

**From:** "Marsh, Rene" via Interior Press  
**To:** [Swift, Heather](mailto:Swift.Heather)  
**Cc:** [interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov); Paul Ross; [Levitt, Ross](mailto:Levitt.Ross); [Wallace, Gregory](mailto:Wallace.Gregory)  
**Subject:** Re: CNN  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:46:16 PM

---

One additional question beyond the content of the email sent from Techmanski to Zinke. I understand in 2016, then-Congressman Rep. Zinke's office reached out to local officials in Montana about a Whitefish Energy project. Can you the Secretary provide you with insight on why he intervened? What sort of assistance did Zinke's office provide to Whitefish?

Thank you,

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "Swift, Heather" <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 1:37 PM  
**To:** "Marsh, Rene" <[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@cnn.com)>  
**Cc:** "interior\_press@ios.doi.gov" <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>, Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "Levitt, Ross" <[Ross.Levitt@turner.com](mailto:Ross.Levitt@turner.com)>, Gregory Wallace <[gregory.wallace@turner.com](mailto:gregory.wallace@turner.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN

yep

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 1:36 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hoping for transparency on the content of that email as I am sure the Secretary can confirm.

Thank you,

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "Swift, Heather" <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>

**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 1:33 PM

**To:** "Marsh, Rene" <[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@cnn.com)>

**Cc:** "[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)" <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>, Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "Levitt, Ross" <[Ross.Levitt@turner.com](mailto:Ross.Levitt@turner.com)>, Gregory Wallace <[gregory.wallace@turner.com](mailto:gregory.wallace@turner.com)>

**Subject:** Re: CNN

Will get back to you if i find out if there was a request or not.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 1:30 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

What was the request?

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "Swift, Heather" <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>

**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 1:27 PM

**To:** "Marsh, Rene" <[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@cnn.com)>

**Cc:** "[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)" <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>, Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "Levitt, Ross" <[Ross.Levitt@turner.com](mailto:Ross.Levitt@turner.com)>, Gregory Wallace <[gregory.wallace@turner.com](mailto:gregory.wallace@turner.com)>

**Subject:** Re: CNN

there was no action taken on it.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 1:25 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press  
<[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Thank you. What was the gentleman (I assume you mean Mr. Techmanskis?) requesting in the email that you mention?

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "Swift, Heather" <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>

**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 1:21 PM

**To:** "Marsh, Rene" <[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@cnn.com)>

**Cc:** "[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)" <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>, Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "Levitt, Ross" <[Ross.Levitt@turner.com](mailto:Ross.Levitt@turner.com)>, Gregory Wallace <[gregory.wallace@turner.com](mailto:gregory.wallace@turner.com)>

**Subject:** Re: CNN

background: No. The gentleman sent an email but there was not action taken on it (no reply, forward, discussion, etc).

Not for a statement, just for your context - The secretary's phone number and email address have been published multiple times over the years so he gets a lot of emails/cold calls/letters.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 1:07 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press  
<[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Heather.

Did the Secretary work with or communicate with Techmanskis in the aftermath of the hurricane? Were they in communication after the hurricane discussing any aspect of the recovery effort or anything else?

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

---

**From:** "Swift, Heather" <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>

**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 12:20 PM

**To:** "Marsh, Rene" <[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com](mailto:Rene.Marsh@cnn.com)>

**Cc:** "[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)" <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>, Paul Ross <[paul\\_ross@ios.doi.gov](mailto:paul_ross@ios.doi.gov)>, "Levitt, Ross" <[Ross.Levitt@turner.com](mailto:Ross.Levitt@turner.com)>, Gregory Wallace <[gregory.wallace@turner.com](mailto:gregory.wallace@turner.com)>

**Subject:** Re: CNN

On background

Neither the Secretary nor anyone in his office have taken any meetings or action on behalf of this company and played no role in anything to do with any contracts.

The Zinkes and the Techmanskis know each other because they both live in a small town (population 6,000) where everyone knows everyone and his son joined a friend who worked a summer job at one of their construction sites.

Interior has jurisdiction of the territories and insular areas however does not oversee Puerto Rico. DOI employees in Puerto Rico are continuing with response and recovery operations. There efforts focuses on accounting for employees at impacted parks and refuges, organizing for the work ahead, and bringing in additional staff resources that will conduct damage assessments, coordinate debris removal, and provide access to park areas. DOI employees also coordinate closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in support of Federal response Emergency Support Functions.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 12:16 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press

<[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Good afternoon Heather,

CNN is looking for information/clarity on Secretary Zinke and his familiarity with Andrew Techmanski, the CEO of Whitefish Energy.

Have the two worked together before? In what capacity?

How Does the Secretary know Techmanski?

Has Techmanski or any of his business partners worked with Zinke on any projects either as Secretary or when Zinke was a member of congress?

Did Zinke recommend Whitefish Energy for the contract to help restore Puerto Rico?

Did Zinke have any influence or involvement either directly or indirectly with Whitefish securing the contract in Puerto Rico?

Has this company or any of its leadership, including the CEO, had any political connections to Zinke or his wife during their political careers. Donations directly or indirectly?

What was/is the Secretary's involvement in the overall recovery process for Puerto Rico?

We are working on deadline.

Thank you,

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene\_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249