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## Western Environmental Law Center

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Dear Counsel:

It has come to our attention that Interior Secretary Zinke will be traveling to Oregon and meeting with county and timber industry representatives challenging the United States in federal district court over the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. We represent Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, and Oregon Wild in defense of the Monument expansion, and are defending it alongside the Department of Justice.

It is disturbing that the Secretary has planned several meetings with parties opposed to the Monument's expansion and who have engaged in litigation challenging the expansion, without public notice to organizations and entities that support the Monument, including Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, and Governor Brown.

If this meeting goes forward, we ask to attend. That this meeting has been planned in secret is more than a little ironic, as members of Congress currently are protesting just these sort of closed-door sue-and-settle negotiations.

While we welcome Secretary Zinke's visit to Oregon to view first-hand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the Secretary has only arranged to meet and talk

extensively with Monument opponents, and he has apparently failed to coordinate with Governor Brown or Senators Wyden and Merkley. Such a one-sided review is inappropriate and furthers the impression that the Secretary only values the opinions of Monument opponents. To the contrary, the Department of the Interior should represent all Americans, not just timber and county interests.

We appreciate your quick response regarding this upcoming meeting with some parties to the ongoing litigation, as we understand the meeting is planned for the coming weekend.

Sincerely,



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