

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 6, 2019

The Honorable David Bernhardt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C. Street, NW  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee on Natural Resources is examining allegations that partner organizations supported by the U.S. Government have played a role in funding and equipping forces abroad that have committed a range of human rights violations to include torture, sexual assault, and extrajudicial killings in the course of anti-poaching efforts. Among the victims of these alleged abuses are indigenous peoples living near protected areas. Despite the importance of protecting wildlife and endangered species from extinction, the United States must not be party to violations of basic human rights.

To assist the Committee with its oversight activities, please provide a briefing on the international conservation grants awarded and overseen by the Department of the Interior and the agencies under its jurisdiction. Please contact the majority at (202) 225-6065 and the minority at (202) 225-7107 to schedule the briefing.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chair  
Committee on Natural Resources



Rob Bishop  
Ranking Republican  
Committee on Natural Resources