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**To:** [James Cason](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Scott Hommel](#)  
**Subject:** Cabinet Report for 2/16  
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## DOI UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 2/16/17

Doug Domenech

### **Status of the Nominee**

Rep. Zinke waiting Senate floor vote. It is increasingly likely that his confirmation will not occur until after the recess.

### **Zinke Schedule for first week.**

The travel plans submitted yesterday are being paused unless a miracle happens and he is confirmed.

### **Energy/Interior Related Executive Orders**

- Stream Protection Rule (At the White House)
- BLM Venting and Flaring Methane Rule (Passed the House)
- BLM Planning 2.0 Rule (Passed the House)

### **Heads Up in the News**

- **Utah Gov. Herbert Looking To Discuss Bears Ears National Monument During DC Trip.**

The AP (2/15, Price) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “hopes to use his trip to Washington next week to discuss states’ authority and the new Bears Ears National Monument with President Donald Trump’s administration.” Herbert said Wednesday “that he doesn’t know what kind of opportunity he will have to speak with U.S. officials about the Bears Ears National Monument, but it may come up while he’s in Washington for National Governors Association meetings.” He is also “set to discuss the issue Thursday with outdoor recreation officials upset about Utah’s stance, but the governor said he’s unsure to what extent he will raise it in the nation’s capital next week.”

- **Environmental Group Sues Over Delay Of Bumblebee's Endangered Listing.**

Additional coverage that an environmental group has sued the Trump Administration “for delaying the listing of the rusty patched bumblebee as an endangered species”. The Rule was paused for review under the White House COS’s memo.

## **Dakota Access Pipeline**

- Yesterday, the *Governor of North Dakota signed an emergency evacuation* order out of concern for the safety of the people who are residing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lands in southern Morton County and to avoid an ecological disaster to the Missouri River. Warm temperatures have accelerated snowmelt in the area of the Oceti Sakowin protest camp, and the National Weather Service reports that the Cannonball River could experience rising water levels and an increased risk of ice jams later this week. Due to these conditions, the Governor’s emergency order addresses safety concerns to human life, as anyone in the floodplain is at risk for possible injury or death. According to the Governor’s press release, the Oceti Sakowin camp needs to be evacuated no later than February 22.

- **Federal Judge Rejects Landowner Challenge To Dakota Access Pipeline.**

The AP (2/15) reports from Des Moines, IA that US District Judge Jeffrey Farrell “has ruled against 14 Iowa landowners who sued to block the Dakota Access pipeline from crossing their property, concluding that the Iowa Utilities Board properly approved a permit for its construction.”

## **White House Communications Report**

### **DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

#### **Inquiries**

- E&E News (Brittany Patterson) Requesting timeline on Deputy Secretary and other political appointees. – Response: Forwarded to Kelly Love.
- WSJ (James Grimaldi) Requesting information about an organization listed on Rep. Zinke’s financial disclosure. He’s noted that he’s looking at all nominees’ financial disclosures. – Response: Provide background that Zinke received consulting fees for working to attract biofuels industries to Montana.
- AP Boston (Philip Marcelo) Requesting statement about POTUS position on Tribal relations and priorities and statement responding to a letter send by a Massachusetts tribe. – Response: Coordinating with WH. Deadline Thursday at noon.

## **Top Stories**

- Washington Post: Congress's latest target for reversal: An Obama attempt to modernize how we manage public lands
- E&E News: GAO finds rising risks for energy, environment programs
- Washington Post: The Endangered Species Act may be heading for the threatened list. This hearing confirmed it.
- The Intercept: Text Describing Federal Fracking Rule Disappears From Interior ...

## **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- FYI – This week, the National Parks Service is sending 22 law enforcement officers to fulfill the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's January request for BIA law enforcement assistance. BIA is unable to fulfill the full request for support so NPS and the BLM are detailing officers.
- Tomorrow, Rep. Zinke will be featured in part 2 of a History Channel documentary about the U.S. Navy SEAL teams
- Working with our policy shop to establish secretary's early priorities and messaging
- Writing Day 1 content for various web platforms and finalizing Secretary's events
- Continuing to outline Days 1-100 and 1-year plan for Secretary

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