

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 7, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of Interior  
1849 C Street NW,  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On behalf of the Senate Western Caucus and the Congressional Western Caucus, we invite you to testify at a joint caucus hearing entitled, "The War on Western Jobs." The hearing will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2010. The purpose of this hearing is to examine the negative economic impacts on western jobs and communities from policies currently being pursued by this Administration.

As the Secretary of Interior and a former Senator from Colorado, you know firsthand what is happening on the ground in the West. Many western communities are facing extremely complex and diverse problems – population growth and development, water supply and quality, housing, overlapping federal bureaucracies and conflicting regulations, and immigration. However, the most pressing issue of the day is jobs for all Americans. Unfortunately, many of these challenges are exacerbated, not alleviated, by federal policies emerging from Washington. Too often, federal policies stand in the way of real job creation and economic growth. Citizens in the West are suffering under the current economic crisis, with the region maintaining one of the highest regional unemployment in the nation. New federal regulations coming out of Washington are not helping.

We would be delighted if you were able to join us and testify at the July 13<sup>th</sup> joint caucus hearing and share your insights and suggestions about ways we can cut Washington red tape to create jobs in the West. If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please have your staff contact Brian Clifford of the Senate Western Caucus at (202) 224-0800 or Cody Stewart of the Congressional Western Caucus at (202) 225-8411.

Sincerely,

  
SEN. JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.  
Chairman,  
Senate Western Caucus

  
REP. ROB BISHOP  
Chairman,  
Congressional Western Caucus