

From: Swift, Heather
To: [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Jason Funes](#)
Subject: Re: GOING 1:30 TODAY
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:24:45 PM

Yes. All taken care of.

-
Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 10:31 AM, Newell, Russell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Are we linked in with Cabinet Affairs on these types of releases? They have a person dedicated to disbursing releases with local/regional ties to local/regional publications. Could be good value-add to share with him when appropriate, and if it isn't redundant to what we're already doing. I can help coordinate if needed. Thoughts?

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Date: July 19, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Department of the Interior Announces \$13.3 Million for Improvements to Local Parks and Recreation in 22 Cities

Public-Private Partnerships Benefit Underserved Communities

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service announced today \$13.3 million through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program to assist 22 cities in 17 states with projects to plan, build, and enhance parks and other outdoor recreation facilities in underserved communities. These public-private partnerships leverage \$13.3 million in federal funding with \$21.2 million from local governments, private firms, and non-profit organizations to improve accessibility of

playgrounds, create canoe and kayak launches and fishing piers, restore vacant industrial land for park uses, and make other important investments in parks across the country.

“Every kid deserves the opportunity to get outside and play. Whether it's downtown Detroit or rural Wyoming, investing in public lands is an investment in communities. The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program is an innovative public-private partnership which revitalizes communities through improving infrastructure, creating jobs, and enhancing neighborhoods,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “It connects people to the great outdoors by encouraging and enabling a variety of recreational opportunities in under-served communities.”

The ORLP is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). For more than 50 years, the LWCF has invested revenue from federal offshore oil and gas royalties into more than 40,000 outdoor recreation facilities and conservation projects in every state.

Congress created the ORLP program in 2014 to complement the agency's existing LWCF State and Local Assistance Program. The program, administered by the National Park Service, seeks to identify and highlight new ways of providing opportunities for expanding outdoor play in areas with great need, as well as promoting the development of new or enhanced partnerships for outdoor recreation in urban communities across the nation. The grants must be matched at a minimum 1:1 ratio, at least doubling the impact of the federal investment in these communities.

The complete list of ORLP grants are listed below. For more information about LWCF and these grants, visit www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm.

Recipient	State	Project Title	Federal Amount
Municipality of Anchorage	Alaska	Development of Muldoon Town Square Park	\$750,000
City of San Francisco	California	Bay View Park Playground Improvement Project	\$375,225
East Bay Regional Park District	California	Bay Point Wetland Restoration and Public Access Project	\$750,000
City of Hartford	Connecticut	Renovation of Colt Park Athletic Fields	\$750,000
City of Wilmington	Delaware	Father Tucker Park Playground and Spray Pad	\$306,447
City of Atlanta	Georgia	Enota Park Development	\$600,000

City of Dubuque	Iowa	Comiskey Park Development	\$508,000
City of Baltimore	Maryland	Youth Campground Improvements in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park	\$750,000
Michigan DNR (Detroit)	Michigan	Belle Isle Park Multi-Use Looped Trail Development	\$750,000
City of Duluth	Minnesota	Lincoln Park Restoration	\$750,000
City of Columbia	Missouri	Clary-Shy Park Urban Demonstration Farm	\$400,000
St. Louis Co. Port Authority	Missouri	Sparta Court Soccer Fields	\$450,000
City of Camden	New Jersey	North Camden Waterfront Park	\$ 750,000
City of Newark	New Jersey	Jesse Allen Park	\$750,000
City of Raleigh	North Carolina	Central Plaza John Chavis Memorial Park Revitalization	\$747,600
Metroparks of the Toledo Area	Ohio	Manhattan Marsh park Development	\$475,000
City of Austin	Texas	Edward Rendon Sr Metro Park - further development	\$750,000
City of Houston	Texas	Buffalo Bend Hidalgo Park Greenway	\$750,000
City of Burlington	Vermont	New Neighborhood Park on Burlington's Waterfront Land Acquisition	\$500,000
King County Parks	Washington	Skyway Park Revitalization	\$ 369,626
Metro Parks Tacoma	Washington	Swan Creek Park Trail Network	\$750,000
Milwaukee Rec/Public Schools	Wisconsin	Burnham Park Redevelopment Project	\$399,255
Total			\$13,381,153

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From: Newell, Russell
To: [Swift, Heather](mailto:Swift_Heather)
Cc: [Laura Rigas](mailto:Laura.Rigas); [Magallanes, Downey](mailto:Magallanes_Downey); [Scott Hommel](mailto:Scott.Hommel); [Domenech, Douglas](mailto:Domenech_Douglas); [Willens, Todd](mailto:Willens_Todd); [Micah Chambers](mailto:Micah.Chambers); [Jason Funes](mailto:Jason.Funes)
Subject: Re: GOING 1:30 TODAY
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:09:36 PM

great - I was guessing that that would already be locked down! thank you.

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 10:37 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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“Every kid deserves the opportunity to get outside and play. Whether it's downtown Detroit or rural Wyoming, investing in public lands is an investment in communities. The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program is an innovative public-private partnership which revitalizes communities through improving infrastructure, creating jobs, and enhancing neighborhoods,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “It connects people to the great outdoors by encouraging and enabling a variety of recreational opportunities in under-served communities.”

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Congress created the ORLP program in 2014 to complement the agency's existing LWCF State and Local Assistance Program. The program, administered by the National Park Service, seeks to identify and highlight new ways of providing opportunities for expanding outdoor play in areas with great need, as well as promoting the development of new or enhanced partnerships for outdoor recreation in urban communities across the nation. The grants must be matched at a minimum 1:1 ratio, at least doubling the impact of the federal investment in these communities.

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Subject: Re: GOING 1:30 TODAY
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:36:28 PM

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From: Domenech, Douglas
To: [Swift, Heather](#)
Subject: Re: Guidance
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:13:36 AM

I will direct her to you. She might be a bit reluctant to attack me directly because of the relationship but that is what I would normally expect.

D

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

On Thu, Jul 27, 2017 at 10:10 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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Best, Juliet

Juliet Eilperin
Senior National Affairs Correspondent
Washington Post

Juliet.eilperin@washpost.com

(O) [202-334-7774](tel:202-334-7774)

(C) [202-302-3663](tel:202-302-3663)

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From: Swift, Heather
To: [Domenech, Douglas](#)
Cc: [Laura Rigas](#)
Subject: Re: Guidance
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:10:57 AM

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From: Swift, Heather
To: [Domenech, Douglas](mailto:Domenech.Douglas)
Subject: Re: Guidance
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:16:05 AM

I like her personally but she's just so damn biased. Though I chuckled a little. She did a piece on Zinke profiling him as being one of the most productive members of the administration. Enviros hated it but I loved it. <https://www.adn.com/nation-world/2017/07/20/in-the-push-to-deliver-on-campaign-promises-interior-departments-energy-drive-looms-large/>

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US Department of the Interior

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From: Vincent Devito
To: [Chambers, Micah](mailto:Chambers.Micah)
Cc: [Katharine Macgregor](mailto:Katharine.Macgregor); [Swift, Heather](mailto:Swift.Heather); [Laura Rigas](mailto:Laura.Rigas); [Amanda Kaster](mailto:Amanda.Kaster)
Subject: Re: Letter in Support of Five-Year Plan
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 12:00:10 PM

Thanks.

On Jul 25, 2017, at 11:59 AM, Chambers, Micah <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

FYI. Coming tomorrow

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hughes, Brian (Energy)** <Brian.Hughes@energy.senate.gov>

Date: Tue, Jul 25, 2017 at 11:52 AM

Subject: Letter in Support of Five-Year Plan

To: "Chambers, Micah (micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov)"

<micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>

Micah, attaching an unsigned copy of the OCS letter I mentioned last night.

We plan to send it your way tomorrow, and should be issuing a press release on it later in the day.

A total of 35 Republicans will be signing on: Murkowski, Cassidy, Cornyn, Strange, Capito, Barrasso, Risch, Hatch, Sullivan, Lee, Wicker, Gardner, Inhofe, Enzi, Kennedy, Boozman, Crapo, Daines, Tillis, Flake, Cotton, Alexander, Cruz, Blunt, Hoeven, Rounds, Heller, Thune, Shelby, Isakson, Cochran, Portman, Young, Burr, Lankford, and Roberts.

Please let me know if you need anything from us, or have any questions.

Thanks,

Brian

--

Micah Chambers
Acting Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

<Unsigned Letter.pdf>

From: Katharine MacGregor
To: [Chambers, Micah](mailto:Chambers.Micah)
Cc: [Swift, Heather](mailto:Swift.Heather); [Laura Rigas](mailto:Laura.Rigas); [Vincent Devito](mailto:Vincent.Devito); [Amanda Kaster](mailto:Amanda.Kaster)
Subject: Re: Letter in Support of Five-Year Plan
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 2:12:25 PM

Is there a joint letter from the House?

Sent from my iPhone

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Please let me know if you need anything from us, or have any questions.

Thanks,

Brian

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Micah Chambers
Acting Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

<Unsigned Letter.pdf>

From: Hinson, Alex
To: [Laura Rigas](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Micah Chambers](#)
Cc: [Heather Swift](#)
Subject: Re: Joe Balash Draft release
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 3:23:16 PM

The release now has the Dan Sullivan quote too. Thanks!

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 3:15 PM, Hinson, Alex <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

****All, below is a draft of the Joe Balash Press Release. Please review and send edits by 4pm!****

Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Nomination of Alaska's Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

WASHINGTON – President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Alaska's Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. A native of North Pole, Alaska, living in Washington D.C., Balash brings more than 19 years of experience in land and natural resource management.

Mr. Balash currently serves as the Chief of Staff to Alaska's Senator Dan Sullivan. He is the former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has management responsibility for one of the largest single portfolios of land and water resources in the world. That Alaska Department of Natural Resources portfolio, containing more than 100 million acres of uplands, 40-60 million acres of submerged lands and tidelands, and more than 500,000 barrels of oil produced daily.

"It's been a long time since the Department had an Assistant Secretary from Alaska, and the President's nomination of Joe Balash further proves his commitment to Alaska and rural America as a whole," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Joe is no stranger to the Department of the Interior having worked alongside the Department on a number of projects in Alaska. He brings an incredible combination of state and federal experience to the table, and he will be very effective in helping the Department work with Congress to do the work of the American people. I look forward to his speedy confirmation in the Senate."

"I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior," **said Joe Balash**. "As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump's America First Energy Plan."

(b) (5)

“Joe Balash is an excellent choice for Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, and I’m incredibly pleased that Secretary Zinke has chosen him for this important position,” **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski said**. “From his time in the Alaska Governor’s Office and as Commissioner of Natural Resources, to his service as a Senate Chief of Staff, Joe is uniquely qualified for this role. He has significant experience on energy and resource policy, a demonstrated record of upholding Alaska’s interests as a landowner, and will make sure that America’s interests are well represented at the Interior Department.”

“The work being done by this administration in the areas of energy and public lands – including efforts to unleash our nation’s energy potential and reform years of mismanagement by our agencies – is something we value greatly as Alaskans,” **said Congressman Don Young**. “Critical to these efforts is the appointment of individuals and staff that understand the real-world impacts and consequences their decisions have on public lands and resources-oriented states like mine. As the Congressman for the state that was often ground zero for the countless missteps of the previous Interior Department, I commend Secretary Zinke for making Alaska a top-priority as he assembles his team. The addition of Joe Balash – someone I’ve worked with closely during his service as the Chief of Staff to Senator Dan Sullivan, a former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and ardent supporter of responsible resource development – is an important step to begin solving the many challenges Alaskans and Americans have faced when dealing with the Department of the Interior.

“Joe Balash’s appointment as Assistant Secretary will be good for Alaska and great for our nation. He is smart, honest, fair, and focused on solving problems and challenges in accordance with law while maximizing opportunity for Americans,” **said former Alaska Governor Sean Parnell**. “He knows how to work with diverse groups of people and interests to protect our nation’s interests in her public lands and environment while maximizing job creation and opportunity for all Americans. From an Alaska perspective, it is good to know that our state will have someone at Interior who understands the complexity of Alaska issues and the people affected by decision making in Washington. Joe Balash’s selection is, indeed, an extremely solid pick for the President and for the people.”

"As a lifelong Alaskan who understands the importance for the responsible management of our resources, I can't think of anyone who would do a better job at the Department of the Interior for all Americans," **said Eddie Grasser, Vice President, Safari Club International**.

"We welcome the pick of Joe as the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management," **stated Khary Cauthen, American Petroleum Institute, senior director of Federal Affairs**. “He has a deep understanding of what our nation’s natural resources mean for our national and economic security. We look forward to working with Joe and this administration to ensure the U.S. continues to benefit from our nation’s energy renaissance.”

“Joe will make an excellent Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals. He brings to the office a wealth of experience and skills. First of all, he understands the importance of energy development, both on and offshore. Alaska is a great training ground for the decisions that are important to the rest of the United States in overall energy policy,” **said Randall Luthi, the President of the National Ocean Industries Association.** “His legislative experience will bode well for the Department with the Hill. His experience as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources means that he understands the importance of collecting different views and assuring energy development and the protection of other natural resources. The members of NOIA look forward to working with him to expand the US energy potential off our shores.”

“We welcome the pick of Mr. Balash as the assistant secretary of Land and Minerals Management. With his background as commissioner for natural resources in Alaska, Balash brings a depth of experience to Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior,” **said Erik Milito, API group director of Upstream and Industry Operations.** “He should be a tremendous asset in helping to prioritize energy development and further strengthen U.S. energy and national security. We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Interior on policies that will help keep energy affordable, create jobs, and protect our environment.”

As the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Balash will advise and oversee the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. The Assistant Secretary heads the Department of the Interior’s management of all federal lands and waters, and their associated mineral and non-mineral resources, as well as the appropriate regulation of surface coal mining. The Assistant Secretary for land and Minerals Management is committed to managing, protecting, and improving lands and waters to serve the needs of the American people at all times.

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Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior
C: 202-641-5381

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Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior
C: 202-641-5381

From: Chambers, Micah
To: Mashburn, Lori
Cc: Kaster, Amanda; Hinson, Alex; Laura Rigas; Heather Swift
Subject: Re: My Quote
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:24:09 PM

No bios attached.

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 11:48 AM, Mashburn, Lori <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hello all,

Below is the quote from Balash, a copy of his 150 word bio for the WH, and a long form bio.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joe Balash (b) (6)
Date: Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 11:35 AM
Subject: My Quote
To: "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

"I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior. As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump's America First Energy Plan."

I had hoped to have Sen. Sullivan's quote approved by now, but he has been elusive this morning.

--

Micah Chambers
Acting Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

From: Williams, Timothy
To: [Boulton, Caroline](mailto:Caroline.Boulton@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: [Chambers, Micah](mailto:Chambers.Micah@ios.doi.gov); [Swift, Heather](mailto:Swift.Heather@ios.doi.gov); [Downey Magallanes](mailto:Downey.Magallanes@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Roundtables
Date: Friday, July 21, 2017 8:23:28 AM

I would like to point out that the temperatures are over 100 degrees outside and not very pleasant. Do you still want me to find a place?

Tim

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Post-lunch works great. Tim, can you help us find a place for one? We're looking ideally for a ranch or an outdoor spot with a good backdrop that's on private land.

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What do you think?

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Can I start scheduling these meetings? Including Downey for the sharing of contacts on the ground.

Tim Williams

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Department Of The Interior

External and Intergovernmental Affairs

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Work: 202-208-1923

email:timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov

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Scheduling & Advance

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Department Of The Interior

External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Tim Williams

Work: 202-208-1923

email:timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov

From: Boulton, Caroline
To: [Williams, Timothy](mailto:Williams.Timothy)
Cc: [Downey Magallanes](mailto:Downey.Magallanes); [Heather Swift](mailto:Heather.Swift)
Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Rountables
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 1:46:30 PM

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Cc: [Swift, Heather](mailto:Swift.Heather); [Downey Magallanes](mailto:Downey.Magallanes); [Williams, Timothy](mailto:Williams.Timothy)
Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Rountables
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 2:18:13 PM

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From: Chambers, Micah
To: [Swift, Heather](mailto:Swift_Heather)
Cc: [Downey Magallanes](mailto:Downey_Magallanes); [Boulton, Caroline](mailto:Boulton_Caroline); [Williams, Timothy](mailto:Williams_Timothy)
Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Rountables
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 2:14:50 PM

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Department of the Interior

Scheduling & Advance

[Caroline Boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov) | Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

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Micah Chambers
Acting Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

--

Micah Chambers
Acting Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

From: Boulton, Caroline
To: [Downey Magallanes](mailto:Downey.Magallanes)
Cc: [Williams, Timothy](mailto:Williams.Timothy); [Heather Swift](mailto:Heather.Swift); [Micah Chambers](mailto:Micah.Chambers)
Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Rountables
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 1:56:38 PM

Senators unable to join Monday since recess was postponed. Going to ask re: dinner Sunday.

Heather, you want it after the meeting with the tribe? We're doing that meeting at the tribe's building on their land so we'd need to find somewhere to host it or ask them if they'd be willing to allow it. I figured earlier before that might be easier at one of the locations Tim is securing, but let me know. BLM is coordinating that meeting.

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 1:52 PM, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Including Micah. I think we need to ask the senators what they want. The Secretary is willing to accommodate.

On Jul 20, 2017, at 1:46 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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What do you think?

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Working on location for the Tribes.

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Tim Williams

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Department Of The Interior

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From: Chambers, Micah
To: [Downey Magallanes](mailto:Downey.Magallanes)
Cc: [Boulton, Caroline](mailto:Boulton.Caroline); [Williams, Timothy](mailto:Williams.Timothy); [Heather Swift](mailto:Heather.Swift)
Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Rountables
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 1:56:24 PM

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Acting Director
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Office of the Secretary of the Interior

From: Downey Magallanes
To: [Boulton, Caroline](#)
Cc: [Williams, Timothy](#); [Heather Swift](#); [Micah Chambers](#)
Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Roundtables
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 1:52:28 PM

Including Micah. I think we need to ask the senators what they want. The Secretary is willing to accommodate.

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From: Swift, Heather
To: [Boulton, Caroline](#)
Cc: [Williams, Timothy](#); [Downey Magallanes](#)
Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Roundtables
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 1:52:23 PM

I think before his drive to LV is fine. It should just be done by 4:40 so that reporters have time to package their stories and send them to the stations for 5PM newscasts

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 1:45 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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From: Swift, Heather
To: [Williams, Timothy](mailto:Williams.Timothy)
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Subject: Re: Nevada Travel-Rountables
Date: Friday, July 21, 2017 9:10:39 AM

*and then she said.... But it's a dry heat!



-
Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Fri, Jul 21, 2017 at 8:22 AM, Williams, Timothy <timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
I would like to point out that the temperatures are over 100 degrees outside and not very pleasant. Do you still want me to find a place?

Tim

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 2:17 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Post-lunch works great. Tim, can you help us find a place for one? We're looking ideally for a ranch or an outdoor spot with a good backdrop that's on private land.

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 2:14 PM, Chambers, Micah <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Senators can't do Monday and I was told all day Sunday is a tour that we couldn't coordinate with codel offices.

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 2:12 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Gotcha - how about after lunch? I don't think we need senators in the press avail with him. Nothing gained.

-
Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 1:58 PM, Chambers, Micah <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Sorry, should explain further. They have to participate Sunday if they're going to because they have to fly back Monday morning. Congressmen should be in town Monday still.

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 1:55 PM, Chambers, Micah
<micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Department Of The Interior

External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Tim Williams

Work: 202-208-1923

email: timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov

From: Funes, Jason
To: [Vincent Devito](mailto:vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: [Laura Rigas](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov); [Nachmany, Eli](mailto:nachmany@ios.doi.gov); [Heather Swift](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov); [Newell, Russell](mailto:newell_russell@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Re: FINAL COPY: Remarks for the morning
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:38:46 PM

I also took several pictures at the event and sent them to Eli. I've been promised the professional photographer's pictures but not sure when I will receive them.

On Thu, Jul 27, 2017 at 12:31 PM, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Good timing-Was just about to email! Pretty good. One pesky climate question. A few on murkowski. I mentioned a potential press release from us on a small but important WV advance to - no details tho. Adding Jason who was there. Thanks for the write up!

On Jul 27, 2017, at 12:23 PM, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

How did it go?

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

On Jul 26, 2017, at 8:26 PM, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Got it. Thanks!

On Jul 26, 2017, at 10:22 PM, Nachmany, Eli
<eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Vincent,

Below and attached, please find remarks for tomorrow.
Thank you for taking the time to discuss these with me, and please let me know if I can ever be of help with a speech in the future!

Sincerely,
Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

.....

Good morning, it's great to be with you all. My

name is Vincent DeVito, and I am the Counselor to Secretary Ryan Zinke of the Department of the Interior for Energy Policy. Today's session is entitled "Energy Supply Policies in the New Administration," and I want to begin by giving you all an idea of how important this issue is to our President, Donald Trump.

Going into the administration, my position was established by Secretarial Order, with the stated objective of advancing the President's goal of American energy dominance. President Trump and Secretary Zinke are on a mission to responsibly unlock America's vast energy potential, and we at Interior have been making this happen day-by-day.

For too long, America has backed away from being proud of its powerful energy sector. Instead, our leaders retreated into a fortress of regulation, held together by mountains of red tape, and took a great deal of our American energy resources offline. No more. The Trump administration is dismantling this regulatory state brick-by-bureaucratic-brick, helping our coal miners, oil drillers, and other energy producers get back to work.

Other nations like Mexico, Canada, and China aren't afraid of touting their energy sector. Far from it. These countries understand the benefits of producing energy at home, rather than having to go abroad to import it. An America-first energy policy means less reliance on foreign oil, from foreign countries who don't always have our best interests in mind. As Secretary Zinke said recently, "I do not want to send our children into battle for a resource we have here."

American energy dominance and independence is important for three big reasons. The first, as I just mentioned, is national security. We're in a better position when we don't have to depend on a foreign country to heat our homes and power our cars. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of being dependent on oil produced somewhere else, sold to us by someone else. It's in America's best interest to ramp up our own production here at home.

The second reason is the environment. Conservationists have no better friend in this administration than Secretary Zinke, an admirer of Teddy Roosevelt and a strong proponent of public lands being neither for sale nor for transfer. Energy produced here under reasonable regulation is better for the environment than energy produced overseas under little to no regulation. When we oversee the production process in America, safety measures are taken and energy is cleaner. We are leaders in this regard.

Finally, the third reason is the most obvious: jobs and wealth. President Trump understands that people in many parts of this country are hurting financially. Consider that from January to June of 2016, under President Obama, we did just \$11.5 million in onshore oil and gas. Contrast that with January to June of 2017, under President Trump, with \$146 million. That's more than a 12-time increase.

The Interior Department was the second-largest producer of federal revenues, trailing only the Internal Revenue Service. In recent years,

because of a revenue decline, it has become third. In 2008, Interior did more than \$18 billion in offshore energy revenue. In 2016, after eight years of President Obama's beatdown of the American energy industry, we took in only \$2.6 billion.

Instead of growing our energy revenues and bouncing back from recession, we stagnated. These revenues could help maintain our National Parks and support a host of conservation initiatives from the Department, including the protection of endangered wildlife species. We receive a great deal of revenue from leasing out our land for a variety of uses.

Against the backdrop of how much attention the President is paying to the issue of increasing energy supply, I'd argue it's without question this has been among the most transformative first six months of any Presidential administration in our nation's history.

For example, Secretary Zinke has ordered a review of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR, lands to promote development while protecting surface resources. The untapped energy potential of ANWR is significant, but it's the Trump Administration that finally stepped up to the plate to facilitate production. We will develop a responsible plan for responsible development, because that's what this President was elected to do.

We're putting responsible development into action. To ignite the tremendous growth in energy revenue, we've focused on prior designated land and enhancing production there.

It's a myth that energy development means a larger environmental footprint. Rather, this administration understands the value of a truly multiple-use policy on the land we've already designated for development.

Just this month, our Department announced it is offering 76 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas exploration and development. It's time to realize the energy capability our different lands and regions offer us. Thanks to the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Zinke, it will be American petroleum powering American jets, made by American workers.

The Gulf of Mexico leases are just one part of the ambitious five-year plan that the Secretary has put together to achieve our America-first energy agenda. As the Secretary likes to note, under the previous administration, 94-percent of the Outer Continental Shelf wasn't able to be touched by energy producers, despite the desire of many stakeholders to have access, from industry to Native Alaskans. Interior's first step toward opening up the land for crucial development is an ongoing public comment period, where people can weigh in on what they'd like to see.

I understand that an administration has the authority to govern, and to create all kinds of regulations, but that doesn't mean it has to. Decent regulation, grounded in thorough analysis and strong science, is one thing, but an administrative state run wild with unnecessary and onerous regulation is a completely different entity.

The latter is what we have, and that's what we have started to fix. Everything from taking action on the Venting and Flaring Rule to reducing the semi-annual regulatory agenda by over 50-percent has been part of our strategy to reignite the American energy sector.

As part of our five-year plan, we are looking at everything, including the expansive resources on the Atlantic coast, in the Arctic, up the North Slope, and across Alaska. It's a common sense way of approaching the energy revival we seek to spark, so that decisions are made in the field with local input, not by those in Washington.

In addition to the Gulf of Mexico leases, we also put up 1.1 million acres in the Cook Inlet up for lease, and we found a deal. Our successful sale here illustrates industry confidence and is a genuine source of optimism in President Trump's administration. I applaud the President for his desire to renew the partnership between the federal government and the energy industry, ensuring mutually beneficial outcomes with the Interior Department on the front lines.

The energy produced in Cook Inlet has been a major boost to the Alaskan economy for many years; keeping it open for business is the responsible thing to do. It's estimated that oil and gas supports over 100,000 jobs in Alaska, making up about one-third of the state's employment.

The war on American energy is over. Secretary Zinke shares the President's goal of America being an energy exporter, and the steps we are

taking at Interior are allowing American businesses to responsibly increase the energy supply, meet our demands here at home, and get our citizens back to work. When we have the oil, and the gas, and the coal, instead of having to buy it from others, we can add investments in alternative energy, and we are better off overall.

You see, over the years, as federal leases went down, private leases went up. The problem isn't that there is less demand for energy, or that energy producers aren't interested in doing the deals. The federal government just hasn't been a good business partner.

Our objective is to see how we can do better in this aspect, for states, for industry, and for tribes.

The Trump Administration understands that our lands offer vast energy development opportunities and that responsible energy development strengthens all aspects of our energy economy. These collective actions are just the beginning of an era of putting "Made in America" at the forefront of our policy goals, which has us well on our way toward energy dominance. America is open for business. This is what change looks like.

I thank you for your time this morning.

<0727 DeVito Remarks.docx>

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Vincent Devito
To: [Laura Rigas](mailto:Laura.Rigas@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: [Nachmany, Eli](mailto:Nachmany.Eli@ios.doi.gov); [Heather Swift](mailto:Heather.Swift@ios.doi.gov); [Newell, Russell](mailto:Newell.Russell@ios.doi.gov); jason_funes@ios.doi.gov
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How did it go?

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

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Going into the administration, my position was established by Secretarial Order, with the stated objective of advancing the President’s goal of American energy dominance. President Trump and Secretary Zinke are on a mission to responsibly unlock America’s vast energy potential, and we at Interior have been making this happen day-by-day.

For too long, America has backed away from being proud of its powerful energy sector. Instead, our leaders retreated into a fortress of regulation, held together by mountains of red tape, and took a great deal of our American energy resources offline. No more. The Trump administration is dismantling this regulatory state brick-by-bureaucratic-brick, helping our coal miners, oil drillers, and other energy producers get back to work.

Other nations like Mexico, Canada, and China aren’t afraid of touting their energy sector. Far from it. These countries understand the benefits of producing energy at home, rather than having to go abroad to import it. An America-first energy policy means less reliance on foreign oil, from foreign countries who don’t always have our best interests in mind. As Secretary Zinke said recently, “I do not want to send our children into battle for a resource we have here.”

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Finally, the third reason is the most obvious: jobs and wealth. President Trump understands that people in many parts of this country are hurting financially. Consider that from January to June of 2016, under President Obama, we did just \$11.5 million in onshore oil and gas. Contrast that with January to June of 2017, under President Trump, with \$146 million. That's more than a 12-time increase.

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To: [Vincent Devito](#)
Cc: [Nachmany, Eli](#); [Heather Swift](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Subject: Re: FINAL COPY: Remarks for the morning
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:23:51 PM

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To: [Nachmany, Eli](#)
Cc: [Laura Rigas](#); [Heather Swift](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Subject: Re: FINAL COPY: Remarks for the morning
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 10:27:03 PM

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Cc: [Laura Rigas](mailto:Laura.Rigas@ios.doi.gov); [Nachmany, Eli](mailto:Nachmany.Eli@ios.doi.gov); [Heather Swift](mailto:Heather.Swift@ios.doi.gov); [Newell, Russell](mailto:Newell.Russell@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Re: FINAL COPY: Remarks for the morning
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:44:15 PM

BTW Vincent's remarks were excellent and well received!

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The war on American energy is over. Secretary Zinke shares the President's goal of America being an energy exporter, and the steps we are taking at Interior are allowing American businesses to responsibly increase the energy

supply, meet our demands here at home, and get our citizens back to work. When we have the oil, and the gas, and the coal, instead of having to buy it from others, we can add investments in alternative energy, and we are better off overall.

You see, over the years, as federal leases went down, private leases went up. The problem isn't that there is less demand for energy, or that energy producers aren't interested in doing the deals. The federal government just hasn't been a good business partner.

Our objective is to see how we can do better in this aspect, for states, for industry, and for tribes.

The Trump Administration understands that our lands offer vast energy development opportunities and that responsible energy development strengthens all aspects of our energy economy. These collective actions are just the beginning of an era of putting "Made in America" at the forefront of our policy goals, which has us well on our way toward energy dominance. America is open for business. This is what change looks like.

I thank you for your time this morning.

<0727 DeVito Remarks.docx>

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Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs

**Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541**

From: Baptiste, Thomas
To: [Heather Swift](#)
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 1:24:46 PM

Dear Heather Swift:

You got it. Once it is out I will post the release to the website.

Kind Regards,

Thomas Baptiste
DOI Cell: 202/897-7015

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 1:21 PM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Please send to PAM Internal and Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Date: July 20, 2017 at 1:00:40 PM EDT
To: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST

This looks great. Thank you for teeing it up.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 12:28 PM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Is this good?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "U.S. Department of the Interior"
<interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Date: July 20, 2017 at 12:11:51 PM EDT
To: <thomas_baptiste@ios.doi.gov>,

<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST

news release



Date: July 20, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Nomination of Alaska’s Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral

WASHINGTON – President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Alaska’s Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior’s Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. A native of North Pole, Alaska, living in Washington D.C., Balash brings more than 19 years of experience in land and natural resource management.

Mr. Balash currently serves as the Chief of Staff to Alaska’s Senator Dan Sullivan. He is the former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has management responsibility for one of the largest single portfolios of land and water resources in the world, containing more than 100 million acres of uplands, 40-60 million acres of submerged lands and tidelands, and more than 500,000 barrels of oil produced daily.

“It’s been a long time since the Department had an Assistant Secretary from Alaska, and the President’s nomination of Joe Balash further proves his commitment to Alaska and rural America as a whole,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Joe is no stranger to the Department of the Interior having worked alongside the Department on a number of projects in Alaska. He brings an incredible combination of state and federal experience to the table, and he will be very effective in helping the Department work with Congress to do the work of the American people. I look forward to his speedy confirmation in the Senate.”

“I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior,” **said Joe Balash**. “As a nation, we are blessed with

tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump's America First Energy Plan."

"While I'm sad to see Joe leave the Senate, his departure is a big gain for Secretary Zinke, the Department of Interior, the United States and Alaska," **said Senator Sullivan**. "His wealth of knowledge and passion for Alaska – and more broadly federal land issues – cannot be overstated. His advice and counsel on natural resource matters will be invaluable as Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration chart a new path toward American energy dominance. Alaska can and should be a critical element of this important national objective."

"Joe Balash is an excellent choice for Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, and I'm incredibly pleased that Secretary Zinke has chosen him for this important position," **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski said**. "From his time in the Alaska Governor's Office and as Commissioner of Natural Resources, to his service as a Senate Chief of Staff, Joe is uniquely qualified for this role. He has significant experience on energy and resource policy, a demonstrated record of upholding Alaska's interests as a landowner, and will make sure that America's interests are well represented at the Interior Department."

"The work being done by this administration in the areas of energy and public lands – including efforts to unleash our nation's energy potential and reform years of mismanagement by our agencies – is something we value greatly as Alaskans," **said Congressman Don Young**. "Critical to these efforts is the appointment of individuals and staff that understand the real-world impacts and consequences their decisions have on public lands and resources-oriented states like mine. As the Congressman for the state that was often ground zero for the countless missteps of the previous Interior Department, I commend Secretary Zinke for making Alaska a top-priority as he assembles his team. The addition of Joe Balash – someone I've worked with closely during his service as the Chief of Staff to Senator Dan Sullivan, a former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and ardent supporter of responsible resource development – is an important step to begin solving the many challenges Alaskans and Americans have faced when dealing with the Department of the Interior."

"Joe Balash's appointment as Assistant Secretary will be good for Alaska and great for our nation. He is smart, honest, fair, and focused on solving problems and challenges in accordance with law while maximizing opportunity for Americans," **said former**

Alaska Governor Sean Parnell. “He knows how to work with diverse groups of people and interests to protect our nation’s interests in her public lands and environment while maximizing job creation and opportunity for all Americans. From an Alaska perspective, it is good to know that our state will have someone at Interior who understands the complexity of Alaska issues and the people affected by decision making in Washington. Joe Balash’s selection is, indeed, an extremely solid pick for the President and for the people.”

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“We welcome the pick of Mr. Balash as the assistant secretary of Land and Minerals Management. With his background as commissioner for natural resources in Alaska, Balash brings a depth of experience to Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior,” **said Erik Milito, API group director of Upstream and Industry Operations.** “He should be a tremendous asset in helping to prioritize energy development and further strengthen U.S. energy and national security. We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Interior on policies that will help keep energy affordable, create jobs, and protect our environment.”

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Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management is committed to managing, protecting, and improving lands and waters to serve the needs of the American people at all times.

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From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Heather Swift](mailto:Heather.Swift@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 1:01:27 PM

This looks great. Thank you for teeing it up.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "U.S. Department of the Interior" <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Date: July 20, 2017 at 12:11:51 PM EDT
To: <thomas_baptiste@ios.doi.gov>, <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>
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news release



Date: July 20, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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From: Baptiste, Thomas
To: [Swift, Heather](#)
Cc: [Nathan Adams](#)
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 12:02:36 PM

Hi,

Making the changes now. Will send a test with an updated draft shortly.

Kind Regards,

Thomas Baptiste
DOI Cell: 202/897-7015

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 11:50 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Edits in the attached doc.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mashburn, Lori** <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 11:32 AM
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
To:
Cc: "Hinson, Alex" <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

I sent an updated version to Alex with changes from Balash. Please see attached.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 6:29 PM, U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@updates.interior.gov> wrote:

news release

Date: July 19, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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"We welcome the pick of Joe as the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management," **stated Khary Cauthen, American Petroleum Institute, senior director of Federal Affairs.** “He has a deep understanding of what our nation’s natural resources mean for our national and economic security. We look forward to working with Joe and this administration to ensure the U.S. continues to benefit from our nation’s energy renaissance.”

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From: Alex Hinson
To: [Mashburn, Lori](#)
Cc: [Heather Swift](#); [Laura Rigas](#)
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 11:37:49 AM

There is already a draft release from last night on govdelivery. Just need somebody to sub out the changes while I'm on the hill, and then it should be good to go.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 20, 2017, at 11:33 AM, Mashburn, Lori <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I sent an updated version to Alex with changes from Balash. Please see attached.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 6:29 PM, U.S. Department of the Interior
<interior_news@updates.interior.gov> wrote:

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From: Mashburn, Lori
Cc: [Hinson, Alex](#); [Heather Swift](#); [Laura Rigas](#)
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 11:33:22 AM
Attachments: [Joe Balash Press Release Draft.docx](#)

I sent an updated version to Alex with changes from Balash. Please see attached.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 6:29 PM, U.S. Department of the Interior
<interior_news@updates.interior.gov> wrote:

news release



Date: July 19, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Nomination of Alaska's Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral

WASHINGTON – President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Alaska's Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. A native of North Pole, Alaska, living in Washington D.C., Balash brings more than 19 years of experience in land and natural resource management.

Mr. Balash currently serves as the Chief of Staff to Alaska's Senator Dan Sullivan. He is the former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has management responsibility for one of the largest single portfolios of land and water resources in the world. That Alaska Department of Natural Resources portfolio, containing more than 100 million acres of uplands, 40-60 million acres of submerged lands and tidelands, and more than 500,000 barrels of oil produced daily.

“It's been a long time since the Department had an Assistant Secretary from Alaska, and the President's nomination of Joe Balash further proves his commitment to Alaska and rural America as a whole,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Joe is no stranger to the Department of the Interior having worked alongside the Department on a number of projects in Alaska. He brings an incredible combination of state and federal experience to the table, and he will be

very effective in helping the Department work with Congress to do the work of the American people. I look forward to his speedy confirmation in the Senate.”

“I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior,” **said Joe Balash**. “As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump’s America First Energy Plan.”

“While I’m sad to see Joe leave the Senate, his departure is a big gain for Secretary Zinke, the Department of Interior, the United States and Alaska,” **said Senator Dan Sullivan**. “His wealth of knowledge and passion for Alaska – and more broadly federal land issues – cannot be overstated. His advice and counsel on natural resource matters will be invaluable as Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration chart a new path toward American energy dominance. Alaska can and should be a critical element of this important national objective.”

“Joe Balash is an excellent choice for Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, and I’m incredibly pleased that Secretary Zinke has chosen him for this important position,” **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski said**. “From his time in the Alaska Governor’s Office and as Commissioner of Natural Resources, to his service as a Senate Chief of Staff, Joe is uniquely qualified for this role. He has significant experience on energy and resource policy, a demonstrated record of upholding Alaska’s interests as a landowner, and will make sure that America’s interests are well represented at the Interior Department.”

“The work being done by this administration in the areas of energy and public lands – including efforts to unleash our nation’s energy potential and reform years of mismanagement by our agencies – is something we value greatly as Alaskans,” **said Congressman Don Young**. “Critical to these efforts is the appointment of individuals and staff that understand the real-world impacts and consequences their decisions have on public lands and resources-oriented states like mine. As the Congressman for the state that was often ground zero for the countless missteps of the previous Interior Department, I commend Secretary Zinke for making Alaska a top-priority as he assembles his team. The addition of Joe Balash – someone I’ve worked with closely during his service as the Chief of Staff to Senator Dan Sullivan, a former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and ardent supporter of responsible resource development – is an important step to begin solving the many challenges Alaskans and Americans have faced when dealing with the Department of the Interior.”

“Joe Balash’s appointment as Assistant Secretary will be good for Alaska and great for our nation. He is smart, honest, fair, and focused on solving problems and challenges in accordance with law while maximizing opportunity for Americans,” **said former Alaska Governor Sean Parnell**. “He knows how to work with diverse groups of people and interests to protect our nation’s interests in her public lands and environment while maximizing job creation and opportunity for all Americans. From an Alaska perspective, it is good to know that our state will have someone at Interior who understands the complexity of Alaska issues and the people affected by decision making in Washington. Joe Balash’s

selection is, indeed, an extremely solid pick for the President and for the people.”

"As a lifelong Alaskan who understands the importance for the responsible management of our resources, I can't think of anyone who would do a better job at the Department of the Interior for all Americans," **said Eddie Grasser, Vice President, Safari Club International.**

"We welcome the pick of Joe as the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management," **stated Khary Cauthen, American Petroleum Institute, senior director of Federal Affairs.** "He has a deep understanding of what our nation's natural resources mean for our national and economic security. We look forward to working with Joe and this administration to ensure the U.S. continues to benefit from our nation's energy renaissance."

"Joe will make an excellent Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals. He brings to the office a wealth of experience and skills. First of all, he understands the importance of energy development, both on and offshore. Alaska is a great training ground for the decisions that are important to the rest of the United States in overall energy policy," **said Randall Luthi, the President of the National Ocean Industries Association.** "His legislative experience will bode well for the Department with the Hill. His experience as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources means that he understands the importance of collecting different views and assuring energy development and the protection of other natural resources. The members of NOIA look forward to working with him to expand the US energy potential off our shores."

"We welcome the pick of Mr. Balash as the assistant secretary of Land and Minerals Management. With his background as commissioner for natural resources in Alaska, Balash brings a depth of experience to Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior," **said Erik Milito, API group director of Upstream and Industry Operations.** "He should be a tremendous asset in helping to prioritize energy development and further strengthen U.S. energy and national security. We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Interior on policies that will help keep energy affordable, create jobs, and protect our environment."

As the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Balash will advise and oversee the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. The Assistant Secretary heads the Department of the Interior's management of all federal lands and waters, and their associated mineral and non-mineral resources, as well as the appropriate regulation of surface coal mining. The Assistant Secretary for land and Minerals Management is committed to managing, protecting, and improving lands and waters to serve the needs of the American people at all times.

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"It's been a long time since the Department had an Assistant Secretary from Alaska, and the President's nomination of Joe Balash further proves his commitment to Alaska and rural America as a whole," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Joe is no stranger to the Department of the Interior having worked alongside the Department on a number of projects in Alaska. He brings an incredible combination of state and federal experience to the table, and he will be very effective in helping the Department work with Congress to do the work of the American people. I look forward to his speedy confirmation in the Senate."

"I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior," **said Joe Balash**. "As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump's America First Energy Plan."

"While I'm sad to see Joe leave the Senate, his departure is a big gain for Secretary Zinke, the Department of Interior, the United States and Alaska," **said Senator Sullivan**. "His wealth of knowledge and passion for Alaska – and more broadly federal land issues – cannot be overstated. His advice and counsel on natural resource matters will be invaluable as Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration chart a new path toward American energy dominance. Alaska can and should be a critical element of this important national objective."

"Joe Balash is an excellent choice for Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, and I'm incredibly pleased that Secretary Zinke has chosen him for this important position," **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski said**. "From his time in the Alaska Governor's Office and as Commissioner of Natural Resources, to his service as a Senate Chief of Staff, Joe is uniquely qualified for this role. He has significant experience on energy and resource policy, a demonstrated record of upholding Alaska's interests as a landowner, and will make sure that America's interests are well represented at the Interior Department."

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###

From: Baptiste, Thomas
To: [Heather Swift](mailto:Heather.Swift@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 1:33:11 PM

Hi,

See the release at the following hyperlink. I will ask Larry/Nate to have the homepage refreshed. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-secretary-zinke-applauds-nomination-alaskas-joe-balash-assistant-secretary>

Sincerely,

Thomas Baptiste
DOI Cell: 202/897-7015

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 1:24 PM, Baptiste, Thomas <thomas_baptiste@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Dear Heather Swift:

You got it. Once it is out I will post the release to the website.

Kind Regards,

Thomas Baptiste
DOI Cell: 202/897-7015

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 1:21 PM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Please send to PAM Internal and Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Date: July 20, 2017 at 1:00:40 PM EDT
To: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST

This looks great. Thank you for teeing it up.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

On Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 12:28 PM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Is this good?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "U.S. Department of the Interior"
<interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Date: July 20, 2017 at 12:11:51 PM EDT
To: <thomas_baptiste@ios.doi.gov>, <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST

news release



Date: July 20, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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