Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We are concerned by the continuing lack of transparency and public process in your Department's implementation of Secretarial Order 3321 (Order), which claims the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to designate entire river watersheds as "National Blueways."

We believe this Order is fundamentally flawed, runs counter to local conservation efforts, and threatens to undermine state water law. These concerns were voiced loudly and clearly on April 25, 2013, when the House Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power heard testimony from Mr. Russell Boardman, a Supervisor of the Shoshone Conservation District. Mr. Boardman cited the lack of the Interior Department's public outreach to his local conservation district and other affected districts. In fact, he did not learn of the proposed Yellowstone Blueway until notified by Montana conservation district representatives, who had been approached by Interior official Rebecca Wodder. Mr. Boardman further testified that the Blueways Secretarial Order is unnecessary and could complicate and undermine local water supply management already underway as well as jeopardize privately-held water rights protected under state law.

The notion that millions of acres could, with the stroke of a pen, be swept up in a Blueways designation with little or no public process and over local objections is disturbing in and of itself. Unfortunately, this is consistent with both the Order and your Department's draft Blueways designation form, neither of which require formal public notice or an opportunity for the public to be heard prior to a Blueways designation. The Order also does not require local support, and as we understand it, National Blueways can be nominated by non-local groups that have no direct interest and with no defined local coordination requirement.

Given the lack of clarity surrounding the Order and the potentially far reaching implications of a federally-designated river source to mouth management system, we request a detailed explanation of the public outreach and local collaboration process required for a designation under this Order. We also request a meeting with you and your staff to discuss this matter in further detail.

Furthermore, we are very concerned over the involvement of Ms. Wodder, the former CEO of American Rivers who was forced to withdraw her nomination in 2012 as Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks due to opposition and questions over conflict of interest. In her current

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position at the Interior Department, those questions remain as it is apparent that Ms. Wodder has actively promoted the federal designation of entire river watersheds as National Blueways while some of the same watersheds were deemed as "endangered" by American Rivers when she led the organization.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar
Member of Congress

Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress