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October 30, 2013

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I am writing today to bring to your attention an important BLM matter affecting the economy of Grand County, Utah and the town of Moab. In recent years, the recreation economy of Southern Utah has provided significant and growing revenues to the region, and thus businesses like mine, have a strong vested interest in the completion of the **Master Leasing Plan (MLP)** for the region.

November 5<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the "77 Leases," a critical moment in our community when we realized that many of our key recreation assets were at risk to oil and gas development. In fact, the 2010 oil and gas leasing reforms and Master Leasing Plans were developed in response to this conflict.

The Moab MLP will provide additional planning and analysis for oil, gas, and potash leasing as well as enable the BLM to develop optimal parcel configurations and potential development scenarios. The advance planning facilitated by the Moab MLP will identify and proactively address potential resource conflicts and develop mitigation strategies to better integrate multiple use including recreation, grazing, potash production, and oil and gas development.

Our community, Moab, UT represents the MLP area with the greatest dependence on the recreation economy, and thus the highest risk from incremental degradation of the landscape caused by resource development. While outdoor recreation has become a key economic driver throughout the U.S., rural communities surrounded by federal lands are uniquely dependent on those lands and the recreation assets they contain. Recreation-driven businesses are supplementing, and in certain regions eclipsing, revenue flows from traditional resource extraction industries. That is certainly the case in Grand County, Utah and the Moab area where over 70% of the local economy depends on visitors. In the in the case of our company those visitors are here to experience our incredible rivers. We have made significant investments in our company with the assumption that these rivers will continue in their natural state.

In all gateway communities, businesses like mine have invested with this assumption, and likewise, resource extraction companies lease parcels with the assumption that cost effective development is possible. However, both are at risk when the needs of these two groups are not integrated. Outdated regulations and leasing practices cause unnecessary conflicts between recreation assets and resource extraction. The Moab MLP has the potential to improve this process by updating the way leases and permits to drill are issued and stipulations are attached.

We urge you to implement the Moab MLP as soon as possible, and look forward to working with you, your staff, and all interested stakeholders.

Most sincerely,

Arlo Tejada  
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