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January 14, 2021

U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chairperson Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member Joe Manchin
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairperson Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin,

Intelligence officials have confirmed credible threats of additional violence aimed at interrupting the peaceful transfer of power outlined in the U.S. Constitution. I am writing you today with an urgent request that the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee act to defend democracy and the safety of the presidential inauguration by demanding that the U.S. Department of Interior cancel all permits and reject all applications for demonstrations or special events at National Parks within the District of Columbia until January 24, 2021.

Additionally, the violent, illegal insurrection inspired by President Donald Trump and others on January 6 that resulted in damage and theft of government and personal property, and the injuries and deaths of numerous people including a U.S. Capitol Police officer, demands a full investigation into authorizations, records, and chain of command communications from U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and National Park Service officials.

At a time of unprecedented threats to the foundations of our democracy, Secretary Bernhardt has abdicated his responsibility to "defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." He has abandoned his obligation to maintain and protect federal property. Inaction and acquiescence are capitulation to the clear and present dangers we face at this critical time. Never before has Bernhardt's failure to do his Senate-confirmed job so seriously threatened American freedom and the rule of law.

Again, I call on your committee to conduct a full investigation of these matters and to use the full extent of its constitutional authority to obligate Secretary Bernhardt to act swiftly to protect the peaceful transfer of power.

Sincerely,



Kyle Herrig
President
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