

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 2, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

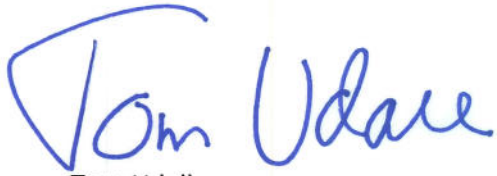
Dear Secretary Zinke:

We are writing to express our concern with the reported lack of meaningful consultation with tribes on the proposed rule to delist the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear from the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife under the Endangered Species Act.

As you know, the federal government has a trust and treaty responsibility to engage in meaningful government-to-government consultation with tribes when tribal interests may be impacted by actions of the federal government. However, tribes have indicated that the federal government, in particular the Fish and Wildlife Service, has abandoned that responsibility in its delisting process. More than 20 tribes are formally associated with Yellowstone National Park, and more than 100 tribal nations have signed a treaty speaking to their concerns about the delisting. Grizzly bears are profoundly important to North American tribes, so any federal action to delist grizzly bears must take into consideration tribal input on any impacts to tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and spiritual and religious freedoms.

Federally recognized tribes are not simply stakeholders who would be affected by delisting, but sovereign governments that must be included in management planning. We respectfully request that you revisit your delisting process and provide meaningful consultation on grizzly bear management with affected tribes as soon as possible. We stand ready to assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator