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**To:** [Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING**

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**DOI in the News:**

**CIVIL SERVANTS ENGAGING IN DIGITAL BACKLASH AGAINST TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.** The [AP](#) (1/25, Lerer, Bykowicz) reports that in response to a President Trump's hiring freeze for federal agencies and a communications blackout, "some official social media accounts have tweeted out

messages decidedly at odds with his agenda and leaks are flowing into newsrooms from across the federal government.” The AP reports it will be “tricky for the White House to plug all the possible leaks or to stop public outbursts” amid an “unprecedented digital insurrection.” The AP notes tweets and leaks from various agencies, including DOE and DOD, and reports “most of the resistance is coming from agencies with a focus on environmental protection and scientific research.”

The [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Fears, Epstein, 11.43M) further reports on the internet backlash over the Trump administration’s communications restrictions and “rogue” National Park Service Twitter activity. [Reuters](#) (1/25, Gorman) notes a similar “rogue” Twitter account attributed to NASA employees. Unofficial “resistance” or “rogue” Twitter accounts numbered at least 14 by Wednesday afternoon. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/25, Irby, 574K) reports “USDA confirmed the gag order was sent out, but then lifted the ban Tuesday evening following public outcry, BuzzFeed reported.” Unnamed EPA sources told Reuters that the Trump administration told them to scrub environmental information from the agency website on Tuesday.

The [Washington Times](#) (1/25, Wolfgang, 272K) reports that @AltNatParkSer, a Twitter [account](#) which claims to be run by a “resistance team” of National Park Service employees “tweeting during their off-work hours” has “begun tweeting about climate change and blasting the president for his reported attempts to clamp down on social media use by government agencies.” A tweet from the account on Wednesday read, “Can’t wait for President Trump to call us FAKE NEWS. You can take our official twitter, but you’ll never take our free time!” The Times says it is “unclear whether the account is actually being run by Park Service employees, though the owner of the page has claimed that’s the case.”

[E&E](#) (1/25) reports that its third tweet summarized the purpose: “Mr Trump, you may have taken us down officially. But with scientific evidence & the Internet our message will get out.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (1/25, 2.46M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/25, Rubin, 11.43M), [CNN](#) (1/25, Hetter, 29.79M), [NPR](#) (1/25, 1.92M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (1/25), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (1/25, 2.54M), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (1/25, 1.12M), [TIME](#) (1/25, 6.98M), the [Huffington Post](#) (1/25, 237K), the [Scientific American](#) (1/25, 1.88M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/25, Press, 4.07M), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (1/25, 2.39M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/25, 4.07M), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (1/25, Revesz, 1.28M), the [Japan Times](#) (1/26, 12K), the [Gothamist \(NY\)](#) (1/25, 284K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (1/25, 2.2M), the [Weekly Standard](#) (1/25, 378K), the [Huffington Post](#) (1/25, 237K), the [Advertising Age](#) (1/25, 329K), and [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (1/25, 34K).

Also providing coverage are the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (1/25, Lerer, Bykowitz, 1.08M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (1/25, 1.27M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/25, Press, 272K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (1/25, 4.59M).

**Death Valley National Park’s Tweets Sets Off Social Media Stir.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/25, Serna, 4.52M) report that “a series of messages from Death Valley National Park’s official Twitter feed set off a flurry of social media activity Wednesday when users assumed the posts were meant to be taken as commentary on President Trump.” According to the article, “the three posts Wednesday morning addressed internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and appeared hours after news broke that Trump was mulling a ban on the admission of Syrian refugees and restrictions on travel from several majority-Muslim nations.” However, “park officials Tuesday insisted that the tweets were not politically motivated.”

Additional coverage was provided by [TIME](#) (1/25, 6.98M), the [Huffington Post](#) (1/25, 237K), and the [History News Network](#) (1/25, 569).

**Badlands Tweets On Climate Change Deleted.** [E&E](#) (1/25) reports that for a few hours Tuesday, Badlands National Park “became a Twitter sensation for seeming to ‘go rogue’ when it posted a series of climate-change-related tweets.” But “just after 5 p.m. EST, @BadlandsNPS deleted its tweets, including one noting the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was ‘higher than any other time in the last 650,000 years. #climate.’” A National Park Service official said the tweets “were posted by a former employee who was not currently authorized to use the park’s account.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (1/25, Press, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), [USA Today](#) (1/25, 5.28M), [USA Today](#) (1/25, 5.28M), [Fortune](#) (1/25, 7.12M), [ABC News](#) (1/25, 3.09M), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (1/25, McGrane, 1.08M), the [Business Insider](#) (1/25, 3.42M), [ABC Radio Australia](#) (1/25, 769), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/25, 4.07M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/24, 8.62M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (1/24, 8.62M).

Also providing coverage are the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (1/25, 1.27M), [PBS NewsHour](#) (1/25, 255K), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (1/25, 942K), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (1/25, 1.02M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/25, Lerer, Bykowicz), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/25, Lerer, Bykowicz, 272K), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (1/25, 544K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (1/25, 4.59M).

**Spicer: White House Not Directing Communications Crackdown.** [Politico Pro](#) (1/25) reports that White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said Wednesday that the White House is “not directing federal agencies to rein in their public communications.” Spicer insisted that “directives were agency-specific policies, not a broader directive from the White House.”

**Cummings Encourages Worried Federal Employees To Reach Out.** [Politico Pro](#) (1/25) reports that Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, is “encouraging federal employees to reach out to Congress if they are alarmed by the Trump administration’s policies.” Cummings said, “I want to make sure all of those federal employees who have anything they want to say to Congress, because there is some confusion as to whether they can talk to us, I’m telling you the law protects you and I will do every single thing in my power to make sure you’re protected. Call me. I want to talk to you.”

**Scientists Begin Planning March On Washington After Backlash Over Media Blackout.** [The Hill](#) (1/25, Firozi, 1.25M) reports that the size of the Women’s March on Washington and a Trump administration communications crackdown has prompted several scientists to begin organizing their own march on Washington. A Twitter account (@ScienceMarchonDC) that started on Monday “has periodically sent out updates and requests for people to get involved.” The march is intended to be a “starting point to take a stand for science in politics,” reads a website statement. “Slashing funding and restricting scientists from communicating their findings (from tax-funded research!) with the public is absurd and cannot be allowed to stand as policy.” [TIME](#) (1/25, 6.98M) also reports.

**New Science Organization Seeks To Support Scientist Running For Office.** The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/25, Reilly, 387K) reports since November, scientists “have watched the incoming Trump administration with growing alarm.” More and more scientists are asking themselves how they will save Federal science programs. For some, “the answer has been: by running for office themselves.” A new organization called 314 Action “aims to support scientists in state and Congressional races.” On March 14, 314 Action “will hold an online information session for scientists interested in running for office.” To gain 314 Action’s support, “these candidates will need to agree to back funding for greater research into climate change and alternative energy, both of which appear on 314 Action’s ‘Issues’ page.” The group “also calls for investment in STEM education, and the repeal of a 1996 law that prohibits the Centers for Disease Control from researching gun violence.”

**Additional Coverage.** Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (1/25, 29.79M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (1/25, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), [CNN](#) (1/25, Merica, Marsh, 29.79M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/25, Telnaes, 11.43M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/25, Ohlheiser, 11.43M), [USA Today](#) (1/25, Rice, 5.28M), [Fortune](#) (1/24, 7.12M), [Reuters](#) (1/25, Frankel), the [Huffington Post](#) (1/25, 237K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/25, 387K), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/25, 8.62M), [MSNBC](#) (1/25, 8.33M), [KTBC-TV](#) Austin, TX (1/25, 3K), and [CLTV-TV](#) Chicago (1/25, 439).

**WPost: How Government Workers Can Leak Documents.** Given the Trump Administration’s “unwillingness to accept demonstrated points of data and with the government’s existing efforts to tamp down on leakers,” the [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Bump, 11.43M) reports on how government employees can leak documents to the newspaper. The article links to a tool called SecureDrop and offers tips such as using the Tor browser on a non-government computer in a public WiFi spot. The Post receives help in

explaining how to leak documents from Trevor Timm of the Freedom of the Press Foundation. While Timm is “quick to note that leaking government documents is extremely risky,” the Post concludes, “Sometimes...the need to ensure public awareness of information makes that risk worth taking.”

**WTimes: “Bureaucratic Partisanship” Will Backfire.** Kelly Riddell writes for the [Washington Times](#) (1/25, 272K) that “mainstream media reporters have taken to social media to recruit federal employees to leak to them.” Riddell writes that she supports whistleblowers “exposing corruption or fraud within their agencies,” but contends that reporters’ solicitations for leaks and a guide to whistleblowing by The Washington Post is “bureaucratic partisanship” and warns it will backfire. Of federal workers and the mainstream media, Riddell writes, “you’d be hard-pressed to name two other intuitions ... who are more disliked by the American public. So yeah, team up. I’m sure it will turn out great.”

**ZINKE, PERRY TO BE VOTED ON BY SENATE COMMITTEE TUESDAY.** The [AP](#) (1/25) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee announced that it will convene “next Tuesday to vote on the nominations” of Ryan Zinke and Rick Perry to head the departments of Interior and Energy. Initially the vote was slated for “this week but was delayed after Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state, the panel’s senior Democrat, asked for more time to review Perry’s record and policy positions.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (1/25, 400K) reports Cantwell “had questions over reports that Trump plans to eliminate the Energy Department’s energy efficiency and renewable energy offices, said a Democratic aide.” The energy secretary nominee “told committee members at his confirmation hearing last week that he could not speak to the truth of those reports, but tried to downplay it as something akin to scuttlebutt.” Perry said he would fight for those Energy Department’s programs, “but I may not be 1,000 percent successful.”

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (1/25, 208K) and [The Hill](#) (1/25, Cama, Henry, 1.25M) also provided coverage of this story.

**WTimes Analysis: Trump, Not Cabinet Or Lawmakers, To Set Environmental Agenda.** The [Washington Times](#) (1/25, Wolfgang, 272K) reports “top Republicans are shifting the climate change debate away from the human role and toward a more pragmatic discussion” on the potential actions the government can take, but “it’s increasingly clear” that President Trump – rather than his Cabinet or lawmakers – “will be setting the environmental agenda.” The Times says that Trump is “now the nation’s foremost climate change skeptic” and “seems to be at odds” with Energy Secretary nominee Rick Perry, EPA Administrator nominee Scott Pruitt, and Interior Secretary nominee Ryan Zinke “on the science of global warming.” Analysts, according to the Times, say that while the three nominees told Senate panels last week that they believe climate change is real and human actions have contributed to it, “analysts say that their opinions matter little.”

**OMB ISSUES GUIDANCE ON HIRING FREEZE.** [Politico Pro](#) (1/25) reports that the Office of Management and Budget issued guidance Wednesday “directed at agency heads on how to implement the president’s across-the-board hiring freeze of federal workers.” According to the memo sent by OMB acting director Mark Sandy, “workers who were offered a job on or before Jan. 22 and have documentation showing a start date of Feb. 22 or earlier should report to work.” However, “workers whose start date falls later than Feb. 22, or who do not have a start date, may have their job offers revoked.”

Additional coverage of the hiring freeze was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (1/25, 77K), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (1/25, Moss, 39K), the [Idaho Falls \(ID\) Post Register](#) (1/25), and [Motherboard](#) (1/25, 10K).

**GRIJALVA VISITING NEW MEXICO TO MOUNT DEFENSE OF PUBLIC LANDS.** [Politico Pro](#) (1/25) reports that House Natural Resources Democrat Raul Grijalva on Wednesday “kicks off a three-day trip to New Mexico where he’ll tour newly designated national monuments and discuss how he’ll fight efforts to weaken the Antiquities Act.” He said in a statement, “This trip is about uniting to preserve America’s greatest natural places so the people can continue to enjoy them, and it’s hardly the last one on my agenda.”



**CHAFFETZ PROPOSES PUBLIC LAND SELL-OFFS, ELIMINATION OF POLICE POSTS IN UTAH.**

[E&E](#) (1/25) reports that Rep. Jason Chaffetz on Tuesday night “introduced a pair of bills aiming to reduce the federal presence in his state and across the West by disposing of 3.3 million acres of federal public land while also eliminating hundreds of law enforcement positions at the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service.” Chaffetz, “who serves as chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has previously floated the proposals, both via legislation and in the House Republican budget.”

**UTAH LAWMAKERS HOPE TO CREATE STATE PARKS AT HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK, LITTLE SAHARA.**

[E&E](#) (1/25) reports that Utah state lawmakers have “proposed two new state parks on federal lands in order to allow Mormon heritage organizations to visit the area.” The areas are Little Sahara in Juab County and Hole-in-the-Rock.

**JACKSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISCUSS REVERSAL OF CASCADE-SISKIYOU**

**MONUMENT EXPANSION.** [KOBI-TV](#) Medford, OR (1/24) reports that Jackson County commissioners are “exploring options to reverse a decision by the Obama administration that expanded the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.” Commissioners are “looking at legal and legislative avenues to have that decision reversed and return the monument to its previous size, starting with a message to lawmakers.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (1/24, 92K), the [Ashland \(OR\) Daily Tidings](#) (1/24, 42K) and [KTVL-TV](#) Medford, OR (1/24, 1K).

**SPORTSMEN PLEAD WITH HOUSE MEMBERS TO NOT SELL OFF PUBLIC LANDS.** [E&E](#) (1/25)

reports that “a coalition of 20 sportsmen’s groups issued a plea to House lawmakers yesterday to discourage would-be efforts to offload federal public lands, pointing to the chamber’s adoption of rules earlier this month that designate federal land transfers as cost-free.” The missive sent to members of Congress “urges lawmakers to ‘focus on constructive and inclusive solutions’ when considering whether to acquire or dispose of public lands in the 115th Congress.”

**SCIENTISTS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S POLICIES RELATED TO**

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY.** The [Physics World \(UK\)](#) (1/25, 102K) reports that President Trump’s Cabinet nominees have “provided few hints about the administration’s likely policies related to science and technology.” As a result, “the overall lack of clarity has caused significant angst within the US scientific community as Trump takes up office.” And “adding to the uncertainty are the actions – or lack of them – by members of the Trump transition team.”

**FIVE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS FROM OBAMA ADMINISTRATION JOIN BIG LAW**

**FIRM.** [Bloomberg BNA](#) (1/25, 7K) reports that Latham & Watkins has “hired five top energy and environment officials from the Obama Administration to bolster its energy and resource practice.” Among the new hires are Steve Croley, former general counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy, Joel Beauvais, former deputy assistant administrator with EPA’s Office of Water, Janice Schneider, former assistant secretary for land and minerals management with the Department of Interior, Tommy Beaudreau, former chief of staff for the Department of Interior, and Nicole “Nikki” Buffa, former deputy chief of staff for the Department of Interior.

**OBAMA THANKED FOR STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS.** In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\)](#)

[News](#) (1/25, 77K), Jamie Williams, the president of The Wilderness Society, writes that “the American West should be grateful to President Barack Obama” for “his stewardship of land and waters” and “his conservation efforts in the Western United States.” Williams also notes that Obama “took up long-overdue energy reforms on the public lands that are owned by all Americans, and he connected the dots between energy development and the greenhouse gases produced by it that contribute to climate change.”

**OP-ED: ZINKE CAN HELP RESTORE TRUST IN WASHINGTON.** For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#)

(1/25, Curtis, Contributor, 1.25M), Jessica Curtis, the executive director of GOPAC, writes that “now, more than ever, the Department of the Interior is in need of someone” like Rep. Ryan Zinke, “a strong, decisive leader who believes in both duties of the Department — protecting our national treasures and

overseeing responsible development of our natural resources.” Curtis believes Zinke can be the “partner” that “our states, local governments, and Indian nations need...who can restore trust in Washington as a responsible steward of our federally owned lands.” She asserts that “our state and local governments desperately need a Secretary of the Interior who will listen to their concerns — and not reach for the regulatory pen first.”

#### **TRUMP ADMINISTRATION URGED TO PRESERVE PRIOR NATIONAL MONUMENT**

**DESIGNATIONS.** In an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (1/25, 654K), Paul F. Chavez, president of the Cesar Chavez Foundation, writes that “poll after poll has shown western Latinos and westerners in general want better environmental safeguards through protection of and access to America’s public lands.” He urges the new administration to “honor this mandate and preserve prior monument designations, not seek to overturn the Antiquities Act and not propose funding infrastructure needs via rampant drilling on public lands.”

### **America’s Great Outdoors:**

#### ***National Park Service:***

**MARCH FOR LIFE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY.** [WRC-TV](#) Washington (1/25, 453K) reports that “the 44th annual March for Life will be held Friday.” The group “received a permit from the National Park Service to host an estimated 50,000 people.” March for Life organizers and NPS officials “said they do not expect any violent protests, like D.C. saw on Inauguration Day.”

**FIRE ISLAND WANTS CONCESSIONAIRES TO OFFER NEW SERVICES.** [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (1/25, 1.3M) reports that the Fire Island National Seashore “wants to offer more services at Sailors Haven and transform the Watch Hill restaurant into a more casual place to eat, according to a prospectus for new concessionaires.” The objective is “to adapt the two marinas to the ways visitors’ preferences have changed, since Sayville-based Fire Island Concessions LLC was awarded the current contract nearly a decade ago, said Kathleen Karhnak-Glasby, a Philadelphia-based National Park Service manager.”

**RESIDENTS PLAN APPEAL OVER SLEEPING BEAR HERITAGE TRAIL.** The [AP](#) (1/25, 272K) reports that “residents along Little Traverse Lake Road who oppose a nonnotarized trail passing by their home plan to appeal their case after a federal judge rejected their arguments.” The Little Traverse Lake Property Owners Association filed a lawsuit against the National Park Service “over a 3.8-mile section of the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, which links the southern end of Leelanau County to Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore.” The lawsuit came after the NPS “decided on a route along Little Traverse Lake Road.”

**PHOTOS OF NATIONAL PARKS HIGHLIGHTED.** In a roundup, [Business Insider](#) (1/25, 3.42M) highlighted 19 of “the most awe-inspiring and unique features of national parks across the country.”

#### ***Fish and Wildlife Service:***

**FWS DELAYING NEW CONSERVATION REGULATIONS.** [The Hill](#) (1/25, Devaney, 1.25M) reports that the Fish and Wildlife Service is “delaying new conservation regulations that would protect endangered species.” According to the article, “the conservation regulations address enhancement-of-survival permits.” They were “scheduled to go into effect on Thursday, but will be delayed until March 21 in response to Trump’s regulatory moratorium.”

**U.S. WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ALLIANCE RELEASES DIGITAL TOOLKIT.** The [Associations Now](#) (1/24) reports that the U.S. Wildlife Trafficking Alliance is “embarking on a new effort to educate travelers on how to shop responsibly.” The Alliance “released its ‘Know Before You Go / Ask Before You Buy’ digital toolkit to help travel companies inform their customers on how to avoid buying illegal goods made from endangered animals like elephants, rhinos, and tigers.” Alliance Executive Director Sara Walker said, “The travel and tourism industry is really in a unique position to help us raise awareness with travelers. There’s a lot of wildlife crime that occurs when people are traveling and shopping and picking

up souvenirs or things that they feel are local and represent that region, and maybe don't realize that what they're purchasing is actually using a part from an endangered species."

**MORAN SEEKS EXTENSION ON PRAIRIE CHICKEN COMMENT DEADLINE.** The [High Plains \(KS\) Daily Leader](#) (1/25) reports that in a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sen. Jerry Moran "requested an extension of their deadline for comments and information relevant to the latest 90-day petition funding and status review of the lesser prairie chicken (LPC)." Moran said, "Kansans are concerned about conserving the lesser prairie chicken and are interested in providing comments based on the most up-to-date information regarding the bird's population and habitat area. With results from WAFWA's 2016 annual progress report expected to be finalized and made public in the near future, I urge the FWS to extend the deadline for comments to be submitted on the 90-day petition finding and species status review. Closing the comment period before the progress report regarding ongoing conservation efforts in the habitat area is finalized undercuts the ability of stakeholders to provide meaningful comments."

**INDUSTRY, WILDLIFE ADVOCATES SUPPORT SAGE GROUSE BILL.** The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (1/25, 52K) reports that "representatives from agriculture organizations, the fossil fuel industry and wildlife advocates all backed a bill Wednesday to spend \$2 million a year on the state's sage grouse program." The House Natural Resources committee held a hearing Wednesday on Rep. Jim Keane's House Bill 228, which "would change how the state funds a sage grouse conservation program the Legislature supported in 2015 that is meant to keep the federal government from giving the chicken-sized birds protections under the Endangered Species Act." The measure would "allocate \$2 million to the sage grouse stewardship account each of the next four years rather than injecting \$10 million into the account this year."

The [Tri-State Livestock News \(SD\)](#) (1/25) reports that the FWS has "indicated that it will decline to extend a 90-day comment period to evaluate the status of the Lesser Prairie Chicken under the Endangered Species Act." NCBA President Tracy Brunner said, "The incoming Trump administration acted immediately to freeze just this kind of exclusionary regulatory process. We believe FWS is violating the spirit of that presidential order to placate radical environmental groups bent on listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken."

**DC BOOTH HISTORIC NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY AND ARCHIVES HIRES NEW CURATOR.** The [Black Hills \(SD\) Pioneer](#) (1/25, 11K) reports that "after more than two years without anyone in the position, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish has a new curator: April Gregory, former Booth Society executive director, started in her new role Monday." Carlos Martinez, hatchery director, said, "Gregory has had an association with D.C. Booth for over seven years, and the institutional knowledge she possess will allow her to benefit the station immediately. Her business acumen while dealing with partners and the public is excellent. She enjoys working with people of all ages and backgrounds and does so in a professional and courteous manner."

**GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE THE SUBJECT OF EXPERIMENTAL DANCE MOVIE.** The [Denver Westword](#) (1/25, 271K) reports that the Gunnison sage grouse, "which has long been ridiculed for its bizarre appearance and quirky mating rituals," is the subject of a short film, "Last Chance to Dance." , Former dancer Erica Prather will be "screening her humorous experimental documentary ode to the Gunnison sage grouse, on Thursday, January 26, at the SIE Film Center."

**ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUP CHALLENGES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR KLAMATH BASIN WILDLIFE REFUGES.** Additional coverage that Western Watersheds Project, has "launched a legal challenge to a management plan for five National Wildlife Refuges in the Klamath Basin of Oregon and California" was provided by [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (1/25, 1K).

**ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FIGHT OVER INVASIVE PLANTS AT LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.** Additional coverage of the fight over invasive plants at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was provided by [WPTV-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (1/25, 70K).

***Bureau of Land Management:***



**UTAH STATE LAWMAKER MIKE NOEL'S FIT FOR BLM QUESTIONED.** The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/25, 426K) reports that "as Utah state Rep. Mike Noel actively courts support for his bid to become the next director of the Bureau of Land Management, conservation and outdoor business interests are questioning the Kanab lawmaker's ability to effectively run an agency he has relentlessly condemned since quitting it 20 years ago." Black Diamond Equipment founder Peter Metcalf "joined 15 other Utah business leaders and conservationists in penning a letter to the Trump administration opposing Noel's possible selection as BLM director." Meanwhile, "several Utah agencies and political leaders...have eagerly lined up behind his BLM candidacy." The Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration "sent a letter to the Trump transition team calling Noel an 'excellent choice.'"

**CHRISTO HALTS "OVER THE RIVER" PROJECT.** The [AP](#) (1/25, Elliott, 272K) reports that "the artist Christo said Wednesday he has abandoned his plan to drape translucent fabric above portions of Colorado's scenic Arkansas River, a proposal that generated fierce opposition and a long court battle." Christo, citing "20 years of planning and five years of legal fights," said, "I no longer wish to wait on the outcome." Christo also "said his decision was a protest against President Donald Trump."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York Times](#) (1/25, Kennedy, Subscription Publication, 13.9M).

**BLM SUED OVER LAND PURCHASES IN ARIZONA, NEVADA AND NEW MEXICO.** The [Daily Caller](#) (1/25, Barton, 898K) reports that "a conservative watchdog group filed a lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wednesday for withholding information regarding the agency's land purchases in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico." Cause of Action Institute filed the suit after the bureau "didn't produce related documents nearly six months after the watchdog submitted a Freedom of Information Act request." Cause of Action Institute Assistant Vice President Lee Steven said in a statement, "When the Bureau of Land Management buys private land to add to the hundreds of millions of acres the federal government already owns, Americans have a right to know why."

**PROSECUTORS SEEK TO UNDERMINE DEFENSE STRATEGY AT UPCOMING BUNDY TRIAL.** The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (1/25, 676K) reports that "anticipating a battle in the upcoming trial against six associates of rancher Cliven Bundy, federal prosecutors this week asked a judge to prohibit defense attorneys from referencing a wide range of material that is central to defense strategy in the case." According to the article, "the six requests in the sweeping motion filed late Tuesday include one asking that defense attorneys be prohibited from arguing that the federal government does not or should not own the land from which Bureau of Land Management agents tried to seize cattle." The article notes that "the government's motion similarly requests a blanket ban on arguments that "'natural law' or other authority permits the use of force against law enforcement officers," as well as opinions that federal agents are 'improperly and excessively armed.'"

### ***US Geological Survey:***

**USGS: ELEVATED URANIUM LEVELS NEAR GRAND CANYON LIKELY DUE TO NATURAL SOURCE.** The [AP](#) (1/25, 272K) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey "says elevated levels of uranium found in a spring on the northern edge of Grand Canyon National Park is likely due to a natural source of the radioactive element and not related to an inactive mine." The USGS "says Pigeon Spring had elevated levels in samples taken from 2012 to 2014 compared with similar springs in the area."

## **Securing America's Energy Future:**

### ***Onshore Energy Development:***

**FEDERAL REVENUES FROM ENERGY ON FEDERAL LANDS AGAIN DECLINED IN 2016.** [The Street](#) (1/25, 1.09M) reports that "federal revenue from activities related to energy production in 2016 declined to approximately \$6 billion, which is less than half of the amount collected in 2013." The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) stated in a release on Tuesday, "Despite growing oil production, revenue

has decreased since fiscal year 2014 as the price of oil has fallen along with the valuation used to determine royalties.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [OilVoice](#) (1/25, 608).

#### **GROUPS CALLS ON HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES TO OPPOSE ATTACKS ON STREAM**

**PROTECTION RULE.** [Politico Pro](#) (1/25) reports that “a coalition of groups — including the Sierra Club and Waterkeeper Alliance — released a letter today calling on House representatives to oppose attacks on the Stream Protection Rule.” The groups wrote, “Any attack on the safeguards in the Stream Protection Rule is an attack on clean water and should be opposed.”

**CBS EXAMINES POSSIBLE JOBS CREATED BY PIPELINES.** The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/25, story 8, 2:10, Pelley, 11.17M) examined President Trump’s statement that the Keystone XL Pipeline and Dakota Access Pipeline could lead to 28,000 jobs. CBS’ Barry Peterson said a State Department report indicated that the Keystone XL Project could create 16,000 full and part-time construction jobs. Meanwhile, Peterson added that Energy Transfer Partner, which backs the Dakota project, said up to 12,000 construction jobs will have been created by the project. However, Peterson said that the Dakota pipeline is about 90 percent complete and the two projects “will leave behind only about 100 full and part-time maintenance jobs once construction ends.”

**NYTimes Analysis: Trump’s Move On Keystone XL “Unwelcome Good News” For Trudeau.** The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Austen, Krauss, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports President Trump may have given Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau “unwelcome good news” when he “revived” the Keystone XL pipeline. The Times says Trump’s move “is likely to complicate a delicate balancing act Mr. Trudeau has been trying to keep up” as he has said that Canada must develop its energy industry, but “also stands for aggressively cutting the country’s carbon emissions.” Trudeau, according to the Times, “spoke up swiftly” on Tuesday by “welcoming Mr. Trump’s action,” but “now people on all sides are angry with him.” The Times says Trudeau’s “welcome” of the Keystone XL project and his approval of two others “has alienated many environmentalists in Canada, and has also strained his relations with some indigenous communities affected by the pipelines.”

**BLM AUCTIONS 843 ACRES IN NEW MEXICO FOR \$3 MILLION.** [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (1/25, 39K) reports the BLM auctioned oil and gas drilling rights to 843 acres in the Chaco Canyon in northwest New Mexico on Wednesday. BLM said at least 15 bidders participated in the online auction and the rights sold for \$3 million. The acreage was auctioned off over protests from Native Americans and environmentalists who say the area contains archaeological sites, including Indian ruins. BLM officials said it was necessary to move forward with the auction due to a loss of federal royalties from nearby operators on state and private land.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (1/25, 44K).

**KNOX COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT DECIDES AGAINST SELLING MINE LAND.** The [Vincennes \(IN\) Sun-Commercial](#) (1/24, 23K) reports that the Knox County Parks Department has “decided not to sell about 145 acres of abandoned coal mine land east of Bruceville.” According to superintendent Rama Sobhani, “after about two years since the idea to sell the Enoco Coal Mine was last proposed, the parks department board and several farmers near the property have come to an agreement that the department would instead continue to lease it out for pasture and hay-growing.”

#### ***Renewable Energy:***

**LONG ISLAND POWER AUTHORITY APPROVES OFFSHORE WIND FARM.** The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Cardwell, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Wednesday, the Long Island Power Authority “approved the nation’s largest offshore wind farm” which would be placed “between the eastern tip of Long Island and Martha’s Vineyard.” It would produce enough power for “50,000 average homes.” Deepwater Wind is hoping to place “as many as 200 turbines” in an area it leases from the federal government. The approved project is for 20 turbines, each rising 600 feet from the ocean floor. Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, who has set a goal of producing 50 percent of electricity in the state from renewable

sources by 2030, called it “the next step in our unprecedented commitment to offshore wind.” It is expected to cost \$740 million. The company has a functioning wind farm in Rhode Island state waters. The project’s estimated cost is “about 16 cents a kilowatt-hour” compared to a current average of “7.5 cents a kilowatt-hour.”

The [AP](#) (1/25, Eltman) reports environmentalists and union officials celebrated the news. Kit Kennedy of the Natural Resources Defense Council said Cuomo “has positioned New York state to be the leader in realizing the infrastructure, jobs and economic development benefits of the emerging U.S. offshore wind industry.” The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has auctioned several large tracts of the Atlantic Ocean for wind energy development including a 79,000-acre area southeast of New York City and a March auction is set for 122,000 acres off North Carolina. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (1/25, Harrington, 1.3M) reports LIPA has said the \$740 million 90-megawatt wind farm, transmission line and other system upgrades will increase average customer bills by \$3.67 by 2016. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/25, De Avila, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) also reports.

**BLM ANALYZING SWEETWATER SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT APPLICATION.** The [Rock Springs \(WY\) Daily Rocket-Miner](#) (1/24) reports that the BLM is “now in the process of looking at a right-of-way grant application” for the Sweetwater Solar Energy Project Kimberlee Foster, BLM field manager, “said the public can provide written comments about the project to the BLM until Feb. 14, when the scoping period ends ‘so the public can help identify issues for analysis.’”

## **Empowering Native American Communities:**

**TRIBE ENCOURAGED BY INTERIOR’S LETTER ON LANSING CASINO PROJECT.** The [Lansing \(MI\) State Journal](#) (1/25, 183K) reports that “a Native American tribe eager to build a \$245 million casino in downtown Lansing says it has earned a victory that could help end its over five-year legal dispute with opposing tribes.” The Sault St. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians “cites a Jan. 19 letter from the U.S. Department of Interior that states the tribe’s application for the Lansing casino is ‘mandatory’ under the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. “The letter “also states the Interior Department will keep the application open so the tribe ‘may present evidence of an enhancement.’”

Additional coverage was provided by [WILX-TV](#) Lansing, MI (1/24, 46K).

**FORT BELKNAP OFFICIALS MEET WITH TRUMP ADVISER IN DC.** The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (1/25, 85K) reports that “tribal leaders from Fort Belknap, who are in Washington, D.C., this week to meet with members of Congress, had an hour-long meeting Tuesday with Carlyle Begay, an adviser to the Trump administration on Native American issues.” According to the article, “the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, tribal sovereignty and energy development were among the topics during the hour-long meeting.” Begay, “a former state senator from the Navajo Nation in Arizona, served on Trump’s inauguration committee and has said he’s joining the administration to advise Trump on Native American issues.”

**BIA HOLDS SCOPING HEARING ON TULE RIVER TRIBE’S PROPOSED CASINO.** The [Porterville \(CA\) Recorder](#) (1/25, 28K) reports that “nearly a dozen city and county officials and community members spoke Monday evening in favor of the Tule River Tribe’s proposed Eagle Mountain Casino Relocation Project.” The purpose of the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ scoping hearing was “to gather information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in connection with the Tribe’s casino resort project, said Chad Broussard, the environmental protections specialist for the BIA)— the lead agency in the development of the EIS.”

## **Tackling America’s Water Challenges:**

**GOSAR WANTS INVENTORY OF BOR ASSETS.** The [Prescott \(AZ\) E-News](#) (1/25, 535) reports that Rep. Paul Gosar “wants to know how the BOR spends its money.” Gosar is “asking for an inventory of BOR assets, as well as prioritized information on what repairs are needed and what its going to cost.” Since “he’s had a difficult time getting the information he wants,” Gosar is “leading a bipartisan effort with

sponsored legislation in the House of Representatives to require the BOR to offer greater transparency.”

**LOW LEVELS AT FOLSOM LAKE GENERATES COMPLAINTS.** The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/25, 574K) reports that on Wednesday, Folsom Lake was “filled to just 41 percent capacity – 80 percent of its historical average,” despite an “exceptionally wet winter.” Local residents, such as Steve Clark, argue “that draining Folsom Lake is bad for local property values, limits summer recreation and harms the region’s water supply.” Louis Moore, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, “which manages Folsom Dam, said he understands such complaints, but dam managers are required to keep space in the lake as a buffer to protect Sacramento from flooding.”

**BOR SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SEAGULL BAY MANAGEMENT PLAN..** [KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (1/25, 44K) reports that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has “opened a 15-day public comment period on a new management agreement for the Seagull Bay Recreation Area in Power County.”

## **Top National News:**

### **TRUMP ORDERS CONSTRUCTION OF BORDER WALL, CRACKDOWN ON SANCTUARY CITIES.**

President Trump signed two executive orders on immigration and border security during an appearance at the Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday. His [order](#) to begin construction of a wall along the US-Mexico border – a major Trump campaign promise – receives the most coverage, with reporting focusing on the plausibility of the project and expressing skepticism with the President’s insistence that Mexico will eventually pay the cost. That order also increased US border patrol and immigration presence at the border. A [second order](#), which threatens federal funding for so-called sanctuary cities, gets less coverage – but is referred to by several sources as perhaps having greater impact.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/25, story 2, 2:30, Pelley, 11.17M) reported, “With the stroke of a pen, the former real estate developer launched the biggest construction project of his life: a wall on the Mexican border estimated to cost around \$10 billion.” CBS’ Margaret Brennan: “On his first visit to the Department of Homeland Security, President delivered on his signature campaign pledge.” Trump: “We will begin a immediate construction of a border wall.” Brennan: “The executive order lays out the Administration’s plan to construct a physical wall along the shared boarder with Mexico, add 5,000 border patrol agents to the 17,000 already policing it, and build detention facilities to jail those who illegally cross it.” Trump: “The day is over when they can stay in our country and wreak havoc.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/25, lead story, 3:50, 14.63M) led with its interview with Trump, his first television interview as president. David Muir asked, “Are you going to direct US funds to pay for this wall? Will American taxpayers pay for the wall?” Trump: “Ultimately it’ll come out of what’s happening with Mexico. We’re gonna be starting those negotiations relatively soon. And we will be in a form reimbursed by Mexico which I will say.” Muir: “So they’ll pay us back.” Trump: “Yeah, absolutely. One hundred percent.” Muir: “So the American taxpayer will pay for the wall at first.” Trump: “Right, all it is, is we’ll be reimbursed at a later date from whatever transaction we make from Mexico.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (1/25, story 2, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M) reported that Trump is “acting on his campaign vow to crack down on undocumented immigration.” NBC’s Hallie Jackson: “His signature slogan becoming one of his supporters’ favorite phrases.” Donald Trump: “Build that wall. Build that wall. Build that wall.” Jackson: “Now Donald Trump’s set to start. ... Today the President signing executive orders to direct money to start construction of his border wall with Mexico.” Trump: “The wall, the wall. Everyone loves the wall.” According to [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (1/25, 554K), Trump “says the border wall construction will begin within months.”

The [AP](#) (1/25, Pace) says the actions on immigration and the border, “less than a week into Trump’s presidency, fulfilled pledges that animated his candidacy and represented a dramatic redirection of U.S. immigration policy.” [Reuters](#) (1/25, Ainsley) reports Trump also moved to “strip funding from cities that shield illegal immigrants” ahead of expected executive orders on refugees and Muslim migration, plans that “prompted an immediate outcry from immigrant advocates and others who said Trump was jeopardizing the rights and freedoms of millions of people.”

[USA Today](#) (1/25, Korte, Jackson, 5.28M) says Wednesday's executive orders "are the most detailed of the 12 presidential edicts he's issued in the first six days of his presidency. They call for the immediate building of a southern border wall, new public or private detention facilities," the hiring of new border patrol agents and immigration officers, and shutting off funds to sanctuary cities. The order "doesn't explicitly say how the wall will be paid for, but Trump has required a report on all foreign aid given to Mexico, with the implicit threat to withhold that funding." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/25, Bennett, Bierman, 4.52M) also says Trump "did not detail how he would force Mexico to pay for the wall."

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (1/25, Gillman, Benning, 1.12M) says that "the billions needed for a barrier of the sort he has promised would almost certainly require congressional action. Few lawmakers support the type of wall Trump has touted, as do most residents and security experts. Many argue for modernized crossings...but view an actual wall, from the Pacific to the Gulf of Mexico, as wasteful and impractical."

[Roll Call](#) (1/25, Bennett, 63K) headlines a report "Trump Orders Taxpayer Funds To Pay For Border Wall," and the [New York Times](#) (1/25, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says Trump "offered few details, including any that would address the fact that Congress, not the White House, writes the checks."

The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Davis, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says Trump laid out "a new vision for fortifying the nation's borders and sharply increasing efforts to round up and remove some of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants" living in the US. The [Washington Post](#) (1/26, Nakamura, 11.43M) reports that press secretary Sean Spicer said Wednesday, "Building a barrier is more than just a campaign promise, it's common sense, the first step to really securing our porous border. Federal agencies are going to unapologetically enforce the law – no ifs, ands or buts."

[Politico](#) (1/24, Isenstadt, 2.46M) reports that the President "signed the orders before around 70 people at the Department of Homeland Security around 1:30 p.m. Wednesday." He said at the event, "I just signed two executive orders that will save thousands of lives, millions of jobs and billions and billions of dollars. By working together, safe borders and economic cooperation, I truly believe we can enhance the relation between our two nations, to a degree not seen before, certainly, in a very, very long time. I think our relationship with Mexico is going to get better."

[NPR](#) (1/25, Kurtzleben, 1.92M) writes on its website, "Trump is no stranger to flip-flopping, and he has voiced different opinions on how he wants the border barrier to look. When CBS's Lesley Stahl asked him if he would 'accept a fence,' he answered, 'For certain areas I would, but certain areas, a wall is more appropriate.'" But at his January 11 news conference, "he took a harder line: 'On the fence, it's not a fence; it's the wall,' he told reporters. 'You just misreported it. We're going to build a wall.'"

The [Daily Caller](#) (1/25, Stoltzfoos, 898K) notes that Trump can order the start of construction because of a 2006 law "passed with the help of Democrats including Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton" that "authorized the construction of 700 miles of fencing along the southern border, as well as additional lights, cameras and sensors to enhance security."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (1/25, story 5, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M) sampled reaction to Wednesday's presidential actions. NBC's Gadi Schwartz reported, "In the border town of Nogales, Arizona, the news of Trump's wall spread on both sides of the 20-foot tall iron fence. On the Mexican side, anger. ... And today on the US side, families coming to speak to those they wish they could hug without metal bars." Unidentified Speaker: "I think it's ridiculous. It separates the family and then it's a just a waste of money." Unidentified Speaker: "It's kind of a joke to us."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/25, Duara, 4.52M) reports that in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Trump's actions "stirred consternation once again among the residents of these two cities, who are haunted by the last eruption of violence in Mexico, but who also depend on the exchange of labor and commerce that has persisted even with earlier attempts to divide the two cities." The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) spoke with residents of McAllen, Texas.

The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes, "President Trump on Wednesday unveiled the first proposals to make good on his promise to make America impenetrable to



unauthorized immigrants and intolerable for those who are already here.” The wall is “far from certain because Congress would have to approve billions of dollars in funding. ... He has insisted that Mexico will ultimately pay for the wall – a vow that is either deceitful or delusional” – and has “ordered federal agencies to tally the foreign aid Mexico receives from the United States, which seems like a threat to withhold future assistance for initiatives such as narcotics enforcement and judicial programs.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/25, 4.52M) editorializes, “Among the many manifestly bad ideas being promulgated by the newly minted Trump administration, the most hare-brained could well be building a barrier along the 2,000-mile border with Mexico.” In addition, “trying to bill Mexico for the project will be an exercise in either futility or inhumanity. Trump has proposed taxing the \$24 billion that people in the U.S. send in remittances to families in Mexico, most of whom desperately need the money.” The Times also says that “illegal immigration from Mexico dropped off during the last recession; in fact, the Pew Research Center reported in 2015 that more Mexicans were leaving the U.S. than were coming in.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says in an editorial that while the wall would not reduce illegal entry to the US, which has been in decline in recent years anyway, his policies so far have been more moderate than his campaign rhetoric. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (1/25, Wadhams, 201K), [AFP](#) (1/25, Beatty), and [The Hill](#) (1/25, Bernal, 1.25M) also have reports on the executive orders.

***Peña Nieto May Cancel US Trip, Says He Regrets Trump’s Decision On Wall.*** The [AP](#) (1/25) reports that Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto said in a televised address, “I regret and reject the decision of the US to build the wall.” A Mexican official said Peña Nieto may cancel a January 31 visit to the US to meet with Trump. [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (1/25, 686K) said Peña Nieto is “under tremendous pressure to cancel” his trip, but the visit at this point is still scheduled to go forward. [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (1/25, 1.53M) noted that Peña Nieto “has insisted he won’t pay” for the wall.

The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Ahmed, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that “after just five days in office, President Trump is looking a lot like Candidate Trump – and the Mexicans are furious.” The Times says it “mattered little to Mexicans whether Mr. Trump’s order would receive congressional approval or the funding required to fulfill it. ... Decades of friendly relations between the nations...seemed to be unraveling.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/25, De Córdoba, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) also says relations between the US and Mexico have become increasingly strained.

[USA Today](#) (1/25, Durando, 5.28M) reports that former Mexican President Vicente Fox Quesada once again “[took to Twitter](#) Wednesday to again say the country won’t pay for that ‘expletive’ wall.” Appearing on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (1/25, 686K), Fox said he is “sure” Peña Nieto is considering canceling the trip “because the behavior on his counterpart is horrible. It’s not worth sitting with a guy that is so fixed on his ideas that he’s so authoritarian and that he’s only looking after gaining the momentum, recuperating what he lost last weekend.”

***Mexican Cement Maker Could Reap Big Profits From Wall Construction.*** [Bloomberg News](#) (1/25, Navarro, Sachgau, Black, 2.41M) reports that “there may be no bigger winner” if the wall is built “than a giant cement maker based in Mexico. Cemex SAB would be one of the companies best-positioned to profit from a wall that could cost \$15 billion or more as it has operations along both sides of the border.”

***Mayors Of Sanctuary Cities Defiant.*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/25, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says that while the wall is getting the most attention, other parts of Trump’s policy may have a bigger impact. The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/25, story 3, 2:40, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that Trump also ordered a crackdown “so-called sanctuary cities. There are hundreds of them that use local ordinances and policies to shelter illegal immigrants from federal law enforcement.” CBS’ Carter Evans: “When it comes to taking on President Trump’s immigration policy, California has drawn a line in the sand.” Gov. Jerry Brown: “In California, immigrants are an integral part of who we are and what we’ve become.” Evans: “Gov. Jerry Brown’s message this week was blunt.” Brown: “Let me be clear: We will defend everybody, every man, woman and child who has come here for a better life and has contributed to the well-being of our state.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/25, Vives, 4.52M) says “details about Trump’s crackdown remain unclear. ... More than 400 jurisdictions across the country have some sort of sanctuary policy, including Los Angeles, San Francisco and about 40 others in California.”

The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Robbins, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that “mayors of American cities large and small reacted with outrage” as Trump “signed an executive order saying he would halt funding to municipalities that did not cooperate with federal immigration officials.” Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said, “I want to be clear: We’re going to stay a sanctuary city. There is no stranger among us. Whether you’re from Poland or Pakistan, whether you’re from Ireland or India or Israel and whether you’re from Mexico or Moldova, where my grandfather came from, you are welcome in Chicago as you pursue the American dream.”

[POLITICO New York](#) (1/25, Nahmias, 53K) reports that New York Mayor Bill de Blasio threatened to sue the Administration. He said at a news conference, “President Trump issued an executive order today and it’s purported purpose was to enhance public safety, but here in New York City and in cities across this nation this executive order could in fact undermine public safety.”

The [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Davis, Jamison, Nirappil, 11.43M) reports that District of Columbia officials “warned that the nation’s capital could lose millions – or even billions – in federal assistance annually after President Trump signed a vaguely worded order to crackdown on communities that resist the deportation of illegal immigrants.” Mayor Muriel Bowser “did not have an immediate comment after Trump’s announcement,” but “[retweeted](#) a November 2016 message in which she said the District would remain a sanctuary city.” (She later [made a statement](#).)

***Trump, Ryan Say Dreamers Do Not Need To Worry.*** The [Washington Times](#) (1/25, Dinan, 272K) writes that “with a couple strokes of his pen, President Trump wiped out almost all of President Obama’s immigration policies Wednesday. ... Left untouched, for now, is the 2012 deportation amnesty for so-called Dreamers.” During his interview with [ABC News](#) (1/25, 3.09M), President Trump said of Dreamers, those brought to the US as children, “They shouldn’t be very worried. They are here illegally. They shouldn’t be very worried. I do have a big heart. We’re going to take care of everybody.”

[Axios](#) (1/25, Savitsky) reports that House Speaker Ryan similarly said on MSNBC, “They don’t have to worry. We’re focused on physical security of the border, we’re focused on those who are coming to do us harm, from terrorist states and things like that. That is our focus, and it’s on criminal aliens. People who are violent criminals who have not been deported. Those are the things the President said he’s going to focus on.”

**TRUMP EXPECTED TO SUSPEND VISAS FOR SOME MUSLIM NATIONS, HALT ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES.** Coverage of an expected presidential executive order suspending visas for residents of several Muslim-majority nations and halting the acceptance of refugees from Syria and elsewhere is generally negative, with the [Washington Post](#) (1/25, 11.43M) in an editorial calling it a “backdoor” ban on Muslims. [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (1/25, 554K) reported that President Trump is expected to restrict visas to people coming to the US “from what the Administration calls ‘terror prone’ countries,” and on the [CBS Evening News](#) (1/25, story 6, 2:20, Pelley, 11.17M), Charlie D’Agata reported from Mosul that with “Iraqis and American soldiers fighting a common enemy, one resident told us he couldn’t understand why President Trump might tighten restrictions on Iraqis traveling to the US.”

In an interview with [ABC News](#) (1/25, 3.09M), Trump said, “It’s not the Muslim ban, but it’s countries that have tremendous terror. And it’s countries that people are going to come in and cause us tremendous problems. Our country has enough problems without allowing people to come in who in many cases, or in some cases, are looking to do tremendous destruction.”

The [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Hauslohner, 11.43M) says the Administration intends to “start vetting would-be immigrants and visitors to the United States based partly on their opinions and ideology, and will immediately cease the resettlement of Syrian refugees” in the US. The order “would signal the beginning of the ‘extreme vetting’ that President Trump promised on the campaign trail, as well as partial implementation of the ‘Muslim ban,’ according to civil right advocates.” [USA Today](#) (1/25, Dorell, 5.28M) says total US refugee admissions have declined over the past 40 years, and “most refugees in 2016 came to the U.S. from countries that are at war or under the control of repressive governments.”

Dara Lind of [Vox](#) (1/25, 1.15M) writes that Trump's "early executive orders, especially these on immigration, suggest that Trump is serious about changing US policy to fulfill the strident immigration commitments at the center of his policy agenda. Already, he has laid out a policy agenda that is aggressive – even hostile – toward many unauthorized immigrants within the US."

The [Washington Post](#) (1/25, 11.43M) says in an editorial that a refugee ban would be "damaging to American principles and the nation's standing in the world. ... Such refugees should be subject to extensive background checks and other vetting before being granted U.S. visas – as they already are. But a blanket ban would compromise this nation's long-standing position as a sanctuary for desperate and innocent people," and would be "a backdoor way for Mr. Trump to partially make good on his proposed Muslim ban."

Edward Alden of the Council on Foreign Relations and Donald Kerwin of the Center for Migration Studies write in the [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Kerwin, 11.43M) that effective screening "requires good intelligence and close cooperation with allies to identify genuine threats. The crude alternatives the president advocates will weaken that cooperation, damage U.S. diplomacy," and heighten the risk of terrorism.

***Federal Agents Reinvestigating Some Syrian Refugees Following Glitch.*** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/25, Wilber, Bennett, 4.52M) reports that federal agents "are reinvestigating the backgrounds of dozens of Syrian refugees already in the United States after discovering a lapse in vetting that allowed some who had potentially negative information in their files to enter the country." They have not yet concluded "that any of the refugees should have been rejected for entry."

**MEDIA ANALYSIS: TRUMP'S PLEDGE FOR "MAJOR" VOTER FRAUD PROBE NOT JUSTIFIED BY EVIDENCE.** Coverage of President Trump's pledge to seek a "major investigation" into widespread voting fraud he has alleged is very negative, with reports and analyses – including segments on all three major network newscasts – emphasizing there is no evidence to back up the President's claim. Some reports highlight GOP and Democratic criticism of both Trump's call for the probe and his claim of massive voter fraud. On Wednesday morning, Trump [tweeted](#), "I will be asking for a major investigation into VOTER FRAUD, including those registered to vote in two states, those who are illegal [and](#)...even those registered to vote who are dead (and many for a long time). Depending on results, we will strengthen up voting procedures!"

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/25, story 2, 2:10, Muir, 14.63M), Jonathan Karl said, "I spoke with a senior administration official who tells me work has already begun on a memorandum that could come as early as tomorrow with the President ordering either the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice to commence the investigation. It would primarily look into the voter roles and whether there are people registered to vote who died long ago or registered in multiple states. This would be a big topic of discussion – the congressional retreat he is going to tomorrow, the Republicans in Philadelphia – he would like them to investigate, too."

Citing "a senior administration official," [CNN](#) (1/25, Merica, Bradner, Acosta, 29.79M) reported on its website that "Trump could sign an executive order or presidential memorandum initiating an investigation into voter fraud as early as" today. The probe "would be carried out through the Department of Justice. The move would expand on Trump's interest in the unproven claims he has made since November's election alleging millions of illegal votes were cast, without citing any evidence." CNN added that Trump "wants to discuss the issue with Republican lawmakers Thursday in Philadelphia and will then consider the best way to go about starting the investigation. 'He wants to tell them more about why he is talking about voter fraud' before taking any action, the official said."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/25, story 4, 0:20, Jackson, 16.61M), Hallie Jackson reported that "NBC News has learned from a source familiar with the plans, [Trump] could take presidential action as soon as tomorrow on" his desire for the investigation, though "it's not clear how he'd actually implement it or through which agencies."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (1/25, story 5, 0:40, 11.17M), Scott Pelley reported that "the President's false belief in widespread illegal voting may soon cost real money. Today he said, 'I will be asking for a major

investigation.’ Mr. Trump says as many as five million illegal ballots were cast for Hillary Clinton, which is how he explains her 2.8 million lead in the popular vote. ... No state has reported significant fraud, and even Mr. Trump’s own lawyers said there is no evidence of voter fraud.”

In a report for [McClatchy](#) (1/25, 74K), William Douglas says that Trump “wants to potentially spend tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to examine a problem that’s been proven over and over not to exist: systemic voter fraud.” Douglas, however, does not explain in the piece where he came up with the “potentially spend tens of millions of taxpayer dollars” claim. In fact, that’s the only mention of any potential cost in the story. Douglas says that Trump’s “fraud claim is emphatically rebuffed by the nation’s secretaries of states, who monitor elections, as well as reams of government and academic studies that say that occurrences of voter fraud are infinitesimal.”

[USA Today](#) (1/25, Jackson, Johnson, 5.28M) reports that Trump “vowed an ‘investigation’...into alleged voter fraud – despite a lack of evidence behind his claim that 3 million to 5 million people voted illegally in last year’s election – though aides spoke more in terms of a ‘study’ of the alleged problem.” White House press secretary Sean Spicer is quoted as saying, “I think we to understand where the problem exists, how deep it goes, and then suggest some remedies to it, but right now to sort of prejudge the process would sort of get in front of the whole need to have it.”

Citing the President’s tweets, the [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Johnson, Zapotosky, 11.43M) reports that Trump “plans to ask for a ‘major investigation’ into allegations of widespread voter fraud as he continues to claim, without providing evidence, that he lost the popular vote in November’s election because millions of illegal votes were cast.” The Post adds that Spicer “didn’t use the word ‘investigation’ during a briefing” yesterday, “instead saying the president wants a ‘study’ or ‘task force’ to study the issue of fraud, especially in ‘bigger states.’” Spicer made clear that such a probe would not just focus on the 2016 election.”

The [AP](#) (1/25, Pace, LeMire) reports that with his Wednesday tweets, Trump revisited “unsubstantiated claims he’s made repeatedly about a rigged voting system.” The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Baker, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Trump on Wednesday “reiterated his false claim that at least three million illegal immigrants cast ballots for Hillary Clinton,” and called “for an investigation into voter fraud, even though his own legal team has argued that no such fraud occurred.” The Times adds that the President’s “legal team challenged the Green Party candidate Jill Stein’s recount petitions in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin after Election Day with a broad assertion: ‘All available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud or mistake.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (1/25, Sherfinski, 272K) reports that Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) on Wednesday said “he would support anything to make sure elections are more secure and that only U.S. citizens vote. ‘He’s certainly entitled to his own opinion, and that’s what he’s expressing,’ Mr. Collins said [of Trump] on CNN’s ‘New Day.’” Under the headline “Sticking To Unsubstantiated Claim, Trump Seeks Voter-Fraud Inquiry,” the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/25, Lee, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) quotes Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), ranking Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, as saying during a Wednesday interview with MSNBC, “The president can join me and my staff, and we will show him there is no voter fraud,” adding, “This is not about Donald Trump. This is about the soul of our democracy.”

Under the headline “Trump Call For Election-Fraud Probe Fraught With Peril,” [Politico](#) (1/25, Gerstein, 2.46M) reported that “Trump has put himself in a vexing position with his promise of a ‘major’ voter fraud investigation, with little chance of proving his unsubstantiated claim that millions voted illegally in November and a high probability the effort will be panned as a fruitless political exercise. If Trump tries to kickstart an aggressive criminal investigation, he is sure to fuel charges he is politicizing the Justice Department.” Should he opts for “a more modest blue-ribbon-panel-style inquiry, Trump is likely to have trouble attracting prominent Democrats who could give the effort more legitimacy.”

In a brief report, [Breitbart](#) (1/25, Spierling, 2.02M) says Trump “continues to argue that the 2016 election was fraught with illegal voting, despite deafening protest of the media that he lacks the evidence to prove it.” However, the President on Wednesday “took a major step forward to further the narrative, by calling for an investigation.” [The Hill](#) (1/25, Savransky, 1.25M) also reported on Trump’s tweets calling “for a

major investigation into VOTER FRAUD.” On its website, [TIME](#) (1/25, Reilly, 6.98M) highlighted various reports/studies that found no evidence of widespread voter fraud.

Writing for [Slate](#) (1/25, 1.83M), Mark Joseph Stern says that Trump’s vow to seen an “investigation is notable for three reasons. First, it is the direct result of years of Republican lies about the prevalence of voter fraud, which created a counterfactual hysteria that the party’s leadership is now apparently unable to temper. Second, it will primarily serve as pretext for an assault on voting rights at both the state and federal level. Third, it will not turn up any significant evidence of fraud – and this lack of evidence will not matter,” because “Trump and the Republican Party will continue to perpetuate it no matter how many times it has been debunked.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (1/25, 11.43M) column, Dana Milbank says that the President’s “insistence on the false claim that the crowd at his inauguration was upward of 1 million people, and his equally erroneous proclamation that he lost the popular vote because of massive voter fraud...are clearly diversions, conveniently removing attention from things Trump has done that will have direct and often severe consequences.” Milbank offers a list of “some of the jaw-dropping items many Americans probably missed while distracted by Trump’s bogus baubles,” saying, for example, the President appointed “a Cabinet that is 85 percent white...and nearly all male” and “signed an order that allows the reopening of secret ‘black site’ prisons where torture had occurred.”

In an editorial titled “The Sore Winner In Chief,” [USA Today](#) (1/25, 5.28M) says, “And on the sixth day, the Trump administration continued its assault on the truth,” pointing to Trump’s claim of widespread voter fraud. Citing that issue and the “pointless flap over the size of the Inauguration Day crowds,” USA Today adds, “Last October, when candidate Trump was behind in the polls and tweeted about ‘large scale voter fraud...on and before Election Day,’ it sounded like he was warming up to be a poor loser. Bad enough. Now, as president, he sounds like a poor winner.”

In a very negative piece, the [New York Times](#) (1/25, Baker, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) describes Trump as “[i]mpetuous and instinctive, convinced of broad but hidden plots to undermine him, eager to fight and prone to what an aide called ‘alternative facts.’” The Times says Trump “sits in the White House at night, watching television or reading social media, and through Twitter issues instant judgments.” Trump “channels fringe ideas,” giving “them as much weight as carefully researched reports. He denigrates the conclusions of intelligence professionals and then later denies having done so.” The Times says “some of his own advisers...privately worry about his penchant for picking unnecessary fights and drifting off message. They talk about taking away his telephone or canceling his Twitter account, only to be dismissed by” Trump. The Times, however, doesn’t identify or quote any of those “advisers,” even anonymously.

The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Thrush, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) also reports that while meeting with congressional leaders at the White House on Monday, Trump told “a story meant to illustrate what he believes to be rampant, unchecked voter fraud.” Trump “said he was told a story by ‘the very famous golfer, Bernhard Langer,’ whom he described as a friend, according to three staff members who were in” attendance. Those “witnesses” said Trump explained Langer “was standing in line at a polling place near his home in Florida on Election Day...when an official informed Mr. Langer he would not be able to vote,” while other “voters who did not look as if they should be allowed to vote...were nonetheless permitted to cast provisional ballots.” The Times adds, “Langer, who lives in Boca Raton, Fla., is a German citizen with permanent residence status in the United States who is, by law, barred from voting, according to Mr. Langer’s daughter.”

***Trump Says Illegal Votes Cast In November Went To Clinton.*** In an interview with [ABC News](#) (1/25, 3.09M), Trump was asked about his assertion during a meeting with congressional leaders that he “lost the popular vote because of millions of illegal votes.” Trump said, “I would’ve won the popular vote if I was campaigning for the popular vote.” Trump added that “it could very well be that you have people that are registered who are dead, who are illegals, who are in two states. You have people registered in two states. They’re registered in a New York and a New Jersey. They vote twice. There are millions of votes, in my opinion. ... We’re gonna launch an investigation to find out.” [Later](#) in the interview, Trump was asked if talking about illegal votes “undermines [his credibility].” Trump said, “No I do not because they



would – they didn’t come to me. Believe me. Those were Hillary votes.”

**Trump Accuses Author Of Pew Voter Fraud Study Of “Groveling” To Reporters.** [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/25, story 2, 2:10, Muir, 14.63M) featured clips of an interview David Muir conducted Wednesday with Trump. Muir said, “You say you’re going to start an investigation. What you have been presented so far has been debunked.” Trump: “Take a look at the Pew reports.” Muir: “I talked to the author of the Pew report last night. And he told me that they found no evidence of voter fraud.” After a brief exchange between the two, Trump said, “Excuse me. Then, why did he write the report? He is groveling again. You know, I always talk about the reporters that grovel when they want to write something that you (nodding toward Muir) want to hear, but not necessarily millions of people want to hear or have to hear.”

[Politico](#) (1/25, McCaskill, 2.46M) also reported on Muir’s interview with Trump, saying that the President “pointed to a Pew study that highlights outdated voter rolls, not illegitimate votes, and doesn’t include any references to non-citizens registering or voting. David Becker, the study’s author tweeted Tuesday, with a link to a New York Times report: ‘As I’ve noted before, voting integrity better in this election than ever before. Zero evidence of fraud.’ Trump, however, questioned why Becker would publish the report then and suggested he’s ‘groveling’ by refuting the president’s claim.”

**Author Of Different Study Cited By Trump Says President “Misreading” It.** Under the headline “Author Of Trump’s Favorite Voter Fraud Study Says Everyone’s Wrong,” [Wired](#) (1/25, Lapowsky, 3.98M) reports that professor Jesse Richman’s 2014 “[paper](#), ‘Do Non-Citizens Vote in US Elections?’” which was published in the peer-reviewed journal Electoral Studies, has become a cornerstone of President Trump’s false claim that he would have ‘won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally.’ This week White House Press secretary Sean Spicer once again dragged the study to the forefront, noting that a study of the 2008 election showed 14 percent of non-citizens are registered to vote.” However, Richman says “the Trump administration’s interpretation of his report is totally off. ‘Trump and others have been misreading our research and exaggerating our results to make claims we don’t think our research supports,’ Richman says.”

**NYTimes Explains It Settled On The Word “Lie” To Describe Trump’s Voter Fraud Claim.** In a “News Analysis” for the [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Dan Barry discusses Trump’s “baseless” claim “that millions of ballots cast illegally by undocumented immigrants cost him the popular vote,” saying the assertion “challenged the news media to find the precise words to describe it.” Barry writes, “Some news organizations used words like ‘falsely’ or ‘wrongly – adverbs that tend to weaken the impact – in framing what the president said. Some used ‘with no evidence,’ or ‘won’t provide any proof,’ or ‘unverified claims,’ or ‘repeats debunked claim.’ The New York Times, though, ultimately chose more muscular terminology, opting to use the word ‘lie’ in the headline.” Barry adds, “To say that someone has ‘lied,’ an active verb, or has told a ‘lie,’ a more passive, distancing noun, is to say that the person intended to deceive.”

**Sessions “Would Likely” Lead A Probe Of Trump Voter Fraud Claims.** [USA Today](#) (1/25, Johnson, 5.28M) reports that if Trump makes good “on his call for an inquiry into unsubstantiated claims of massive voter fraud, the request would likely” fall to Sen. Jeff Sessions, the US attorney general nominee, “whose own history of pursuing such allegations continues to shadow his public record.” Sessions “was forced to defend himself earlier this month during Senate hearings on his nomination for the failed, racially charged prosecution of three black activists more than 30 years ago. In that case, Sessions, then the chief federal prosecutor in Mobile, Ala., charged” the three “with tampering with absentee ballots in a September 1984 primary election,” though the trio “were quickly acquitted in a case that raised the specter of voter intimidation and later helped sink Sessions’ previous bid for a federal judgeship.”

**Ryan On Trump Push For Voter Fraud Probe: “I Think It’s Fine.”** However, [Politico](#) (1/25, Conway, 2.46M) reported that House Speaker Paul Ryan on Wednesday “endorsed... Trump’s call to launch an investigation into voter fraud in the presidential election. ‘I think it’s fine,’ Ryan told MSNBC’s Greta Van Susteren.” However, Ryan “made a point of saying that he has not seen any evidence to support Trump’s unsubstantiated claim, repeatedly debunked by independent fact-checkers, that his loss in the popular vote was a result of millions of people voting illegally for Hillary Clinton. But Ryan, noting that he is ‘sure

there is some fraud,' suggested that an investigation into the issue is the right step to establishing the facts if Trump really believes the claim."

***Other Republicans, Democrats Criticize Trump's Call For Investigation.*** Under the headline "Trump's Call For Probe Of Voter Fraud Sparks Backlash," [Reuters](#) (1/25, Chiacu, Heavey) reports that the President's call for an investigation "drew rebukes from both Republicans and Democrats who said" Trump's "unsubstantiated claims of large-scale fraud could undermine voting rights efforts as well as confidence in the new U.S. chief executive." For example, in a tweet "rebutting Trump's claim that 3 million to 5 million illegal immigrants voted against him," Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted said, "Easy to vote, hard to cheat #Ohio." And Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC) said, "Republicans have used claims of widespread voter fraud to discriminate and restrict access to the ballot box for years."

The [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Horwitz, Johnson, 11.43M) reports that Trump's vow to request a probe was "met with skepticism by both Democratic and Republican lawmakers – and fear from voting rights advocates that the president will use his unfounded claims to justify more-restrictive voting laws." [USA Today](#) (1/25, Kelly, 5.28M) reports that that GOP congressional leaders on Wednesday said "they have seen no evidence of the widespread voter fraud...Trump has vowed to investigate." In Philadelphia for a GOP retreat, Senate Republican Conference Chairman John Thune (R-SD) said during a news conference that "he hasn't seen any evidence to support Trump's claim that up to 5 million people voted illegally in the Nov. 8 presidential election." Said Thune, "I haven't seen evidence to that effect," adding, "We had an election; it was a decisive outcome. ... We've moved on. We're ready to go to work."

[The Hill](#) (1/25, Fabian, Easley, 1.25M) reported that Trump's pledge to ask for an investigation "stirred bipartisan controversy on Wednesday." The Hill added that "civil rights groups are concerned it could serve as pretext for a crackdown on voting rights. Even his GOP supporters say the probe could serve as a distraction from his governing agenda." The Hill cited Thune's remarks.

The [Washington Times](#) (1/25, Sherfinski, 272K) reports that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday said "she felt 'sorry' for President Trump and prayed for both him and the country in the wake of" his remarks "about alleged voter fraud in the 2016 election." Speaking with reporters, Pelosi said, "For a person who is newly elected president...should be so insecure as to declare that he's now the president...and he's saying, 'I won the popular vote, 3 to 5 million Americans voted illegally in our country. To...undermine the integrity of our voting system is really strange."

[Roll Call](#) (1/25, Rahman, 63K) reported that Pelosi, weighing in on Trump's "unsubstantiated claim that he lost the popular vote because millions of people voted illegally, call[ed] it 'startling.'" Of Trump, Pelosi added, "He wants to investigate something that can clearly be proven to be false but he wants to resist the investigation of the Russian disruption of our election and any connection to his campaign."

Under the headline "Bipartisan Leaders Of Governors' Group Blast Trump's False Claims Of Voter Fraud," the [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Nirappil, 11.43M) reports, "The Republican and Democratic leaders of the National Governors Association on Wednesday blasted...Trump's call for a 'major investigation' of voter fraud as a distraction from the nation's pressing matters." Speaking at an NGA gathering in Washington, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), chairman of the group, "dismissed the president's false claims of millions of illegal votes cast in November as 'lunacy,' 'something he made up' and 'hocus pocus.'" Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R), the NGA vice chair, "said there was no evidence of illegal voting in his state and a federal investigation into voting fraud is not worth the government's time. 'It's over,' he said. 'Let's move on and let's get to the job of governing this country.'"

***Bannon, Mnuchin, Tiffany Trump Each Are Registered To Vote In Two States.*** Under the heading "Donald Trump's Definition Of 'Voter Fraud' Appears To Include His Own Daughter And Top Adviser," Aaron Blake wrote of the President in "The Fix" blog on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Blake, 11.43M) that "one of the potential areas he highlighted for probing – voters who are registered in two different states – appears as though it would snag his own top adviser" and Trump's daughter, Tiffany Trump. Blake said, "The Post's Matea Gold has now confirmed that...Tiffany Trump...is...registered to vote in two states – New York and Pennsylvania." Chief White House strategist Steve Bannon also "apparently" is registered to vote in two states. Blake added, "The Sarasota Herald-Tribune [reported](#)

(1/24, Anderson, 194K) Tuesday evening that Bannon was registered to vote in both Florida and New York.”

On its website, [CNN](#) (1/25, Kaczynski, Massie, 29.79M) reported that Trump’s Treasury secretary nominee, Steven Mnuchin, “is registered to vote in two states,” according to “paperwork obtained through open records requests in New York and California show. While it is illegal to cast ballots in multiple states, it is not illegal to be registered in two states at the same time.” Trump on Wednesday “called for an investigation into voter fraud, including whether citizens are registered to vote in two states.”

**Balz: With “False” Claim, Trump “Striking At The Foundation Of A Democratic Society.”** In an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (1/25, Balz, 11.43M), Dan Balz asserted, “There is no benign explanation for...Trump’s false assertion that millions of people voted illegally in the last election. It is either a deliberate attempt to undermine faith in the democratic process, an exhortation to those who favor new restrictions on access to the ballot box or the worrisome trait of someone with immense power willing to make wild statements without any credible evidence.” Balz adds that Trump, with his claim, “is now striking at the foundation of a democratic society.”

## **Editorial Wrap-Up:**

**NEW YORK TIMES. “The Real Cost Of Mr. Trump’s Wall.”** The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes, “President Trump on Wednesday unveiled the first proposals to make good on his promise to make America impenetrable to unauthorized immigrants and intolerable for those who are already here.” The wall is “far from certain because Congress would have to approve billions of dollars in funding. ... He has insisted that Mexico will ultimately pay for the wall – a vow that is either deceitful or delusional” – and has “ordered federal agencies to tally the foreign aid Mexico receives from the United States, which seems like a threat to withhold future assistance for initiatives such as narcotics enforcement and judicial programs.”

**“I Think Islam Hates Us.”** The [New York Times](#) (1/26, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes that President Trump’s methods of combating Islamic extremism are “more likely to further inflame anti-American sentiment around the world than to make the United States safer” even as “they trample on American values and international law.” The Times criticizes Trump’s national security adviser, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, as vilifying not only of a small group of radicals, “but an entire religion.” Flynn has suggested the battlefield could expand from the Middle East. The Times warns, “the ideas of Mr. Flynn and others, if adopted, seem like a recipe for endless world war.” The Times asserts in conclusion that “to a great extent success” in combating terrorism “will depend on long-term cooperation from Muslim leaders and allies.”

**WASHINGTON POST. “Trump’s Politicized Immigration Acts Are At Odds With American Values.”** The [Washington Post](#) (1/25, 11.43M) says in an editorial that a refugee ban would be “damaging to American principles and the nation’s standing in the world. ... Such refugees should be subject to extensive background checks and other vetting before being granted U.S. visas – as they already are. But a blanket ban would compromise this nation’s long-standing position as a sanctuary for desperate and innocent people,” and would be “a backdoor way for Mr. Trump to partially make good on his proposed Muslim ban.”

**“The US’s ‘Special Relationship’ With Britain Can’t Come At The Cost Of Other Alliances.”** The [Washington Post](#) (1/25, 11.43M) says in an editorial that British Prime Minister Theresa May “appears to be hoping that a free-trade deal with the United States will ease her country’s exit from the European Union and set the stage for the new ‘global Britain’ she envisions” while President Trump “seems to think that reinforcing ‘the special relationship’ with London will substitute for nurturing Western institutions such as NATO,” but “both are deluded.” The Post argues that “an attempt by either leader to turn the ‘special relationship’ into an instrument for devaluing other Western alliances would damage both countries,” and says that during their meeting this week, May “should nudge Mr. Trump toward a more positive approach to NATO and other Western institutions.”

***“Does The Punishment For Inauguration Day Protesters Fit The Crime?”*** The [Washington Post](#) (1/25, 11.43M) editorializes that the more than 200 arrests during the inauguration “rais[es] the question of whether police acted appropriately” and could have dealt with it in a less serious or individualized way. The Post says that while the facts are not yet known, “any assessment” should consider that the total number arrested “was dwarfed by the hundreds of thousands of people who came to the nation’s capital over two days and peacefully exercised their First Amendment rights without incident.” The Post adds “that is a credit to the protesters and to police.”

**WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“The Trump Wall Rises.”*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says in an editorial that while the wall along the US’ southern border would not reduce illegal entry to the US, which has been in decline in recent years anyway, President Trump’s policies so far have been more moderate than his campaign rhetoric.

***“The Promise Of Dow 20000.”*** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says that while investors appear to be heartened by President Trump’s early policies, the Dow reaching the 20,000 mark is a promise of future growth and for the rally to continue, Republicans must deliver on their pro-growth promises.

***“Trump’s Asia Reassurance Project.”*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that Sen. John McCain’s proposed \$7.5 billion in funding to increase Pacific nations’ security would be a positive first step in helping to reassure Asian countries after the US formally withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The Journal says the Asia Pacific Stability Initiative would allow the US to increase munition supplies, expand military facilities, and increase cooperation with allies in the face of Chinese and North Korean threats.

## **Big Picture:**

### **HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Dow Closes Above 20000 For First Time](#)  
[The Fragile Economic Foundation Of Dow 20000](#)  
[Trump Orders Mexican Border Wall](#)  
[It’s Not You: Hotel Thermostats Really Are Rigged](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Trump Blocks Syrian Refugees And Orders Mexican Border Wall To Be Built](#)  
[After His Claim Of Voter Fraud, Trump Vows ‘Major Investigation’](#)  
[Trump’s Impulses Now Carry The Force Of The Presidency](#)  
[Leaked Draft Of Executive Order Could Revive CIA Prisons](#)  
[Mary Tyler Moore, Who Incarnated The Modern Woman On TV, Dies At 80](#)  
[For Justin Trudeau, Canada’s Leader, Revival Of Keystone XL Upsets A Balancing Act](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[Republicans Seeking Answers Get Fresh Questions](#)  
[Trump Orders Wall To Begin](#)  
[Newfound Optimism Reigns For This Year’s March For Life](#)  
[Draft Signals ‘Black Site’ Plans](#)  
[Vibrant Actress Helped Lead TV Women Into New Era](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Dow Closes Above 20,000 For First Time](#)  
[Reforms Bring Cultural Battles To Poland’s Schools](#)  
[West Sidelined To The Bar In Russia-led Syria Talks](#)

#### ***Washington Times:***

[Trump Eviscerates Obama’s Immigration Policy In Two Executive Orders](#)

[Watchdog Sees Need For Election Fraud Probe](#)  
[Trump's Change Of Course In Asia Challenges China, Obama's Pivot](#)  
[Race For Virginia Governor Shaping Up As Referendum On Trump](#)  
[Trump's Call For 'Feds' In Chicago Confounds City Leaders, Police Experts](#)  
[Trump To Set Environmental Agenda, Not His Cabinet Or Lawmakers](#)

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Trump-Mexico Border Wall, Immigrants Crackdown; Trump-Illegal Votes; Trump-Torture; Trump-ABC Interview; Wall Street-Dow 20,000; Severe Weather; Mary Tyler Moore Dies; Teachers Aide Faking Cancer; Philadelphia Sinkhole; Health-Mumps Outbreak; North Carolina Meteor; Skier Accident; Mary Tyler Moore-Tribute.

**CBS:** Mary Tyler Moore Dies; Trump-Mexico Border Wall; Trump-Immigrants Crackdown; Trump-Torture; Trump-Illegal Votes; Iraq War On ISIS; Wall Street-Dow 20,000; Trump-Pipelines; Trump-Chicago Violence; Jamaica Track Team Doping; Butch Trucks Dies; Mary Tyler Moore-Tribute.

**NBC:** Mary Tyler Moore Dies; Trump-Mexico Border Wall, Immigrants Crackdown; Trump-Torture; Trump-Illegal Votes; Mexico Border Wall Responses; Wall Street-Dow 20,000; North Korea Nuclear Program; Student Loan Lawsuits; Window Washers Rescue; Pennsylvania Sinkhole; Kids Love Pets; Mary Tyler Moore-Tribute.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Trump-Mexico Border Wall, Immigrants Crackdown – 10 minutes, 50 seconds

Trump-Torture – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Wall Street-Dow 20,000 – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Trump-Illegal Votes – 3 minutes, 10 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Trump-ABC Interview; Trump-Mexico Border Wall; Trump-Immigrants Crackdown; Mary Tyler Moore Dies; Wall Street-Dow 20,000.

**CBS:** Trump-Mexico Border Wall; Trump-Immigrants Crackdown; Trump-Illegal Votes; Severe Weather; Mary Tyler Moore Dies; Wall Street-Dow 20,000.

**FOX:** Trump-Mexico Border Wall; Trump-Immigrants Crackdown; Trump Policy Protests; Mississippi Robbery Shooting.

**NPR:** Trump-Mexico Border Wall; Trump-Immigrants Crackdown; Trump-Illegal Votes; Wall Street-Dow 20,000; Mary Tyler Moore Dies; ESPN Brent Musburger Retires.

**Washington Schedule:**

**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.**

**White House:**

**PRESIDENT TRUMP** — Attends Congress of Tomorrow Republican Member Retreat; meets with Senator Hatch and Congressman Brady; signs Executive Order; gives second TV interview since taking office – 'Hannity' broadcast on Fox News.

**VICE PRESIDENT PENCE** — Participates in Health Care Symposium at Congress of Tomorrow Republican Member Retreat; delivers remarks to Republican Congressional Conference; participates in policy discussion with Republican Congressional Conference; hosts March for Life welcome reception.

**US Senate:** No votes scheduled in the Senate.

**US House:** No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives.

**Other:** 9:30 AM IMF regular press briefing with Communications Department Deputy Spokesman William Murray Location: International Monetary Fund, 700 19th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.imf.org>  
<https://twitter.com/IMFNews>

Mexican foreign secretary and economic secretary conclude visit to the U.S. for meetings with Trump administration officials – Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs Dr Luis Videgaray Caso and Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal conclude visit to Washington, DC, for high-level meetings with members of the new administration (including White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, President's Senior Advisors Stephen Bannon and Jared Kushner, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn,



National Trade Council Director Peter Navarro, and National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, plus Cabinet members – if they have been confirmed), to discuss the current and future status of the bilateral relationship, including security, migration, and commerce Location: Washington, DC  
<http://www.sre.gob.mx/> [https://twitter.com/SRE\\_mx](https://twitter.com/SRE_mx)

## **Last Laughs:**

### **LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.**

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “Good news: The President, after all, has decided not to put his name on the flag. So that’s a step in the right direction.”

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “[Trump] tweeted this morning, ‘I will be asking for a major investigation into voter fraud, including those registered to vote in two states, those who are illegal and he goes on to another one, even those registered to vote who are dead, and many for a long time.’ That’s right, dead people voted. And I like that he added ‘many for a long time,’ which makes it as if newly dead people vote. You can forgive that. They might have just forgotten they’re not alive. But if they’ve been dead for a long time, there’s really no excuse for it, and it has to be stopped.”

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “According to a report from the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan law and public policy institute, the rate of voter fraud, the real rate in US elections, is between .00004 and .00009 percent. In other words, about the same rate as the couples on ‘The Bachelor’ get married.”

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “If you meddle with our presidential election, our President, President Trump, will find you and he will bring you to justice. Unless you’re Russian. Then it’s fine, do whatever you want.”

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “Today Trump said he believes in torturing prisoners. Which is bad news for Melania.”

**Jimmy Kimmel:** “[Trump] wants to build a \$25 billion wall, and he promised that although we might have to pay some money up front, Mexico will reimburse us for it at some point in the future. Is it me or does this sound like an e-mail scam from a Nigerian prince?”

**Trevor Noah:** “Now don’t get me wrong. That statistic about homicides in Chicago is troubling. And no one can deny the issue needs to be addressed. But I guarantee that you Donald J. Trump just thinks ‘send in the Feds’ sounds cool because whenever you hear that line in Hollywood, something gets done.”

**Trevor Noah:** [Referring to Trump’s tweet on Chicago violence soon after Bill O’Reilly’s show] “The commander in chief gets his intelligence from the same place your racist grandpa does. And don’t get me wrong, don’t get me wrong. I think it’s pretty cool for Bill O’Reilly. He gets to be President for an hour every single night. Poor Megyn Kelly, she left Fox too soon. She could have been the first female President for an hour a night.”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “And get this, I read that Trump’s gold curtains in the Oval Office are the same ones Hillary picked out for Bill Clinton in 1993. So she may not be the President, but Hillary still figured out a way to throw some shade.”

**Seth Meyers:** “According to the New York Times, the White House kitchen has been stocked with President Trump’s favorite snacks, including Lay’s potato chips. And his ‘cabinet’ has been filled with crackers.”

**Seth Meyers:** “Someone close to Trump told the Associated Press that, quote, ‘The bad press over the weekend has not allowed Trump to enjoy the White House as he feels he deserves.’ Hey, man, you’re not supposed to enjoy the White House. ...Only one President ever really enjoyed the White House, and he got impeached for it.”

**Seth Meyers:** “White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer promised the White House press corps, quote,

'Our intention is never to lie to you.' ...It's like saying, 'I don't want to lie to you, baby, but then you get so upset when I sleep with other girls, you gave me no choice.'"

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