



October 2, 2018

Chris Saeger, Executive Director
Western Values Project
704C East 13th Street, Suite 568 Whitefish, MT 59937

The Honorable James N. Mattis
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Richard V. Spencer
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Mr. Mattis and Mr. Spencer,

On September 28, 2018, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reportedly said during an event hosted by the Consumer Energy Alliance that "The United States has that ability, with our Navy, to make sure the sea lanes are open, and, if necessary, to blockade ... to make sure that [Russia's] energy does not go to market."

As a watchdog organization committed to holding elected officials accountable for their actions regarding public lands and natural resources, we at Western Values Project are confused and concerned about Secretary Zinke's comments regarding U.S. naval policy -- specifically about whether the secretary's comments reflect U.S. policy and whether the secretary has input over the military's ongoing public and covert operations regarding Russia's 23,000 miles of coastline.

We ask that you please share the scope of Secretary Zinke's portfolio as it relates to the Navy and Department of Defense broadly, if such a portfolio exists.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CS", written in a cursive style.

Chris Saeger
Executive Director, Western Values Project