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## **CPR's Glicksman on Trump Choice of Zinke for Interior:**

**'Does nothing to erase fears that the President-Elect prioritizes private extractive and developmental uses of federal lands at the expense of management in the long-term interests of the American people'**

CPR Board Member Robert Glicksman issued the following statement in response to President-Elect Donald Trump's choice of Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) to serve as Secretary of the Interior:

Donald Trump's selection of Rep. Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior does nothing to erase fears that the President-Elect prioritizes private extractive and developmental uses of federal lands at the expense of management in the long-term interests of the American people.

So far, Trump's transition team has made it clear that the new administration intends to abandon the Department of the Interior's mission of protecting and preserving our nation's natural heritage for use by present and future generations in favor of a brazen, short-sighted, and counterproductive charge into maximizing extractive activities like logging, mining, and oil and gas drilling. This rush to fill the coffers of those seeking to exploit our public lands for private gain will result in economic distress to the many communities, especially in the West, that rely on the job opportunities and revenue flows generated by recreational uses such as fishing and hunting that will be incompatible with extractive uses.

Representative Zinke's record on these issues is mixed. While he has supported continued public access to federal lands for hunting and fishing, he has opposed Obama administration efforts to protect wetlands and intermittent streams from the adverse effects of coal mining and its temporary moratorium on coal leasing on federal lands.

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) has pushed Trump and the Interior transition team to roll back national monument designations from Presidents Clinton and Obama, an unprecedented action that appears to have no support in current law and is inconsistent with established conservation practices. Representative Zinke's past opposition to divestiture of federal lands in favor of state or private ownership is

laudable, as is his support for permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Whether Zinke supports Bishop's dangerous policy proposals remains to be seen, however.

One especially troubling aspect of the new administration's natural resources management agenda is its approach to climate change. The President-Elect has notoriously and unabashedly declared climate change to be a hoax. His transition team is stocked with individuals who have vociferously opposed government efforts of any kind to address what they have characterized as the non-existent threats posed by climate change. In fact, it is beyond dispute that the disruptive impact of climate change on natural resources, including those on America's federal lands, has become increasingly clear and worrisome. Under the Obama administration, federal land management agencies were responsible for managing the resources in their charge to increase their resilience to climate change. The Interior Department has taken meaningful first steps to meet that commitment. The Trump administration's agenda, based on conspiratorial fantasies, is poised to halt and reverse that progress and to exacerbate climate-related risks to a healthy public natural resource base. Though Zinke has supported some climate-related legislation in the past and endorsed an amorphous "prudent" approach to addressing climate change, he has also characterized the science as "unproven." It's unlikely he'd be able or even willing to significantly impede aggressive efforts by the Trump administration to gut the progress the Obama administration has made in slowing and preparing for climate change.

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