

NORMA J. TORRES
35TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1713 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-6161
FAX: (202) 225-8671

3200 INLAND EMPIRE BLVD., SUITE 200B
ONTARIO, CA 91764
PHONE: (909) 481-6474
FAX: (909) 941-1362



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

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WESTERN HEMISPHERE
TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE
NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER
INDIAN, INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
FEDERAL LANDS

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Perry,

We urge you to terminate the appointment of William Bradford as Director of the Office of Indian Energy at the Department of Energy. In light of the recent news about tweets of his containing entirely inappropriate and highly disparaging remarks concerning the ethnic, religious, and gender identities of former President Barack Obama, Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, TV news host Megyn Kelly, and Japanese Americans during World War II.

Most disturbing perhaps is that his position is integral to Native American and Alaskan Native tribes and villages who seek to maximize the value of their energy resources. The Office of Indian Energy is tasked with funding and implementing a variety of programmatic activities that assist tribes with energy development, capacity building, energy cost reduction, and electrification of Indian homes. It also leverages public-private partnerships, inter- and intra-governmental coordination, and government-to-government partnerships to maximize the return on investments in the future of Native American communities. Many tribes struggle with the impacts of poverty and limited access to economic development.

While the Director of the Office of Indian Energy must work with public officials of all political stripes from around the country, William Bradford has proven that his reputation is unbecoming of a government official. His string of past comments on Twitter is entirely inexcusable. Among the most appalling of his remarks are tweets expressing support for the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Additionally, in 2015, he had to resign in disgrace from the U.S. Military Academy.

As Members of Congress representing diverse districts across the country and responsible for looking out for the interests of Native American tribes, we are appalled and concerned that this critical office – on which our tribal constituents rely with great need – could be led by a figure who has shown himself to be unfit and unworthy of the position. This is not an unimportant role and should not be filled by someone who has blatantly insulted specific communities in the United States.

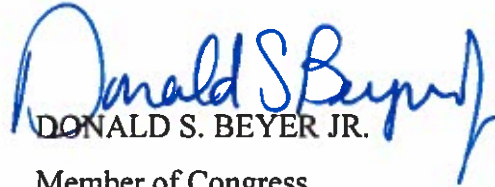
We appreciate your attention to this request and your leadership in ensuring that DOE fulfills the agency's mission to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges.

Sincerely,



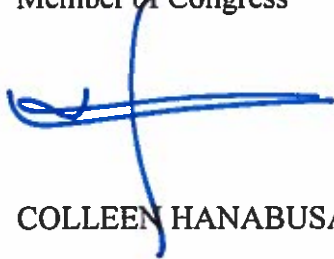
NORMA J. TORRES

Member of Congress



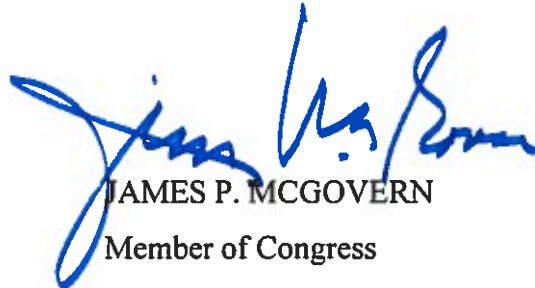
DONALD S. BEYER JR.

Member of Congress



COLLEEN HANABUSA

Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN

Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER

Member of Congress



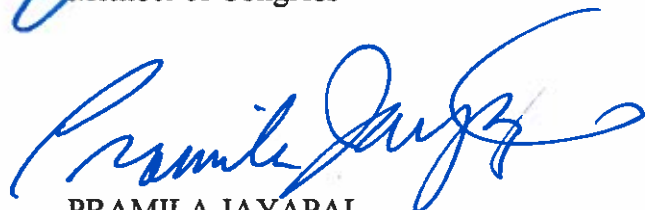
JARED HUFFMAN

Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL

Member of Congress