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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2215

November 7, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I continue to await a response to my queries on the Department's decision to transfer some of the responsibility for the management of the National Bison Range Complex to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT).

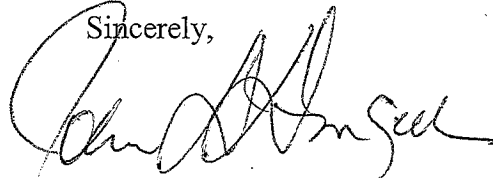
As you may remember, I raised this issue with you at the September 12, 2007 meeting of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. I have sent two letters to your office on this matter which are enclosed for your review. My first letter was answered by Deputy Secretary Scarlett, whose response failed to substantively address my queries. My second letter, sent on July 30, has still not been answered. Moreover, my office has yet to receive a copy of the Department of Interior Inspector General report on the issues surrounding the AFA and the National Bison Range which was requested on June 13, 2007.

My questions regarding the annual funding agreement (AFA) with the CSKT deserve far greater attention. The Department's transfer of management responsibilities at the Complex is unsanctioned by law and unprecedented. The future of the National Bison Range and other refuges may be seriously affected by the AFA. It demands well-reasoned justifications.

Given that this matter is time-sensitive and that the Department has already had several months to answer my letters, I ask that you respond by November 21. Should you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Katie Murtha at either [Katie.Murtha@mail.house.gov](mailto:Katie.Murtha@mail.house.gov) or (202) 225-4071.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress