

October 27, 2015

The Honorable Secretary Jewell
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington DC, 20049

Dear Secretary Jewell,

As organizations, companies and advocates who support clean energy deployment, we applaud the U.S. Department of the Interior's efforts to diversify our public land's energy portfolio with environmentally responsible wind and solar energy. Tapping clean energy potential found on public lands has numerous benefits – from strengthening our economy to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Importantly, developing clean energy on public lands can help states and utilities meet our country's climate goals.

Under your leadership, significant progress has been made to adopt a smarter approach to development that facilitates clean energy while safeguarding wildlife and wildlands. Addressing environmental issues early in the process and identifying areas with high renewable energy resource potential can help plan for transmission and allow projects to move forward quickly when the market is right. We look forward to working with you to build upon the progress made to speed permitting and avoid environmental conflict.

One opportunity critical to establishing an enduring renewable energy program for public lands is the Department's proposed wind and solar leasing rulemaking¹. Clean energy businesses and utilities need stable, predictable policies and regulations to invest in projects. Greater confidence in the process, timing and costs for developing wind and solar energy on public lands is needed. **We encourage you to prioritize the completion of the solar and wind rule so that it is in effect by the end of 2016.**

As the leading clean energy companies and environmental organizations in the West we thank you for your efforts to encourage and plan for future development and look forward to working with you to ensure environmentally responsible wind and solar energy succeeds on public lands.

Sincerely,

¹ RIN 1004-AE24 <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=201410&RIN=1004-AE24>

Defenders of Wildlife

Juliette Falkner
Senior Director Renewable Energy

Grand Canyon Trust

Anne Mariah Tapp
Energy Program Director

Islands Energy Coalition

Bill Appel
Authorized Agent

JASenergies

Julia Prochnik
Founder

Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free

Ryan Krueger
Board Chair

Natural Resources Defense Council

Carl Zichella
Senior Policy Advocate

Northwest Energy Coalition

Fred Heutte
Senior Policy Associate

Sonoran Institute

John Shepard
Senior Director of Programs

Southwest Power Group

Gary Crane
Environmental Manager

The Wilderness Society

Chase Huntley
Senior Director of Policy & Government
Affairs

Utah Clean Energy

Sarah Wright
Executive Director

Vote Solar

Jim Baak
Program Director, Grid Integration

Western Resource Advocates

Jon Goldin-Dubois
President

Western Grid Group

Amanda Ormond
Managing Director