



DINA TITUS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT NEVADA

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

June 7, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I am writing in regards to the Administration's Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2018 and my concerns about its plan to zero out the funding for the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) program and send those funds to the Treasury. SNPLMA was signed into law in 1998 and over the last nearly 20 years has provided a process for the sale of thousands of acres of federal lands in Southern Nevada, returning those funds to the community through projects evaluated by the Bureau of Land Management and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. I question the Administration's authority to defund the program without changes in the law, which can only be done by an act of Congress.

On May 5, 2017, Round 17 of the nomination process closed with 58 projects filed totaling over \$132 million dollars. Accordingly, I urge you not to direct the agency to interrupt the process nor undermine the funding of projects approved during the Round 17 solicitation, which will be submitted for your approval early next year.

SNPLMA is a model for responsible disposal of public lands and investment in local communities that should be adopted throughout the Department. Over 1,200 projects have been funded, including projects to address the spread of aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe; renovation of the nearly 100 year old Lorenzi Park, one of the most heavily-used urban parks in the Las Vegas Valley; and the construction of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area visitor center which attracts more than one million visitors a year. As a destination for nearly 50 million visitors annually, Nevada's public lands and parks are a major contributor to our economy. In fact, in 2015, Southern Nevada's public lands, national parks, and conservation areas generated over \$400 million dollars in economic activity for the region.

This program is very important to Nevada and the millions of visitors who choose to hike, bike, swim, boat, hunt, and fish in our parks and open spaces. Again, I urge you to ensure that there is no interruption in the execution of SNPLMA and that current and future project solicitations and

grants continue as planned. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you should have any questions, please contact Ben Rosenbaum in my office at 202-225-5965.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dina Titus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dina" and last name "Titus" clearly distinguishable.

Dina Titus
Member of Congress