

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 18, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

We are writing to request information related to efforts by Charles and David Koch, Koch Industries, and the numerous groups they fund to influence decisions at the Department of the Interior (DOI).

The close ties between individuals serving in the Trump administration and the Koch brothers' network have been widely reported over the last year and a half.¹ Long-standing members of the Koch network fill the ranks of the federal government, raising concerns about the network's access to and influence over federal decision-making. Americans have a right to know if special interests are unduly influencing public policy decisions that have profound implications for public health, the environment, and the economy.

Last December, a six-page report titled "Efforts in Government: Advancing Principled Public Policy" was distributed to the Seminar Network—a network of wealthy individuals organized by Charles and David Koch to fund their political and policy efforts.² Among other things, this report outlined regulatory rollbacks and laws the Kochs considered successes during the first year of the Trump administration. The report notes, "In the first eleven months of President Trump's Administration, the White House and Congress have closely followed the Network's Roadmap to Repeal."

The Koch network is taking credit for the following rollbacks of DOI policies in the Trump administration:

- repeal of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Stream Protection Rule
- rescission of the BLM rule preventing fracking on federal and Indian lands
- review of the Antiquities Act and monument designations by the White House

So that we may better understand the role that the Kochs and their affiliated groups have played in shaping public policy decisions in this administration, we request the following information not later than May 15, 2018:

¹ Public Citizen, *The Koch Government: How the Koch Brothers' Agenda has Infiltrated the Trump Administration*, November 30, 2017, available online at <https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/public-citizen-koch.pdf>.

² See, e.g., Lee Fang and Nick Surgey, "Koch Document Reveals Laundry List of Policy Victories Extracted from the Trump Administration," *The Intercept*, February 28, 2018, available at <https://theintercept.com/2018/02/25/koch-brothers-trump-administration/>.

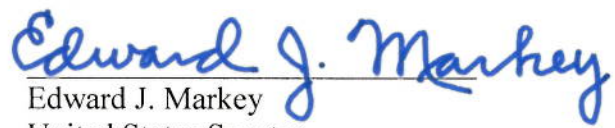
- Any communications or documentation thereof (including but not limited to emails, memos, meeting notes, correspondence, and calendar items) between DOI employees and any employee, member, or representative of the following organizations:
 - o Koch Industries or any of its subsidiaries
 - o the Seminar Network
 - o Americans for Prosperity, Americans for Prosperity Foundation
 - o Freedom Partners, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, Freedom Partners Action Fund
 - o the LIBRE Initiative
 - o Generation Opportunity
 - o i360
 - o Texas Public Policy Foundation
 - o American Legislative Exchange Council
 - o The Heritage Foundation
- Any reports, documents, analyses, briefing materials, information, talking points, summaries, or other data pertaining to the aforementioned stream protection or fracking rules, the Antiquities Act, or other DOI policies that DOI employees shared with or received from any employee or representative of any of the organizations listed in the previous request.
- The following individuals at DOI have been employed by, affiliated with, or received compensation from the organizations previously listed: Susan Combs, Daniel Jorjani, Gary Lawkowski, Brendan Quinn, Doug Domenech, Todd Wynn, Lori Mashburn, Ryan Nichols, and Elinor Renner. For these individuals, please provide the following:
 - o Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Reports, other Office of Government Ethics (OGE) Form 201 Covered Records, and any supplemental material.
 - o Lists of all issues these individuals have worked on, are permitted to work on, and are prohibited to work on.
 - o Any ethics agreements, recusals, waivers, or other documentation pertaining to which issues these individuals can and cannot work on.
 - o These individuals' counseling notes, emails, and any other communication between these individuals and DOI's Ethics Office and OGE.
 - o A copy of these individuals' signed "Ethics Pledges."

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the appropriate members of your staff to contact my senior advisor, Joe Gaeta at joe_gaeta@whitehouse.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



 Sheldon Whitehouse
 United States Senator



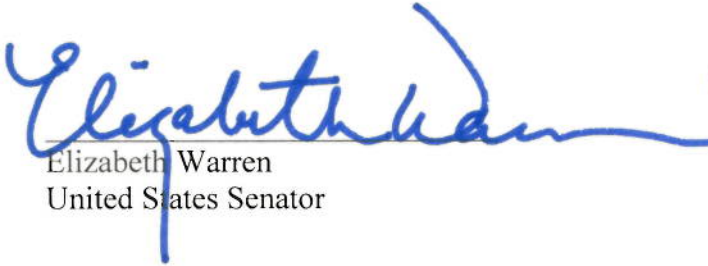
 Edward J. Markey
 United States Senator



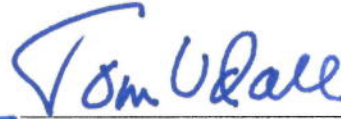
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator