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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS (RANKING MEMBER)

FEDERAL LANDS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SEA POWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

READINESS

FRANKING COMMISSION

June 22, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Labrador
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Chairman Labrador:

As the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I request a Subcommittee oversight hearing to investigate pervasive sexual harassment at federal agencies, including the National Park Service (NPS).

Deeply troubling cases of sexual harassment at the NPS have come to light in recent years. Reports by the Department of the Interior's Inspector General revealed in detail behaviors that would be reprehensible in any setting, let alone a tax-payer funded agency tasked with celebrating the very best of American culture, history, and values.

It is critical that the NPS and other agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction get it right. As the committee of jurisdiction, we have an obligation to the public, and to the victims and their families, to provide oversight of NPS and Department of Interior efforts to end sexual harassment.

Large agencies like NPS that are geographically dispersed and isolated, and traditionally male-dominated, face particular challenges when trying to change a deeply rooted culture. Past congressional hearings on the topic have focused on adequate punishment for the offender, which is an important piece of a larger approach that has been proven to deter sexual harassment in the workplace. The next step is to focus on that comprehensive approach.

To date, this committee has not held a single hearing dedicated to addressing sexual harassment at NPS or other agencies with the committee's jurisdiction. I stand ready to work with you to put this hearing together.

Sincerely,


A. Donald McEachin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations