



The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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Jamestown Hearing Summary

On September 20, 2017, Coalition Members Maureen Finnerty and Pat Tillerson and counsel for the Coalition attended a hearing before a federal district judge in D.C. on a motion for a preliminary injunction to halt Dominion Power's construction of the Surry-Skiffes Creek Transmission Line across the historic segment of the James River.

In August, the Coalition, joined by Coalition Member and Former NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis and American Rivers, filed a proposed amicus curiae ("friend of the court") brief in support of National Parks Conservation Association's motion for preliminary injunction. The Coalition's proposed brief argues that the transmission line will adversely impact and impair several NPS units including Colonial National Historic Park and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail and thus that the Army Corps must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement that analyzes alternatives to building the transmission line across this historic segment of the James River.

At the hearing, Judge Lamberth did not indicate whether he would issue the

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preliminary injunction but based on the Court's questions and statements during oral argument the Coalition and its counsel are cautiously optimistic that the Court will issue the preliminary injunction. The Court did suggest that it would issue a written ruling on whether to issue a preliminary injunction by the end of October. Attorney Tyler Sniff is representing the Coalition in this case.

Coalition Participates in Telepresser on Oil & Gas Development

In August 2017, three Coalition members participated in a telepresser with members of the press focused on oil & gas development around national parks. Click below to hear the full audio.

Listen to the Audio

Coalition Joins In Strongly Opposing H.R. 3354

On behalf of our members and supporters nationwide, we write in strong opposition to H.R. 3354, the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill ("Make America Secure and Prosperous Act, 2018"). Please click below to see our letter.

Read the Letter

**Coalition Statement on Executive
Order 13792 (National Monument**

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Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at **1,398** members.

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Review)

Recently, we learned that the Trump Administration may be preparing to remove protections for millions of acres of public lands and oceans that were designated as national monuments under the authority of the Antiquities Act. This initiative is unprecedented, ill-advised and unlikely to withstand legal scrutiny. The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks has already voiced our support for the protection and preservation of the monuments that were subject to this review.

Please click below to read the Coalition's statement on Executive Order 13792 (National Monument Review).

Read the Statement

Outrage Regarding Secretary Zinke's Comments Insulting Interior Agency Employees

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our strongest objections to Secretary Zinke's reported remarks that 30% of the 70,000 employees at the Department of the Interior are "not loyal to the flag." The Secretary's disrespectful remarks were made at the National Petroleum Council meeting in Washington, D.C., on September 25, 2017. Please click below to see our letter.

Read our Letter

Survey Opportunity from the George Wright Society

From Jennifer Palmer, Executive Director of the George Wright Society

Dear friends,

As many of you know, the George Wright Society is currently going through a dynamic and creative transition and we want YOU to be part of it! We have created a survey to allow us hear from those who care most about parks, protected areas and cultural sites. Your valuable input will help us to identify the most useful ways we can better support our extended community and our members.

Please, show your support and help shape the future of the GWS by taking our 10 minute survey!

Your voice matters to us. As a community, we aim to strengthen our connections and learn new ways to come together and share ideas. The more input we get, the better we will be able to learn and grow. You can also help us by sharing the survey with your networks and on your social media platforms.

What We're Reading This Month

-Check out the Coalition in a recent article by the *Sierra Sun Times*. Read more by clicking this link.

-Don't miss the Coalition quoted in a recent article by *U.S. News & World Report* in an article titled, "Interior Chief's Loyalty Comments Draw Widespread Criticism." From the article, "A group of current and retired Interior employees called Zinke's comments disrespectful and divisive. 'Employee commitment to mission and country is not a partisan issue,' the group said a statement organized by the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks and two other organizations." Read the full article by clicking this link.

-The Coalition was also quoted in a recent article by the *Washington Post*. From the article, "Other groups – the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, Public Lands Foundation and Association of Retired Fish and Wildlife Service Employees – also took issue with the remarks. 'Saying that over 20,000 employees in his department are not loyal to the flag is simply ludicrous, and deeply insulting,' the groups

said in a joint statement. They called on the secretary to apologize." Read [by clicking this link](#).

Staff Departure

The Coalition's first Fellow, Susannah Albert-Chandhok, is departing our staff to focus her full attention on her PhD program at University of Michigan in Social Psychology. Susannah has been an integral part of our team for almost two years and has helped build our capacity and platform. During her time on board, she helped shape our voice by managing our email, website and social media communications. She supported almost every aspect of our daily workload from grant proposals to database management. The next Fellow has big shoes to fill. We will miss Susannah greatly.

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