with panel on 'EU-U.S.: Facing the Challenges of the XXI Century' Location: American University, School of International Service, 3400 Nebraska Ave., Washington, DC www.euintheus.org <https://twitter.com/EUintheUS> #US2017EU

11:00 AM Dialogue on Diversity Internet Data Privacy Colloquium — Dialogue on Diversity Internet Data Privacy Colloquium — 'The Roots of Privacy — Philosophy, Law, Technology' with speakers including Democratic Rep. Tony Cardenas Location: Stewart R. Mott Foundation, 122 Maryland Ave., Washington, DC www.dialogueondiversity.org <https://twitter.com/dialogondiv>

11:30 AM NGA 'State of the States' address — National Governors Association leadership 'State of the States' event, with NGA Chair Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Vice Chair Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval outlining governors' collective priorities for the year ahead, including state-federal priorities for the new administration and Congress Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nga.org> <https://twitter.com/NatlGovsAssoc> #WeTheStates

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "And the person I'm starting to feel bad for is Trump's press secretary, Sean Spicer. Whatever Trump says, Sean Spicer has to go out there and defend. Yesterday he said the administration reserves the right to 'disagree with the facts.' That sounds good, I like that. I'm going to start doing that."

Trevor Noah: "Let's turn to a man whose whole job is to put out fires — new White House Press Secretary

Sean Spicer. Although his job is less about putting out fire and more arguing that the fire is working hard for the American people.”

Trevor Noah: “Over the past few days of Trump’s presidency, I’ve noticed something interesting. One, we’re not dreaming. ...Two, broadcasters still haven’t figured out which voice to use when reading President Trump’s tweets on air.”

Jimmy Fallon: “I saw that ABC will air a prime-time special with President Trump tomorrow night, marking his first interview since taking office. Even though the interview hasn’t even aired yet, Trump is already claiming it was watched by a billion people.”

Seth Meyers: “Following President Trump’s inauguration, the White House website no longer has an option for translation into Spanish. So, sorry, Mexican immigrants, but if you want to live here, you’ll just have to learn to speak Russian.”

Seth Meyers: “President Trump today met with the leaders of Fiat, Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors. And he asked them one question: ‘How many people do you think were at my inauguration?’”

Seth Meyers: “Oscar nominations were announced today, with Meryl Streep nominated for ‘Florence Foster Jenkins,’ Natalie Portman for ‘Jackie,’ and Hillary Clinton for smiling her way through the inauguration.”

Seth Meyers: [Referring to Trump’s comment on voter fraud] “Also, why would you say 3 to 5 million people? We already know from the inauguration you have no idea what a million people looks like.”

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