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NATURAL RESOURCES

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

September 14, 2017

Attorney General Jeff Sessions
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

Recently 53 current and former members of the Idaho Legislature wrote to you expressing serious concerns about the treatment of four Idaho residents in cases related to “The Bunkerville Stand Off” trials. Specifically, the legislators are concerned about the decision of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada to try Eric Parker and O. Scott Drexler for a third time. They raise legitimate doubts about whether a third trial is in the best interest of justice or the American taxpayers.

The failure to secure guilty verdicts in two different trials with two different juries should serve as evidence of the weakness of the government’s case and should be taken into account as a third trial is contemplated. There is a strong possibility that a miscarriage of justice is being committed.

The letter also expresses concerns about the treatment of Idaho residents Todd Engel and Ammon Bundy. I encourage you to review the treatment of Mr. Engle and Mr. Bundy and take the appropriate steps to ensure that they are treated fairly.

As a former U.S. Attorney you are personally familiar with the many factors a U.S. Attorney must weigh in deciding whether or not to bring a case to trial. Your background provides you with unique insight, which is why I wanted to bring this letter to your attention.

I urge you to carefully examine the important issues raised in this letter and provide a response in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl R. Labrador".

Raúl R. Labrador
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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House of Representatives State of Idaho

August 29, 2017

Attorney General Jeff Sessions
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Jeff Sessions,

The undersigned members of the Idaho Legislature have a high respect for the rule of law. We are tasked with the responsibility to protect our citizens' constitutional rights. We believe that the right to a speedy trial and the presumption of innocence are essential pillars to law, order, and a Republican form of government. We also believe that a trial by jury of one's peers is the highest form of justice as set forth by our founders. Ensuring government stays within the bounds of its proper constitutional role empowers the people through a jury's verdict to give clear guidance as to their will.

We the undersigned believe that in the case of "The Bunkerville Stand Off" trials in the State of Nevada in which Eric Parker and O. Scott Drexler of the State of Idaho were charged with 40 criminal counts in connection with the above case having been found not guilty speaks volumes to the public of their innocence. U.S. Attorneys have been unsuccessful obtaining guilty verdicts not once, but twice, establishing criteria for dismissal of charges against them according to our standards of justice. Further exploitation of these citizens would be an affront to justice and notice to the public of prosecutorial harassment.

We believe that the decision by the current U.S. Attorney of Nevada to prosecute these men a third time represents disrespect for the rule of law and the Jury system. A third trial would show blatant disregard for tax funds collected from hard working law abiding citizens who are represented by these juries whom have found them innocent of 34 of the 40 charges and hung by the very slimmest margins in those where the jury stood deadlocked. The decisions of 10-2 to acquit in the first trial and 11-1 to acquit in the second trial highlights the narrow margin by which the prosecution hopes to continue their attack.

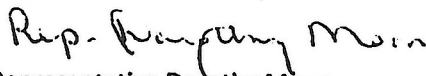
Todd Engel of Boundary County, Idaho is to be sentenced on September 28th for minor charges in regard to this action. We ask you, the court and the prosecutors to consider his time served as punishment enough.

Ammon Bundy, an Idaho resident, remains in custody awaiting trial directly after the final outcome of the pending prosecutions decision with Parker and Drexler. Ammon has been in custody since January of 2016 without benefit of bail or the comfort of home and family in spite of being found not guilty of all counts in the Oregon trial. Ammon has been stripped of normal due process for a prosecution that now seems flimsy as we discover evidence exposed during these previous hung trials of others for similar offenses. This prosecution sends a chilling message to the public who are concerned about federal

overreach in their daily lives that is inharmonious to well-established constitutional guarantees. The percentages of jurors causing the hung verdicts in these trials should send a clear signal to the government prosecutors of the jury's reticence to further prosecute these defendants as has clearly been received by the public.

We respectfully ask you, Attorney General Sessions to have those in charge of this case end this long enduring action and set Eric Parker and Scott Drexler free, set reasonable bail for Ammon Bundy and allow Todd Engel to use his time served as total sentencing.

Sincerely,



Representative Dorothy Moon
District 8 B

Representative Mike Moyle, District 14 A
Representative Brent Crane, District 13 A
Representative John Vander Woude, District 22 A
Representative Heather Scott, District 1 A
Senator Steve Vick, District 2
Representative Eric Redman, District 2 B
Representative Don Cheatham, District 3 B
Senator Dan Foreman, District 5
Representative Priscilla Giddings, District 7 A
Representative Terry Gestrin, District 8A
Senator Abby Lee, District 9
Representative Judy Boyle, District 9 B
Representative Greg Chaney, District 10 B
Senator Todd Lakey, District 12
Representative Rick Youngblood, District 12 B
Representative James Holtzclaw, District 20 B
Representative Steve Harris, District 21 A
Representative Jason Monks, District 22 B
Representative Christy Zito, District 23 A
Representative Lance Clow, District 24 A
Senator Kelly Anthon, District 27
Representative Kelly Packer, District 28 B
Senator Mark Harris, District 32
Representative Ron Nate, District 34 A

Retired

Senator Sheryl Nuxoll, District 7
Senator Monty Pearce, District 9
Representative Pete Nielson, District 23
Representative Janice McGeachin, District 32

Majority Leader
Assistant Majority Leader
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Representative Sage Dixon, District 1 B
Representative Vito Barbieri, District 2 A
Representative Ron Mendive, District 3 A
Representative Mike Kingsley, District 6 B
Representative Thyra Stevenson, District 6 A
Representative Paul Shepherd, District 7 B
Senator Steven Thayne, District 8
Representative Ryan Kerby, District 9
Representative Brandon Hixon, District 10 A
Representative Christy Perry, District 11 B
Representative Robert Anderst, District 12 A
Representative Joe Palmer, District 20 A
Senator Clifford Bayer, District 21
Senator Lori Den Hartog, District 22
Senator Bert Bracket, District 23
Representative Megan Blanksma, District 23 B
Representative Steve Miller, District 26 A
Senator Jim Guthrie, District 28
Representative Jeff Thompson, 30 A
Representative Bryan Zollinger, District 33 B
Representative Karey Hanks, District 35 B

Representative Lenore Barrett, District 8
Representative Elizabeth Allen Hodge, Dist. 16
Representative Ken Andrus, Districts 29 & 28
Representative JoAn E. Wood, District 35

cc:

President Donald J. Trump

Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue

Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke

Senator Mike Crapo

Senator Jim Risch

Congressman Raul Labrador

Congressman Mike Simpson

Judge Gloria Navarro

U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre

House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Chair Goodlatte

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary Grassley