



To: WSW Clients
FROM: WSW Team
DATE: January 17, 2017

On January 17, 2017, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee questioned Representative Zinke for the first day of his confirmation hearing to serve as the Secretary of the Interior of the United States. This is a summary report from the first day of testimony.

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY POINTS:

The confirmation hearing for Representative Zinke was very calm in tone and he was questioned equally as tough by both Democrats and Republicans on the committee. The issues that were addressed are listed below. Representative Zinke had stated how his view on climate change differs from that of the President Elect Trump. Representative Zinke had only briefly spoken about climate change with most of the time spent on different national and state parks.

NOMINEE INFORMATION & LINK TO TESTIMONY

[Chairman Lisa Murkowski's opening statement](#)

[Ranking Member Maria Cantwell's opening statement](#)

[Rep. Ryan Zinke's opening statement](#)

Representative Zinke's opening statement, select portion:

The first is to restore trust by working with rather than against local communities and states. I fully recognize that there is dis-trust, anger, and even hatred against some federal management policies. Being a listening advocate rather than a deaf adversary is a good start.

Second, is to prioritize the estimated 12.5 billion dollars in backlog of maintenance and repair in our National Parks. The President elect is committed to a jobs and infrastructure bill, and I am going to need your help in making sure that bill includes shoring up our Nations treasures.

And third, to ensure the professionals on the front line, our rangers and field managers, have the right tools, right re-sources, and flexibility to make the right decisions that give a voice to the people they serve.

MEMBER INTERESTS

Murkowski (R-AK)- Land management, unique aspects of different states, natural resources, trans-Alaska pipeline, domestic energy.

Cantwell (D-WA)- Coal, taxpayers not having a fair value, importance of land and water conservation, support of national parks.

Hoeven (R-ND)- National parks and public lands, native American affairs, balanced approach to multiple use, managing these different tasks in a balanced way, Dakota access pipeline worker safety, one size fits all.

Sanders (I-VT)- Climate change, drilling of fossil fuels on public lands, solar energy, privatization of national parks, native American rights, healthcare and childcare in the native American nations.

Gardner (R-CO)- Working together with Congress, placement of federal workers closer to the lands they are responsible for, protection of water rights.

Heinrich (D-NM)- Success of monuments, state's rights.

Alexander (R-TN)- Allocation of funds, outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations.

Duckworth (D-IL)- Specific policies that would be put in place, equality in the workforce, sexual assault.

Lee (R-UT)- Local support as a pre-condition to the creation of a national monument, antiquities act, land management.

Stabenow (D-MI)- Sexual harassment in the workplace, necessary funding for agencies at the interior, focusing on environmental science, state and local community involvement.

Barrasso (R-WY)- Federal coal leasing, conservation and management authority given back to the states.

Wyden (D-OR)- Collaboration between federal, state, and local governments, forestry.

Daines (R-MT)- Reason for wanting this job, local control and management of federal lands.

Cortez Masto (D-NV)- Having the opinion of the tribal nations, wild horses, water rights, drought contingency plans.

Risch (R-ID)- Management in the DOI

King (I-ME)- Communication between parks and neighboring communities, maintenance of parks, land water conservation fund.

Flake (R-AZ)- drought contingency plan, Indian water settlements.

Franken (D-MN)- Climate change and threat to national security

Portman (R-OH)- Funding and protection of national parks, stream buffer and eleventh hour rule, invasive species.

Hirono (D-HI)- Renewable energy, infrastructure needs of DOI, privatizing social security or Medicare in order to pay for infrastructure needs, qualities in deputies and assistants in DOI, sexual harassment in DOI.

Murkowski, again. Sale of public land, keeping promises made to the Alaskan people, state forest, states managing fish and game decisions.

Cantwell, again. Decrease in coal production and increase in natural gas production, tribal rights, commitment to conservation, LIDAR.

Daines, again. How has Zinke brought economic prosperity to Indian country.

Heinrich, again. Loss of religious objects in different Indian tribes, federal water projects in the western states, public land access.

Barrasso, again. Improvement of forest health, mitigation policy and how future requirements can become more practical.

Manchin (D-WV)- Stream protection rule, AML money, select timber harvesting.

Some Inside the Beltway Press Coverage of Hearing

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/whitehouse/interior-nominee-zinke-to-be-quizzed-on-public-lands-coal/2017/01/17/793075f0-dc8f-11e6-8902-610fe486791c_story.html?utm_term=.8bf672df2572

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/ryan-zinke-on-the-issues-233684>

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/314711-interior-pick-walks-fine-line-on-climate-highlights-conservation>